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Planning the expansion of Lyon in the XIXth century The maps from L. Dignoscyo for the Hospices Civils de Lyon

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► **To cite this version:**

Enali De Biaggi. Planning the expansion of Lyon in the XIXth century The maps from L. Dignoscyo for the Hospices Civils de Lyon. International Conference on the History of Cartography - Amsterdam, Jul 2019, Amsterdam (NETHERLANDS), Netherlands. hal-04047880

HAL Id: hal-04047880

<https://univ-lyon3.hal.science/hal-04047880>

Submitted on 27 Mar 2023

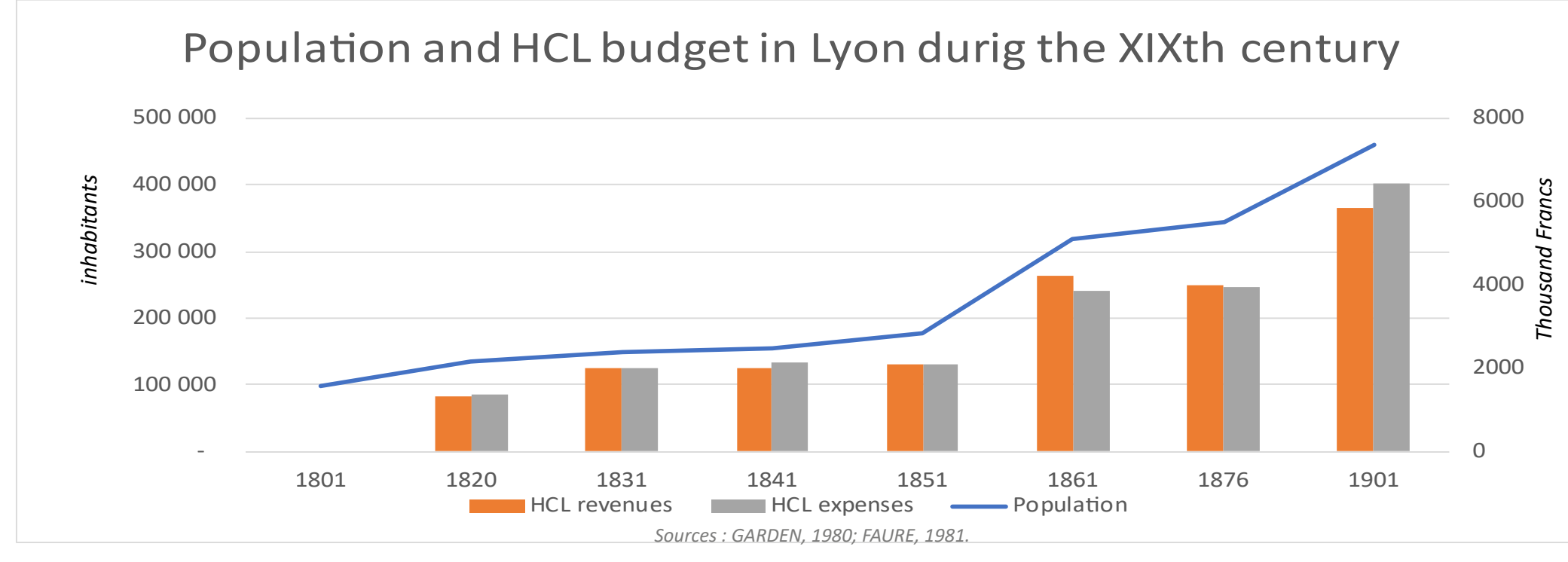
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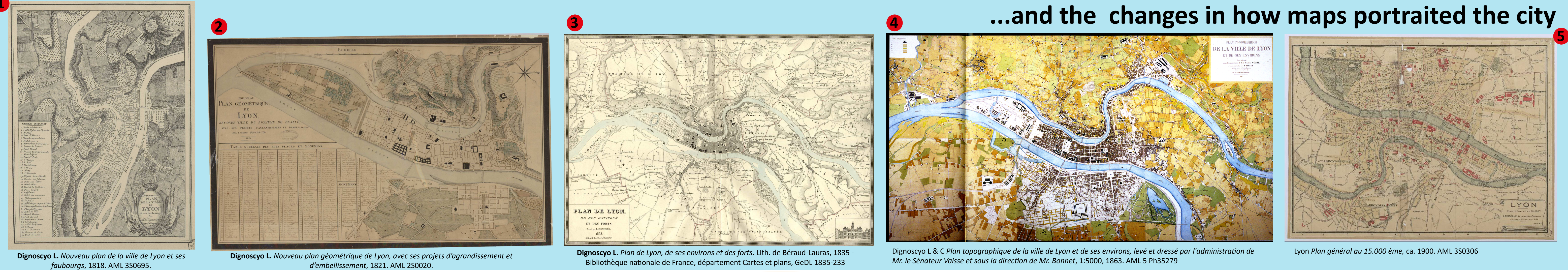
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The expansion of Lyon in the XIXth century ...



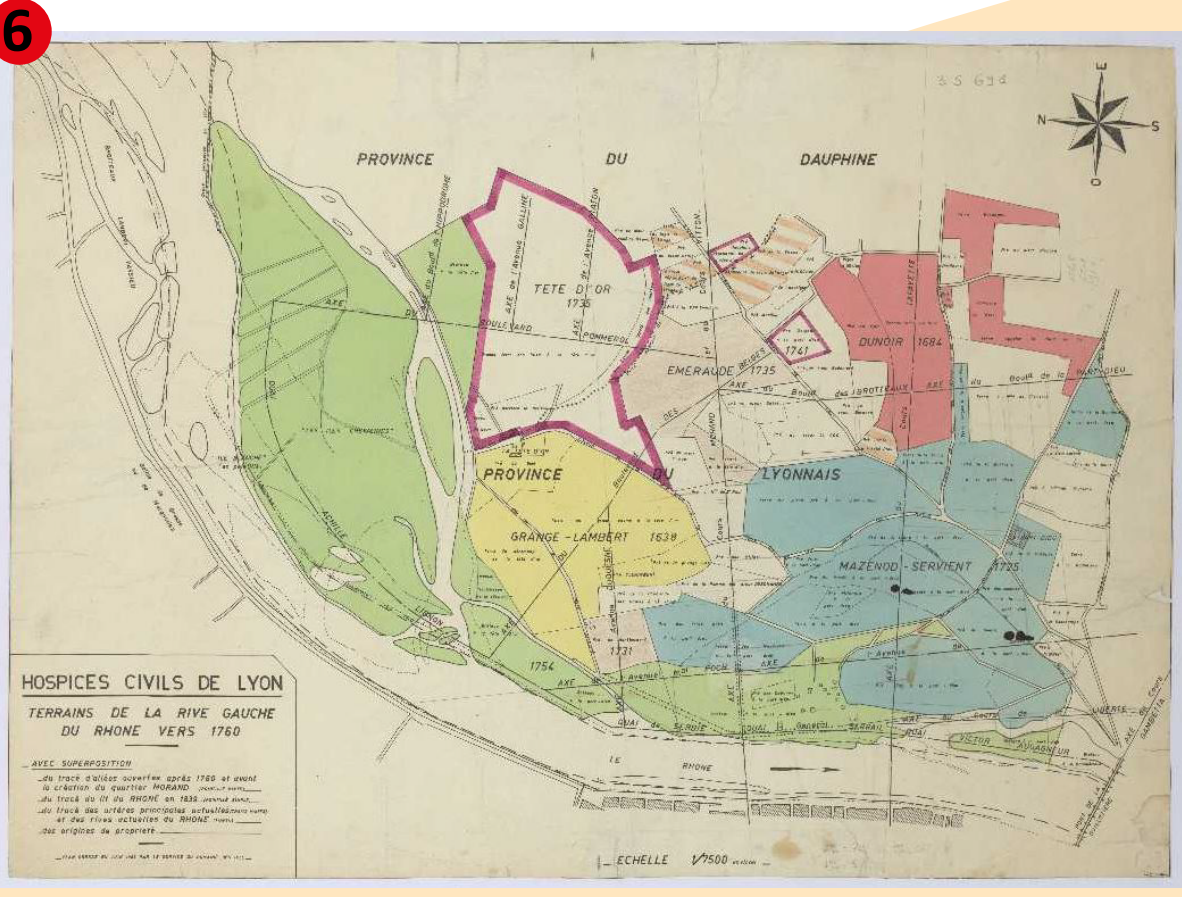
Like many other cities in Europe, Lyon has experienced an important growth during the XIXth century, starting the century with around 100.000 inhabitants to reach almost 460.000 in 1901. This demographic growth was accompanied by a territorial expansion, notably by the installation of a diversified industry in the ancient rural parts located around the city, the then neighbouring «communes». These were eventually annexed to the city in 1852: *Vaise* in the north-east, *Croix-Rousse* in the north and *Guillotière* in the eastern part. Large parts of the city were subject to important changes, either by the development of new road networks, followed by new buildings, or through the installation of new allotments in areas, which were previously scarcely occupied. Furthermore new activities, besides the then important silk industry, were developed. The continuing containment of rivers and the establishment of other transportation networks, like railways, steam navigation and trams began to occupy the urban space.

...and the changes in how maps portrayed the city

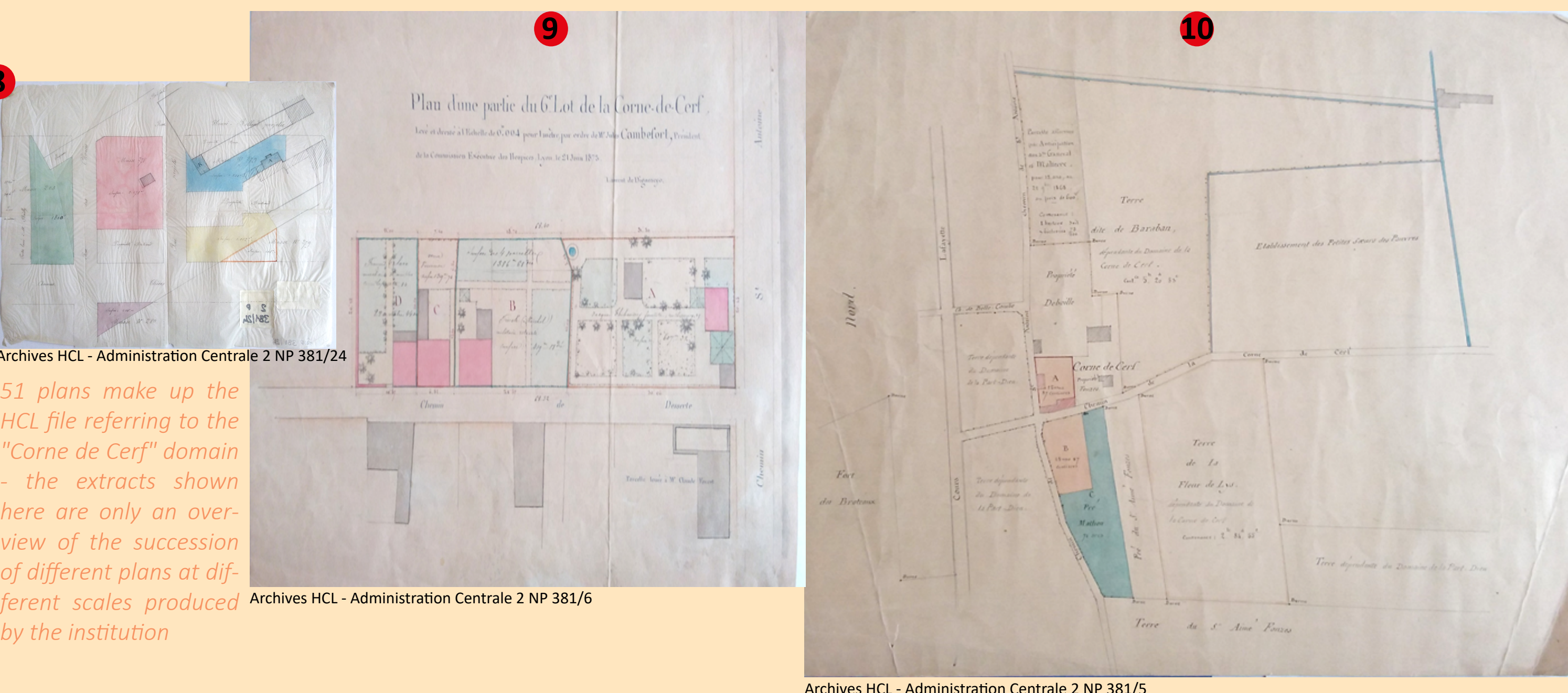


The Hospices Civils de Lyon

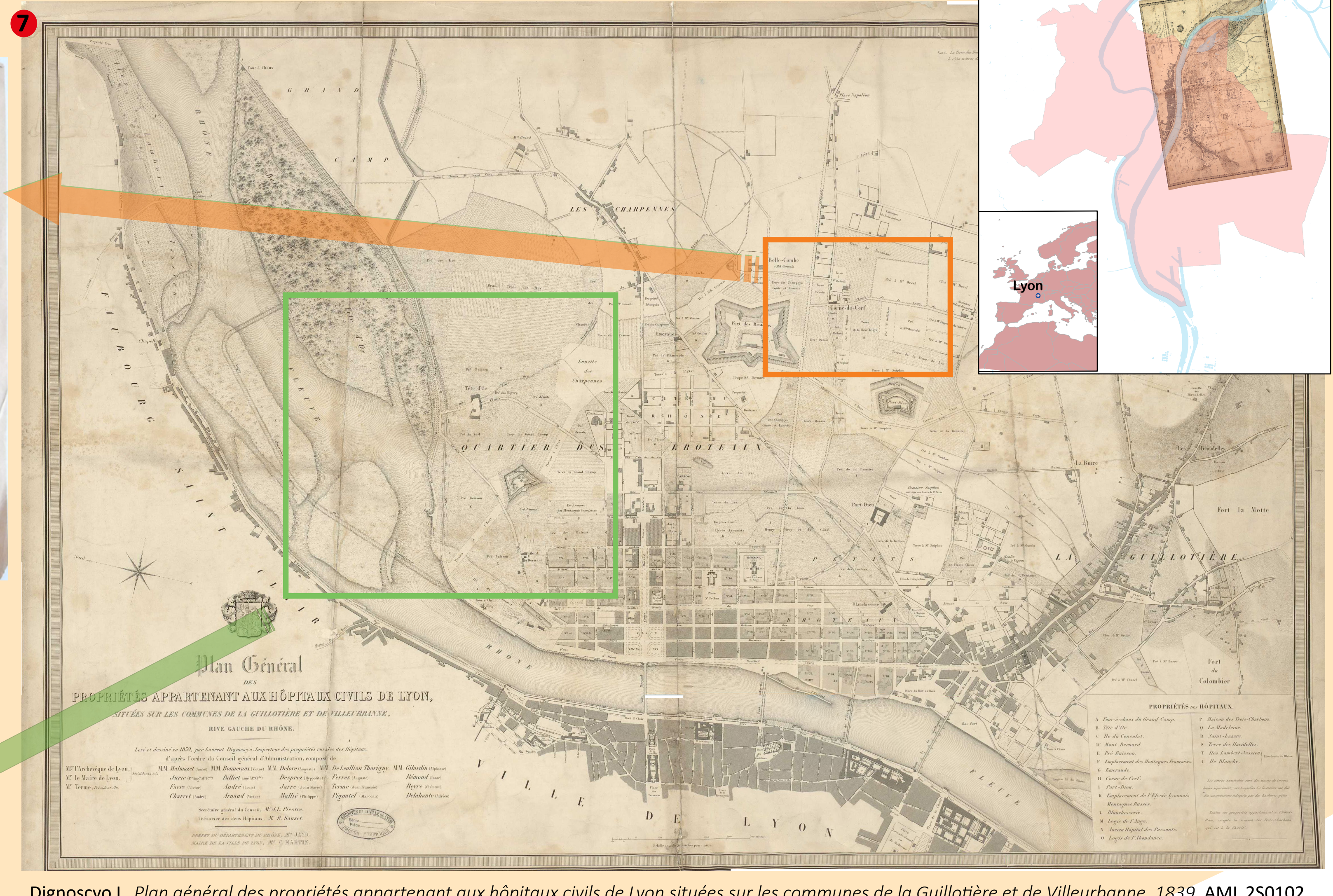
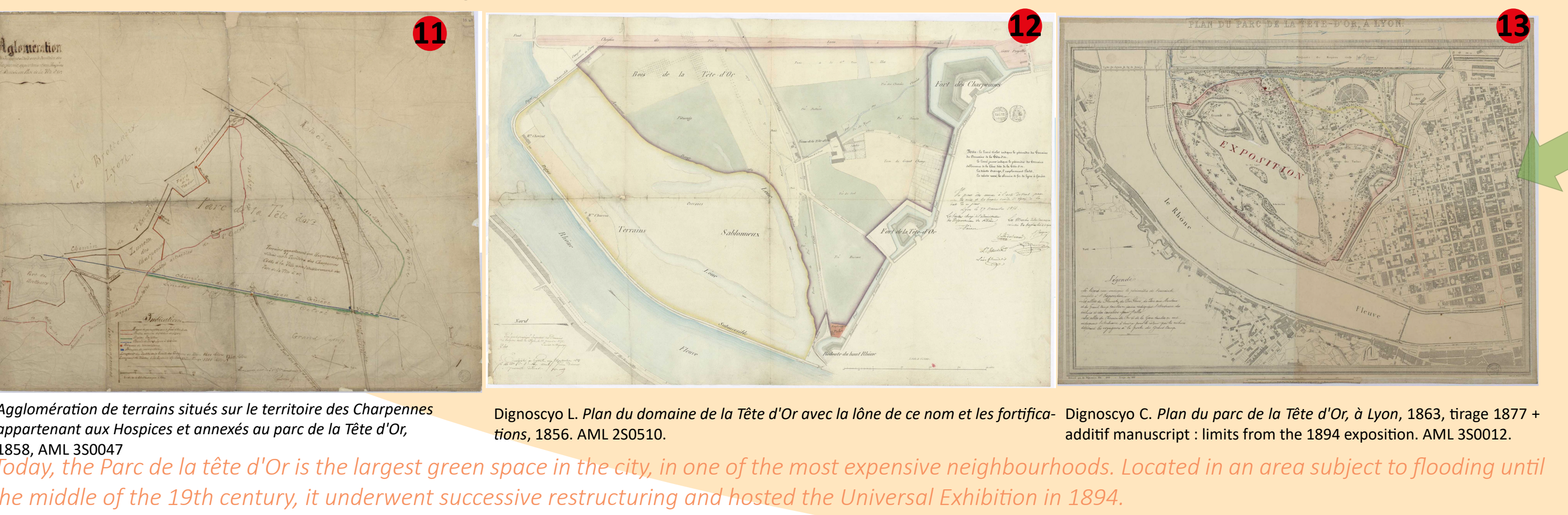
One of the means of studying the city's development is through the maps made by one of its most influential institutions: the HCL - *Hospices Civils de Lyon*. Formed in 1802 by the fusion of two former hospitals, the *Hôtel-Dieu* and the *Hôpital de la Charité*, the HCL continued its function as a charitable institution, giving assistance to the poor in the eventful nineteenth century. This function was made possible thanks to income deriving from several real estate annuities, obtained before the French revolution mainly in the east of the city. By hosting many of the local elites and due to the important political and economic support provided by an immense domain situated in several strategic parts, the institution enjoyed a relative autonomy. The administration of these properties would prove to be a key aspect of the city's expansion, as we can observe by following the maps created at the time. These show the plans for many of the city's new facilities (parks, fortresses, train stations, industries, churches...) and housing lots. Throughout the nineteenth century, the HCL saw its former rural domains gradually increase in value and eventually integrate the new urban lands.



The creation of lots in the «Corne de Cerf» domain



The creation of a new park : Tête d'Or



The Dignoscyo/Rembielinski family - 3 generations of cartographers

It's not surprising that one of the main cartographers of Lyon of that time was the one responsible for the inspection of land owned by the HCL: **Laurent Dignoscyo**. L. Dignoscyo started mapping the city in 1818 (map 1), calling himself "drawer and geographer" (dessinateur-géographe - map 2) even though it is not quite clear how he achieved his education. After working at the Mont de Piété (the local credit institution), he continued working as an inspector of the rural properties owned by the HCL in 1837, where he left more than 200 block plans (maps 8, 9 and 12). His handmade maps keep the memory of the development projects on the lands once owned by the HCL. They are mostly at large scales, showing plans for whole districts or domains (plans des masses) but also include very specific lots and even buildings. The analysis of these maps makes us understand how important the work of Dignoscyo as "wealth administrator" was for an institution as the HCL, where resources were continuously scarce (graph 1). They are working instruments, showing calculations of surface and how land was negotiated between different owners or renters, sometimes followed by a detailed text retrieving the information depicted in different colours on the map (14). Some of his maps provided the basis for the city's renewed cartography, produced essentially in the second half of the XIX century. His son **Claude Dignoscyo** (maps 4, 8), his son in law **Eugene Rembielinski** and even his grandson **Jules Rembielinski** all worked for the different political institutions of that period (city mayors, department prefects, ministers - maps 4, 15, 16).

