

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

Pug Memorial in Winnenden, Germany

by RIA HÖRTER

Winnenden is a city of about 30,000 people, situated in the federal state of Baden-Württemberg in southwest Germany.

A memorial in front of the Winnental Palace is probably unique: the stone sculpture commemorates the Pug owned by Karl Alexander (1684-1737), Duke of Württemberg-Winnental from 1698 to 1737. The *Mopsendenkmal* (Pug memorial) shows Fortunatis, born in 1713, whose name means “fortunate one.” The epitaph on the monument tells the story of Fortunatis’s unbelievable adventure.

The Story Behind the Memorial

Born in the city of Stuttgart, Karl Alexander spent his childhood with his siblings in Castle Winnental in Winnenden. A born soldier; he fought in the War of the Spanish Succession (1701-14) and served as field marshal in the service of the Austrian Emperor Charles VI of Habsburg (1685-1740). Karl and Charles had the same goal: to chase the Turks out of Europe.



The Pug Memorial in Winnenden with Fortunatis’s portrait.

Karl took part in campaigns in different parts of Europe; for example, his army liberated large parts of the Balkans from the Turkish supremacy. In 1717, when he left his castle in Winnenden for the final battle against the Turks in Belgrade, he decided to bring his favorite dog Fortunatis – the “court Pug” – with him. On August 17, 1717, the Duke and Fortunatis were present at the conquest of the city but, in the heat of battle the duke and his dog were separated. While Karl Alexander celebrated the victory in the company of fellow generals, Fortunatis wandered around searching for his master. Karl Alexander assumed that Fortunatis had died. After all, a battlefield is not a safe place for a small dog.

But the Pug survived; in a journey of 11 days, Fortunatis allegedly walked back to Winnenden, a distance of about 745 miles (1,200 km).

The duke’s staff immediately recognized the dog and celebrated his safe return to Winnenden with delicious

The monument is now a tourist attraction and local shopkeepers have taken advantage of the small brave dog that made their city famous.

treats made by the cook, and every servant coddled him. Fortunatis's long life is proof that he had a good life after his adventure. In 1733 at 20 years old, Fortunatis died without seeing its master again, and was buried in the garden of the castle.

A Little Too Late

Meanwhile, in 1727, Karl Alexander married Marie-Auguste von Thurn und Taxis; five sons and a daughter were born between 1728 and 1734.

After the battle against the Turks, the Duke did not return to Winnenden but went to Stuttgart, the city where he was born. In 1719, he was appointed imperial governor of Belgrade.

In 1733, Karl Alexander took over the government of the duchy and moved to Winnenden. His servants told him that Fortunatis had not died in Belgrade but had walked home, lived another 16 years and was buried in the castle's garden. The Duke had arrived a little too late to see Fortunatis alive.

Karl Alexander was taken aback when told the story. As an expression of his joy and gratitude, the duke erected a memorial ca. 1733 for the brave Fortunatis.

The monument is now a tourist attraction and local shopkeepers have taken advantage of the small brave dog that made their city famous. Konrad Häußner's wine shop produces "Pug wine" – Pug Red Wine Cuvée, Quality Wine Kabinett and Pug Sekt, a German champagne. The



Karl Alexander, Duke of Württemberg-Winnental (1684-1737), the owner of Fortunatis. Portrait by August Querfurt between 1733 and 1737

Often described as multum in parvo – much in little – the Pug boasts a large personality in its small size.

bottles have labels with depictions of a Pug and the memorial. Ulli's Confiserie produces and sells soft-centred chocolates under the name Winnender Möpsle. The story of the faithful Pug is included in every box. Another local delicacy is coffee – Winnender Möpsle Kaffee.

Pug Insanity

In 2006, Martin J.J. Kirstein was commissioned by the Winnender municipality to organize a Pug parade. It included about 40 synthetic, decorated Pugs, and several shops displayed Pug signs. Kirstein also made a Pug calendar – Epitaph for a Pug – on which he told the story of Fortunatis. An 18th-century Pug had become a mascot and promotional object.

In May 2017, Winnenden celebrated the 300th anniversary of the Winnender *Wonnetag* (Winnender Day of Delight) with festivities mounted on a large scale – for example, Pug races at the *Viehmarkt* (cattle market), and cyclists riding from Belgrade to Winnenden to be welcomed by the mayor.

Karl Alexander, the castle and the Pug existed, but there is still no proof that Fortunatis walked from Belgrade to Winnenden.

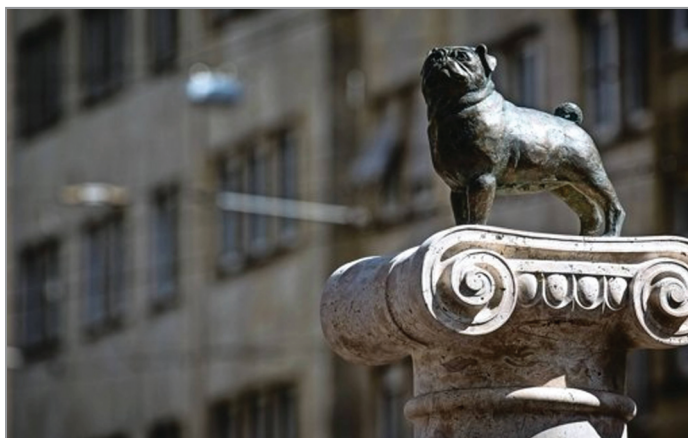
Unfortunately, I could not find the name of the artist who created the memorial.

The Breed

The Pug is of Chinese origin. About 3,000 years ago, the profession of *chancien* (dog keeper) existed in China as an official function. The *chancien* was possibly the earliest form of dog judge; part of their work was "judging the quality and character of a certain dog." Their notes were kept in the *Book of Rites*; only some of these books have been saved. In a note from AD 732, there is some talk of a *Ssuehuan pai*, *pai* meaning a very small dog, low on leg with a short nose. About 990, the Emperor T'ai-Tsung was presented with such a dog. How and when the Pug was introduced to Europe remains a question without a clear answer.

After the 16th century, the Pug spread quickly over Europe and became popular with royalty, such as the House of Orange in The Netherlands and the House of Stuart in Great Britain.

During the 19th century, England, France and The Netherlands played important roles in the development of the modern Pug. In England the breed is called Pug, in



Another Pug statue, erected in 2012 in the city of Stuttgart.

HISTORY – DOG STATUES



PUG INSANITY

Highlighted in 2006, when the Winnender Pug parade took place. The 300th anniversary of Fortunatis's return to Winnenden was celebrated in 2017.

France Carlin and in The Netherlands *Mopshond* (almost the same as Germany's *Mopshund*).

An official breed standard was written in England in the 1870s; the Pug Dog Club, which still exists (pugdogclub.org.uk), was founded in 1882-83. Ear cropping was made illegal in 1895.

Pugs were imported to the United States during the 19th century and soon made their way into the show ring and family home. The AKC recognized the breed in 1885; Champion George (No. 3286) was the first AKC-registered Pug. The Pug Dog Club of America was founded in 1931 and recognized by the American Kennel Club that same year.

More Pugs

In 2012, a Pug statue was erected in the city of Stuttgart for Lorient (1923-2011), a humorist who was born in this town and became known all over Germany for his love of the breed.

Every year in the city of Wernau, not far from Winnenden, about 200 dogs participate in the 55-yard (50-meter) Southern Germany Pug and Bulldog Race.

Looking back at royal Pugs, Pompey, who belonged to Prince William of Orange (1533-84) saved his master's life by barking when somebody tried to kill the prince.

When Dutch King William III of Orange (1650-1702) invaded England in 1688, his entourage included a large number of Pugs wearing orange bows to emphasize their royal standing. William and his wife, Mary, were crowned joint sovereigns of England, Scotland and Ireland in April 1689.

Empress Josephine de Beauharnais' Pug, Fortuné, did not accept the Emperor Napoleon on Josephine's bed on their wedding night. She



bit Napoleon on his leg.

Queen Victoria fancied a lot of dog breeds but the Pug was a favorite, a passion that she passed on to other members of the British Royal Family, such as her great-grandson Edward VIII.

Victoria bred her own Pugs – Pector, Fatima, Olga, Bosco, Minka and Venus were some of her homebred dogs. In the 1850s, they lived in the kennels at Windsor Castle. The Royal Trust Collection website – royalcollection.org.uk – has photographs, and lists books about dogs belonging to members of the Royal Family

GEORGE

*Owned by Mrs. E.A. Pue, of Philadelphia; bred by Miss Lelia Tegvan of South Carolina. Born November 1, 1878. Sire Muggins, pedigree unknown; dam Coquette, pedigree unknown. George always appeared at his best, as he was kept in fine condition and was never afraid in the ring. His color, condition, body, legs, feet, tail, nails, and symmetry were very good; in head, mask, wrinkles, trace, coat, and neck he was fair. His eyes were large and expressive, but too light in color. His ears were not good in shape nor well carried, and he was over size (nearly twenty-five pounds). (Matthew Henry Cryer, *The Prize Pugs of America and England*, Fanciers' Publishing Co., 1891.)*

The book, which lists the dog's winnings and winning progeny, can be read at books.google.ca



Members of the Castle Dancers posed in front of Fortunatis's monument.

HISTORY – DOG STATUES



*An example of the modern Pug found in homes today.
(photographer unknown)*



*A Favourite Bitch
by H.B. Chalon - 1802*

Edward VIII and American socialite Wallis Simpson piled into bed every night with their six or more pugs (Disraeli, Davey Crockett, Black Diamond, Imp, Trooper and Ginseng). Their dogs ate their meals on silver dishes and were perfumed with Miss Dior, the Duchess's favorite fragrance.

In 1955, the Duchess exhibited the three-year-old Goldengleam Trooper in a dog show at White Plains, N.Y. In November of the following year, Trooper and his companion, Davey Crockett, won first and second prize at the International Dog Show in Paris. John Montgomery's *Royal Dogs* (1962) states:

"And three years later the Windsors were winning a first prize at Deauville – the Cruft's of France – with their Pug Impy, whose full aristocratic name was Pugville's Imperial II. At this show the Duchess sat in an old stable stall to groom the small but impeccable dog before she judged him fit to enter the contest. The Duke looked on, immaculate in blue bow tie, grey suit, and white-topped brogues, obviously enjoying himself."

Those were the days...



Without any doubt the best-known royal owners of Pugs were the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, a.k.a. Wallis Simpson (1896-1986) and Edward VIII (1894-1972), who was King of Great Britain from January 20, 1936, until his abdication on December 11 the same year.

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 34 years, as secretary and chairman and is a 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:
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