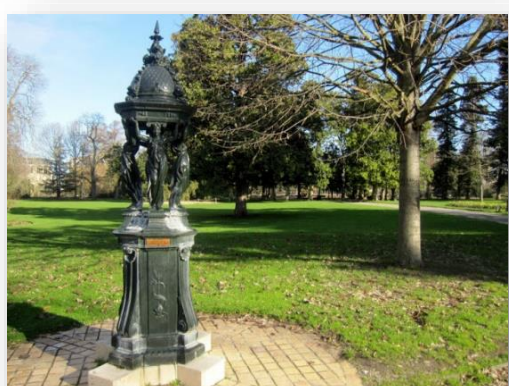


# Seven Wallace Fountains in Bordeaux – One Missing



Place du Général-Sarrail



Jardin Public



Garden of Palais Rohan, City Hall



Fountain once on the waterfront



Place Stalingrad



Place Georges-de-Porto-Riche



Place Mitchell



Cours Xavier-Arnozan

Wallace Fountain Locations in Bordeaux:

Place du Général-Sarrail  
 Jardin Public  
 Garden of Palais Rohan, City Hall  
 Place Stalingrad  
 Place Georges-de-Porto-Riche  
 Cours Xavier-Arnozan  
 Place Mitchell

In 1873, soon after the first Wallace fountains were installed in Paris, the wealthy banker and philanthropist Daniel Illfa (1825-1907), better known by his pseudonym Osiris, decided to follow Wallace's lead in Bordeaux. Osiris funded the purchase of six Wallace fountains, stipulating they be located at points throughout the city that had been recommended to him by a city waterworks engineer. One of these locations was on Place des Augustins (now Place du Général-Sarrail), symbolically near to Osiris's birthplace.

The fountain remained there until 2003, when it was relocated to Place Stalingrad on the right bank of the Garonne. At the time the fountain didn't fit in with the plans of urban architect Jean-Michel Wilmotte, who had been commissioned to modernise Rue Sainte-Catherine - which runs along one side of the small triangular square. But a campaign was led by photographer and writer Richard Zéboulon to have the fountain returned to Place du Général-Sarrail, out of respect for the memory of Osiris's generous contributions to the city. Zéboulon managed to convince the *Mairie* to backtrack and the fountain is now back in its original position.

Two other 1873-vintage fountains can still be seen, one in the Jardin Public and one in the gardens of Palais Rohan, the city hall.

Some mystery surrounds the other three original fountains, which were reportedly positioned on what is now Place des Martyrs-de-la-Résistance, Place Gambetta and near Saint-Michel church. It is thought they disappeared during the Second World War, before later re-emerging. One can now be seen at the cultural centre in nearby Créon; the second ended up on the island of Grenada in the West Indies (but in the 1890s) where it was destroyed by a hurricane; the third recently turned up for sale at an auction. Furthermore, old photos show a fountain spotted on the waterfront near the Lainé warehouse, now the city's modern art museum. It has yet to be established whether this is an additional early fountain or one that was later positioned elsewhere!

More recent fountains, produced by GHM around the turn of the millennium, have been installed throughout the city. This includes Place Stalingrad, where the Général-Sarrail fountain had been a temporary resident, Place Georges-de-Porto-Riche in the side-streets between Rue Sainte-Catherine and Place de la Bourse, Place Mitchell and back towards the riverside a fountain can be spotted on Cours Xavier-Arnozan.

One Wallace fountain of Bordeaux has gone missing. There is photo evidence dated 2011 that shows a Wallace fountain stood at Place Jacques-Lemoine in a part of the city that underwent a radical overhaul and has been transformed into a shopping mall, Promenade Sainte Catherine. What happened to the Wallace fountain that was there? If you know, get in touch!

Source: Text and Photos by Tim Pike, [invisiblebordeaux.blogspot.com](http://invisiblebordeaux.blogspot.com)