

Limouxin  
TOURISME



Crédit photo : Mairie de Limoux - Angélot, fontaine Place de la République

*Wanderings in Limouxin*  
*Limoux*  
Travel through the centuries

# *A bit of History...*

The site of Limoux has been permanently occupied since the Neolithic age. Our history begins as Gallo-Roman civilization was at its peak in Languedoc Roussillon. The building of organized cities was one of its main characteristics. It is the union of two households, Flacianum and Limosus, which is likely to be responsible for the foundation of the town of Limoux as we know it today, back in the 8th century. Over the centuries and the upheavals of history, Limoux has developed its own personality around the river «Aude», formerly named «Atax». More than 1000 years of history ...

## **IX<sup>o</sup> - First apparation in History**

It is in the charter of Charles the Bald, king of France in favour of the abbey of Saint Hilaire, that Limoux is mentioned for the first time. The town belonged to the archbishop of Narbonne. But in the tenth century, it passed under the authority of the Counts of Razès. Trusted by the king to administer the counties, they gradually exercised their sovereign rights. In the twelfth century, Roger de Béziers granted the inhabitants of Limoux the right to own their property. A period of peace began but it will be short-lived.





## XIII<sup>o</sup> - Crusade against the Albigenses

This is the beginning of the « Croisade des Albigeois ». The effects of the crusade, which became more and more like an inquisition, were felt hard in Limoux which was home to many Cathars. The town was occupied by Simon de Monfort and given as a fief to his lieutenant Lambert de Creichi who thus became Lambert de Limoux. Following the death of Simon, it was his son Amaury who succeeded him. The Counts of Toulouse, Foix and Trencavel opposed him, with the support of Limoux and its inhabitants. In 1226, Pieusse (village located 3 km from Limoux) is chosen for the holding of a council under the presidency of Guillebert de Castres, the « heretical bishop » of Toulouse. But their revolt was countered with the support of King Louis VII. The inhabitants expiated their devotion for their lord, and all property of the heretics was confiscated. Several families from France settled in Limoux, including Pierre de Voisins, an officer of Simon de Monfort. Limoux, ceded to the king and his ancestors, and joined the crown in 1296.



## XIV° - The misfortunes of Limoux

Since the Crusade against the Albigenses, a century has passed and Limoux seems to have forgotten it's time of misfortune. Alas, in 1348, the black plague spread from Italy to Limoux. One misfortune lead to another, in 1355 Limoux became a theatre for looting and destruction. The Prince of Wales or «Black Prince» claimed France as an inheritance. Thus, having flourished after the Black Death, Limoux was annihilated by the iron and the fire of its enemies. New fortifications are built to prevent another siege. Limoux is the main town of a viguerie since 1319. Its rights are confirmed by the king. Municipal institutions are set up with a degree of difficulty.



First apparation in History

XIII°

The misfortunes of Limoux

IX°

Crusade against the Albigenses

XIV°

## XVI° - Saved but not too much ...

Under François I disorder arises, but, thanks to its fortifications, Limoux is not affected. However, soon trouble appeared, and caused much misfortune; Calvin's doctrines spread throughout France and reached Limoux. In 1562, the «Pacification edict» granted to the Reformers the free exercise of their religion in the suburbs and cities. Clashes between Catholics and Calvinists take place. Limoux is taken on the 6th of June and looted. 30 years of civil war ensued, annihilating any industry and plunging the people into complete despair. The plague that repeatedly affected Limoux only inflicts another layer of pain to its inhabitants.

## XVII° - Gone on the wrong foot

The century is just starting as plague returns Limoux again and claims more than 3,000 lives. The succession of all these calamities will create disagreements between the consuls and the viguier. But, thanks to the fidelity of its inhabitants, Louis XIII established in Limoux in 1642 a « Sénéchal » and a presidential seat. The city then built a mental institution, the main source of its wealth.

## XVIII° - Prosperity !

With the 1771 edict, municipal institutions evolved to gradually serve as a basis for a municipal system. In this climate, industry once again flourished (trade with Spain expands). Great events were preparing in the kingdom. The Revolution of 1789 and the disruptions that it entailed, with the reunion of the « states-general », made the city's administration evolve. No violence disturbs the establishment of these new laws which, thus, lead to Limoux gaining a higher degree of prosperity and serenity. Then, Limoux was governed by the consuls and it was the beginning of the municipal institutions. This administration « In profit and in the utility of the res publica » makes Limoux one of the richest Provinces of the region. Agricultural production, wine (wheat, barley, wine) and especially industry (sheets) contribute to its growth.



XVI°

Saved but not too much

Gone on the wrong foot

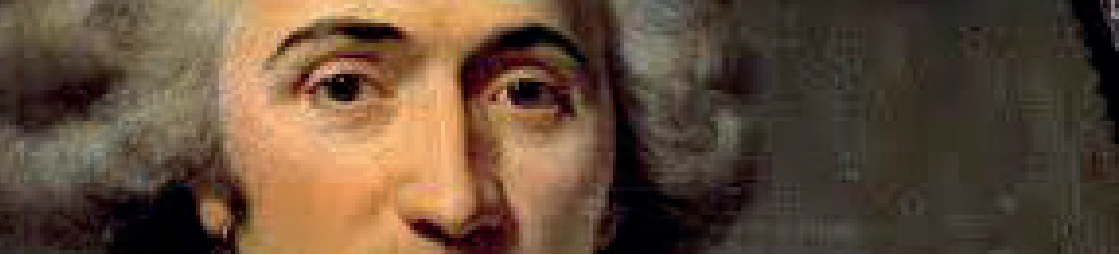
XVII°

XVIII°

Prosperity !

## *Personnality*

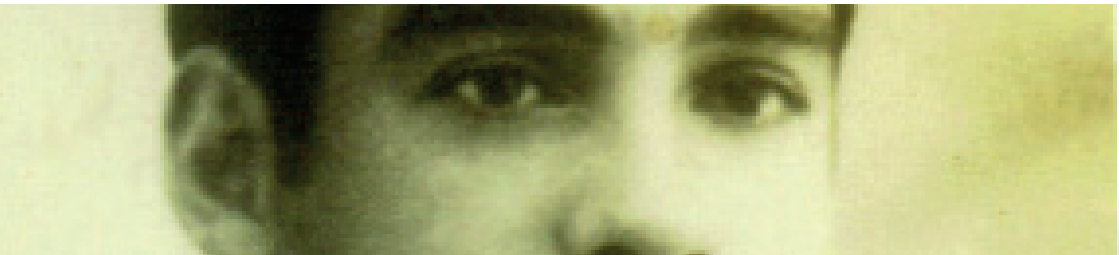
Fabre d'Eglantine 1750-1794



Born in Limoux in 1755, he was first an actor, then devoted himself to poetry. He added to his name that of Eglantine. Partisan of the Revolution, he was Secretary of Danton then member of the commune, the convention, and finally committee of public safety. Accused of corruption, he mounted the scaffold, along with Danton and Camille Desmoulins, who publicly called him a thief.

## *Personnality*

Joseph Alcantara 1921-1944

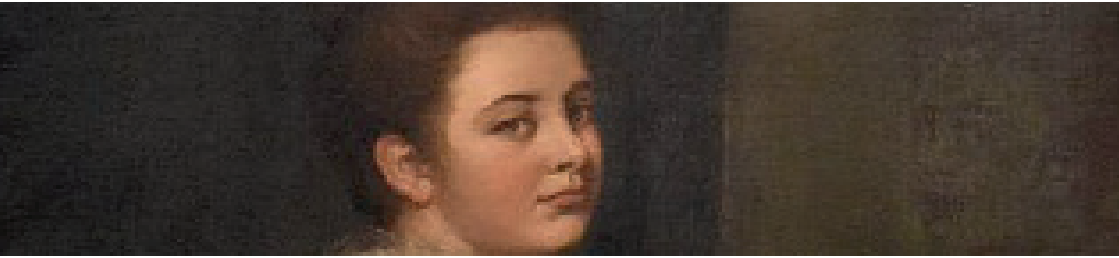


Source : site internet [www.resistanceaudioise.blog4ever.com](http://www.resistanceaudioise.blog4ever.com)

Born in Limoux, Joseph Alcantara, was a deported STO in 1943 in Germany. He escaped from his work-camp and made his way to Limoux where he went underground. He joined the Resistance by integrating the maquis of Buc and Belcastel. Betrayed in an ambush at Lairière (11) with his companions Ito Donati and Gaston Auguste Prat he was killed on Friday, July 28, 1944 at the age of 23. Adjutant André Riffaut, the only survivor, was tortured at the headquarters of the Gestapo in Carcassonne.

# *Personnality*

## Marie Petiet 1854-1893



Painter born in Limoux, she belongs to a family of artists. Her father Leopold and her uncle Auguste started a drawing school that quickly became a museum. Both of them bequeath to the City their workshop and their collection of paintings that became «Museum Petiet ». Her work is the representation of local daily life. Wife of Etienne Dujardin-Beaumetz.







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