

## HISTORY

*They are frozen in time and sometimes deceptively real. Perpetuated in stone or bronze, looking over water, streets, parks or squares, dog statues can be found all over the world.*

# Dog Statues

Two Hound Couples – Fanfaraut and Brillador, Lumineau and Seduisant  
(1880) – Auguste-Nicolas Cain

*Text and illustrations by RIA HÖRTER*

*Courtesy TON POPELIER*

### **Where?**

The French Château de Chantilly is situated in Picardia, about 60 kilometers north of Paris in the Nonette River valley, where a moated fort controlled the route from Paris to the Roman town of Senlis in northern France during the Middle Ages. During and after the French Revolution (1789-99) the town of Chantilly was developed west of the château.

The château as we know it today is a 19th-century reconstruction made by order of Prince Henri d'Orléans (1822-97), youngest son of Louis-Philippe I (1773-1850), King of France from 1830-48. Henri donated the château and art collection – paintings, antique books, manuscripts – to the Institut Français (that promoted French culture), under the condition that none of the collection should ever leave the château. The art collection of Henri d'Orléans is the second largest in France, second only to the one in the Louvre.

The Domaine de Chantilly is one of the top three places of cultural interest in France. It has gardens, restaurants, cafes and horse stables. The Condé Museum was established here in 1897. From about 300 euro per night, one can stay at the Domaine de Chantilly in the five-star Auberge du Jeu de Paume: [aubergedujeudepaumechantilly.fr](http://aubergedujeudepaumechantilly.fr)

### **Spectacular Hunts**

For ages, hunting with a pack of hounds was a favorite pastime of French royalty and the aristocracy. Henri d'Orléans commissioned



*Lumineau and Seduisant,  
Batârds du Haut-Poitou*

*Fanfaraut and Brillador,  
Batârds Normands-Poitevins*

*An identifying mark  
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an inverted triangle is the  
mark of the royal packs.*



*Some hunters preferred fast dogs and spectacular hunts, but the dogs were not excellent trackers and lost the trail when circumstances were not optimal.*

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bronzes of hunting hounds – *chiens courants* – for his château at Chantilly.

Some hunters preferred fast dogs and spectacular hunts, but the dogs were not excellent trackers and lost the trail when circumstances were not optimal. Members of this group of hounds have rather long, low-set ears, short or rough coats, excellent noses, and they are at their best living in a pack. They were very often pure English Foxhounds or the pack consisted of a mix of dogs in which English blood predominated. They were, for example, Batârds du Haut-Poitou, *batârd* being a hound cross, in this case between an English Foxhound and a Chien du Haut-Poitou. In 1957, the name was changed to Chien Anglo-Français Tricolore. Photos of the breed show the English Foxhound influence.

### **Excellent Trackers**

Toward the end of the 19th century, the other pair of dogs immortalized at Chantilly were known as Batârds Normands-Poitevins. “Normand” refers to the now-extinct Chien Normand. Also in 1957, its name was changed to Chien Français Tricolore. They represent the other movement in the French *vénierie*: slow, quiet and cautious dogs, excellent trackers with a low voice.

Both types of hounds were represented in the packs of the different kings Louis, and later of Napoleon Bonaparte. The hunts became known as the *vénieries impériales*. Together with the castle of Fontainebleau, Chantilly was the epicenter of the French royal hunts. During the reigns of Louis XIII, Louis XIV and Louis XV, royal hunts became expeditions of unequalled grandeur.

Louis XIII was a talented hound breeder, especially when it came to crossbreeding. At the age of 72, Louis XIV still hunted on horseback, while Louis XV left his palace three times a week to hunt deer with a pack of hounds. The Chateau de Chantilly could, like the palaces of the kings and the castles of the aristocracy, accommodate hundreds of horses and dozens of packs.

The bronze Batârd Normand-Poitevin couple have an identifying mark on the right flank – an inverted triangle, the



*The hunt with the Anglo-Français Tricolore*  
Photo by Ton Popelier



*French painter François Desportes (1661-1743)*  
*painting of Fanfaraut, who lived at the turn of the 17th-to-18th century*

mark of the royal packs. In France, such identifying marks are still in use. Once or twice a year, the mark is clipped into the dog's coat.

### **Who Do We See?**

It's quite extraordinary that we know the names of the dogs and breeds: Fanfaraut and Brillador are Batârds Normands-Poitevins; Lunineau and Seduisant are Batârds du Haut-Poitou. Without any doubt they were important dogs. In the Condé Museum there is a painting of Fanfaraut by French dog painter François Desportes (1661-1743). Desportes included the dog's name in capital letters: FANFRAUT.

### **The Sculptor**

The bronzes were made by French animalier sculptor Auguste-Nicolas Cain (1821-94). Cain was born in Paris and married Pierre-Jules Mêne's daughter. Mêne was not only his father-in-law, but also his tutor. In 1846, he exhibited his work for the first time in the Salon de Paris. He is known for his small bronze animal figures.

After 1848, Cain concentrated on larger works, including the dogs at Château de Chantilly. The lion statue in the Jardin du Luxembourg, the tigress in the Jardin des Tuileries, both in Paris, and the family of tigers in the Central Park Zoo in New York are also by Auguste-Nicolas Cain.

*We have tried to find the names of all photographers. Unfortunately, we do not always succeed. Please send a message to the author if you think you are the owner of a copyright.*

A retired bookseller and publisher, Ria Hörter is a dog writer from The Netherlands. She is the contributing editor of the leading Dutch national dog magazine Onze Hond (Our Dogs) and works for the Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of the Netherlands of which she was one of the founders. She served the club for 44 years, as secretary and chairman and is an Honorary Life Member of this breed club. She was nominated twice, and a finalist in the 2009 Annual Writing Competition of the Dog Writers Association of America, for her articles in Dogs in Canada.

On April 12, 2014, she was awarded the Dutch Cynology Gold Emblem of Honour. The award was presented by the Dutch Kennel Club.

For more information visit: [riahorter.com](http://riahorter.com)