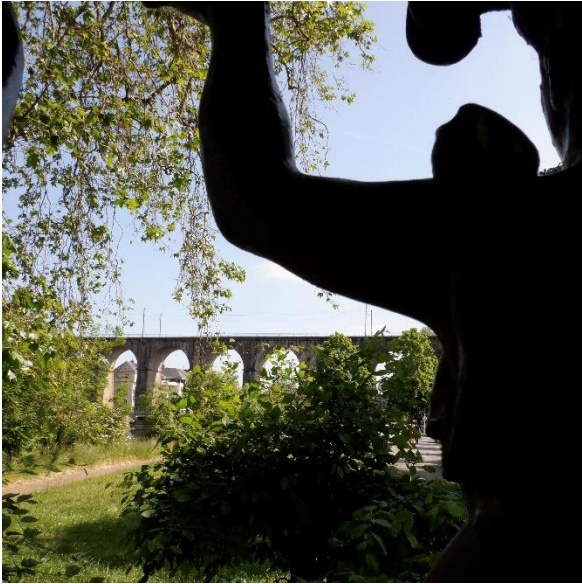


No One Knows When the Fountain Arrived in Laval



**Géo Ham Promenade
at 161 Rue du Vieux Saint-Louis
53000 Laval,
FRANCE**

Laval is a town in western France, about 300 km west-southwest of Paris. It is the capital of the Mayenne department in the Pays de la Loire region. Its inhabitants are called Lavallois.

No one seems to know when this Wallace fountain arrived in Laval or why it was placed on the Promenade Géo Ham directly across from 161 Rue du Vieux Saint-Louis and near 6PAR4. The promenade is named for Georges Hamel, a French painter and illustrator best known for his illustrations of early airplanes and automobiles which appeared in *L'Illustration*.

Badly damaged by time, this Wallace fountain is located under climbing rose arches along the bucolic walkway and very near the historic railway viaduct. Foundry markings on the monument indicate it was manufactured before 1971 and most likely it dates back several more decades.

According to a report appearing in *Ouest France* in June 2019, this fountain has been hidden for ages behind hedges on Promenade Géo-Ham. The mayor of Laval at the time, François Zocchetto, declared he would like to "highlight it" and "move it" to a more prominent place in the town. The Council of Elders and the Heritage Foundation were to reflect on the question.

Photos taken in May 2022 show the iconic, cast-iron fountain is still located on the promenade and in dire need of restoration.

If anyone has additional information about the history or origin of this fountain, please share it by contacting us at admin@wallacefountains.org.

