

**The Ties among the Angevin Nobles and the House of Valois through Hunting in the 14th Century:  
A Case of *Le livre du trésor de vénerie* of Hardouin de Fontaine-Guérin**  
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This paper examines ties among the Angevin nobles and the House of Valois through hunting and books of hunting in the second half of the 14th Century.

At the end of the 14th Century, the French monarchy ordained the hunting with hounds and hawks as a privilege of the nobility; the hunting came to be regarded as a status symbol in the French society and four hunting books were written by the people related to the House of Valois. The authors praised influential lords as an ideal model for noble huntsmen to follow in the books and dedicated the works to the former.

One of those books, *Le livre du trésor de vénerie*, written by an Angevin noble, Hardouin de Fontaine-Guérin, was dedicated to his young lord, Louis II of Anjou in 1394. The principle theme of the book is deer hunting which was considered as “royal” in the Middle Ages. The author enumerates 14 masters of the horn in the manners of Anjou and Maine Counties. Most of them were vassals of Louis I of Anjou, who had served in the duke’s army in Southern France in the late 1360s and 1370s. The central figures of them were the Bueil Brothers, Jean IV and Pierre and their clan. Their narrow circle strengthened their ties among them by going hunting in time of peace. Hardouin, who had been placed in the custody of Pierre, had a strong pride of the clan and a sense of belonging to it.

After Louis I’s death, Jean IV tried to find his place in the court of his suzerain, Charles VI. He attempted to create ties to the influential lords in the royal court through hunting. 10 nobles were enumerated as an ideal huntsman in the *Trésor de vénerie*. They were all powerful royalties and nobles surrounding the first Valois kings and the Bueil clan was close to some of them.