

# Seven Wallace Fountains in Parks and Squares in Reims



**Square Charles-Sarazin**  
Rue Pluche  
51100 Reims

**Jardin de la Patte-d'Oie**  
73 Bd du Général Leclerc  
51100 Reims

**Place Jules-Ferry**  
51100 Reims

**On the Median**  
Facing 150 rue Ponsardin  
51100 Reims

**Facing 142 Boulevard Saint-Marceaux**  
51100 Reims

**Place Saint-Thomas**  
51100 Reims

**Place Luton**  
51100 Reims



Reims may have had ten Wallace Fountains once, the most outside of Paris. Today, seven fountains can be found in parks and squares. Unfortunately, none are working fountains as they are not hooked up to the city's drinking water and sanitation system. These fountains are purely ornamental and serve only to beautify the urban surroundings.

Their exact history remains unknown and requires additional research, but some historical facts have surfaced. Olivier Rigaud, a former urban planner at the City of Reims who died in 2013, had worked on the subject. In one of his publications he wrote, *"It seems that the first Wallace Fountains installed in Reims followed deliberation on May 11, 1901, reported by the Mayor and wishing the establishment of a fountain near the passenger station and the station of the Suburban Railway."*

A 1907 book on the municipal management of Reims reports two Wallace fountains among the sources of free public drinking water.

Wallace Fountains did not all appear at the same time. According to information provided by the City, among the oldest are those in Place Luton and Rue Ponsardin installed in 1910. Postcards from before the First World War show a Wallace Fountain located in the Jardin de la Patte d'Oie. Many fountains may have been removed during the Great War so they would not be destroyed and reinstalled at the end of the war. It is possible some were reinstalled at a different location.

Olivier Rigaud tells us that the initial expense for the early fountains was 1500 francs, including 800 francs for the purchase of the fountain, 200 francs for the connection and 500 francs for the foundation and other work.

The town hall claims the fountains are restored when the city undertakes interventions and renovations in the public space. The fountain at Jules Ferry Square was renovated in 2018 for the sum of 3,000 euros and painted a light grey. According to local historian, Jean Boulet, this fountain was first installed at this location in the 1980s when the square was redeveloped. Was likely moved from a prior location.

Square Charles-Sarazin is a park nestled in the remains of an ancient house located in the heart of the city. In its center is a beautiful Wallace fountain. A plaque at the entrance to the park reads: *"Antoine Pluche – Author of the Spectacle de la Nature – One of the benefactors of the city – Born in this house on November 13, 1688."*

If anyone has photos or additional information about the history or origin of these fountains, please share it by contacting us at [admin@wallacefountains.org](mailto:admin@wallacefountains.org).