



Hello,

I'm d'Artagnan, one of the most famous French musketeers. I became a star in the 19th century thanks to the novelist Alexandre Dumas. I suggest, through this exhibition, that you find out all about my history and that of my companions.

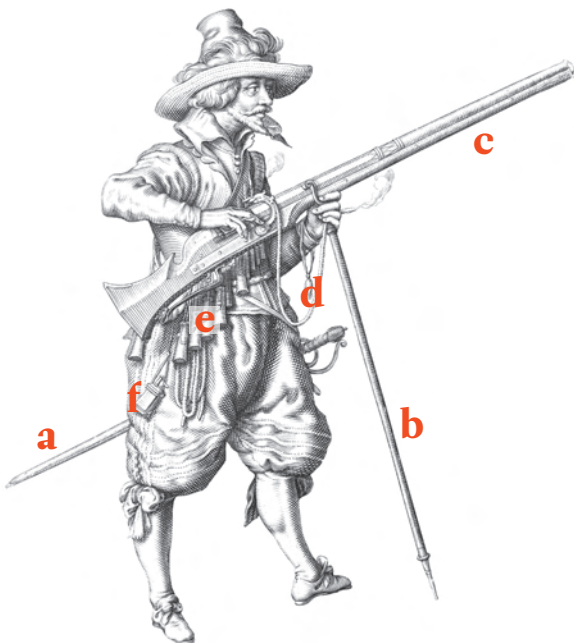
So let's go into the first exhibition hall, to the right.

The history of the musketeers starts in 1622, when the King of France, Louis XIII (1601–1643), set up the first company of musketeers as his personal guard. Their assignment was to escort the king, both when hunting and going to war.

1 It's your turn! Why are they called musketeers?

a- These men like to use musk as perfume. **b-** They have a firearm called a musket.

Move on down the corridor. Did you note the musketeer's equipment in a display case on the left? So that you can better understand how a musket is loaded and fired, go to a strange-looking machine, a praxinoscope, and make it work.



2 In front of the names below note the letter which corresponds to their location on the engraving with the help of the french explanatory panels in the display case.

- Cases holding the powder (in french: *les coffins*)
- The fuse (*la mèche*)
- The musket (*le mousquet*)
- The sword (*l'épée*)
- The fork stand to support the firearm (*la fourquine*)
- The powder flask (*le pulvérin*)

Go towards the large portraits painted on the wall on the left-hand side.

3

Find the french name of each of these characters by how they look. Their portraits appear in this part of the exhibition.

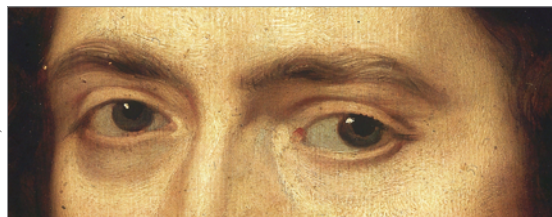
© Leeds, Royal Armouries



© Paris, musée du Louvre



© Florence, Palazzo Pitti



a- Le roi L _ _ _ _ b- A _ _ _ d' _ _ _ _ c- Le _ _ _ de B _ _ _ _
_ _ _ _

4

Below, circle the name of the character who had the right to give orders to d'Artagnan and his musketeer companions.

D'Artagnan and his three companions, Athos, Porthos and Aramis, served the Kings of France, Louis XIII and Louis XIV in the 17th century, but they became world-wide stars in the 19th century, when **Alexandre Dumas** wrote the novel, *The Three Musketeers*. The novelist loved nothing better than to invent intrigues full of suspense. Here is one which concerns the three portraits below.



© Paris, musée du Louvre

King Louis XIII offered his wife, Anne of Austria, a magnificent and expensive gift: **12 ferrets** wearing diamonds. She secretly gave them to her lover, the Duke of Buckingham. According to Dumas, in order to avoid a scandal, d'Artagnan had to get the ferrets back from the English Duke.

But what does a ferret look like? The answer is very close by, on the queen's portrait painted by the studio of the famous Rubens. Here is a clue: two of them are tied to the end of a black ribbon.

Let us go to the end of the room to meet the famous Cardinal Richelieu
Find the painting with the details below.

Richelieu was a cardinal (an important figure in the Catholic Church). He also had musketeers to protect him.

They were called the «**red musketeers**» from the colour of their tabard (the musketeers of the King of France wore a blue one), which was a reminder of the Cardinal's red robe.

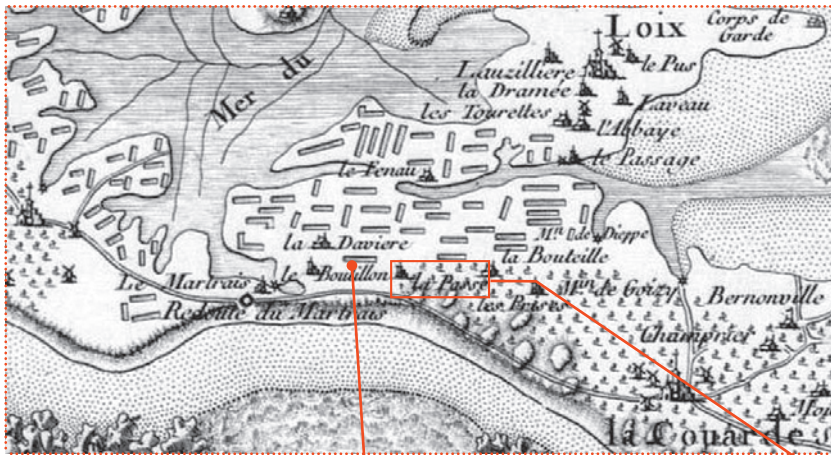


© Château de Versailles

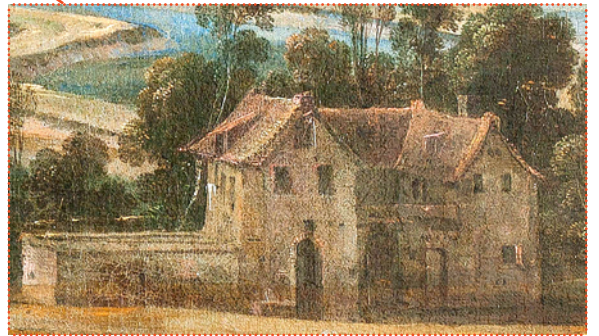
Stand now in front of the picture entitled « La défaite des Anglais en l'île de Ré par l'armée française... »

In 1627, the Île de Ré was attacked by the English fleet, commanded by the Duke of Buckingham. But the French put the English to flight. Look at the maps and extracts from the picture below which will help you to know what is happening. In the 17th century, the painter Laurent de La Hyre depicted the island in a very realistic way.

Extract from an old map of the Île de Ré



The salt marshes : where salt is harvested in peacetime, a product which made the Île de Ré wealthy.



This house is called La Passe.

5

It's your turn: identify these three details in the picture.

Opposite, from the sea wall, the English musketeers fire at the French horsemen and foot soldiers.



The English fleet appears in the distance out at sea.



French horsemen come to fight the English.

Do you hear the sound of waves? Let us join Cardinal de Richelieu on La Rochelle sea wall at the end of the room.



In 1627, the royal army of Louis XIII had a dual mission when it laid **siege to the town of La Rochelle**: to prevent the English ships from providing food and various products that the inhabitants of La Rochelle needed to live, and also to punish the Protestants living in the town, whose religious beliefs were different from the royal Catholic authorities.

It was the Cardinal de Richelieu, a man of the church but also a minister serving Louis XIII, who led this siege.

Richelieu © La Rochelle, musée d'Art et d'histoire.

Continue on your way and approach the display case in the centre of the room.

The young musketeers are learning to handle a sword, to fire a musket, but they also have to know how to control a horse.

6

Can you help the young musketeer below to do his exercise connecting each object to its location on the engraving?

Clue: you can look at the objects behind the display cases in the centre of the room.



The bit
(*le mors*)



The stirrup
(*l'étrier*)

The saddle
(*la selle*)



The spur
(*l'éperon*)

You have come to the end of the first part of your visit. Leave this room, cross the footbridge and go on to the second room.

Enter the second room and move down the corridor close to the display case displaying a shield and a helmet.

7 When the July 1830 revolution broke out in France, the collections in the Musée d'Artillerie (to become the Musée de l'Armée, where you are today) were in danger. Alexandre Dumas, who lived nearby, told that he went to the museum to take the objects you see in the cabinet into safety in his own home. This is how he tells what he did to carry them:

«I put the helmet on my head, the shield on my arm, the sword at my side and the harquebus on my shoulder».

Taking inspiration from this quotation, «dress» Alexandre Dumas by connecting the objects to their location on his portrait.

Also complete in french the captions for each object with help from the little explanatory panels.



Bourg _____



Mousquet à mèche,
dit Arque _____
de Charles IX



_____ ache

Approach the battle scene in the centre of the room showing an English horseman and two pikemen (soldiers armed with pikes).

8 They bring the «English revolution» to mind, a civil war in England in the middle of the 17th century. King Charles 1st of England was moreover executed in London, as you can see in the picture on the left-hand wall. In his novel, Dumas imagined that the musketeers tried (in vain!) to save the king...

In a display case in the centre of the room, find a very special English helmet, fitted with fine metal bars. They were used to protect the face against sword blows.

What is this helmet called?

The _____ helmet

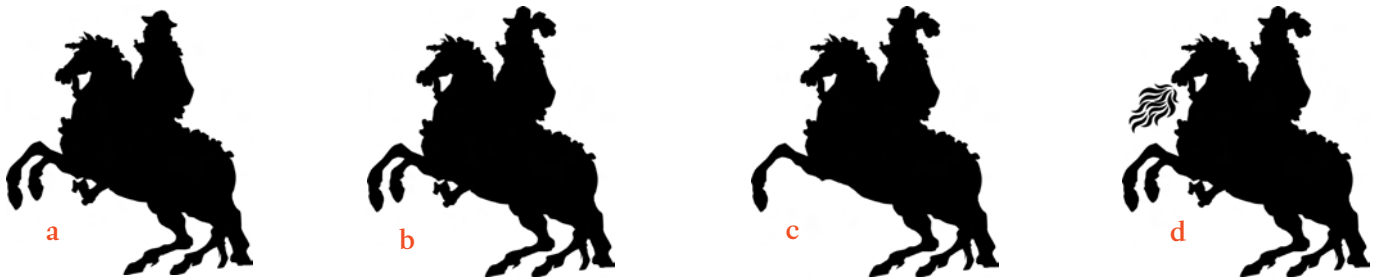
Clue:



9 Again on the left-hand wall, note the large white sheet entitled « Marche à l'entrée de leurs Majestés en la ville de Paris ». You can see here a very rare portrayal of the most famous of the musketeers: **d'Artagnan**.

His real name was Charles de Batz-Castelmore, but he took the name of his mother, Françoise d'Artagnan, when he became a musketeer towards 1633. A warrior faithful to the King of France, he also took part in the king's ceremonies and in the retinue accompanying the king, as you can see here.

Find d'Artagnan on the document using the magnifying glass, then circle the silhouette representing him.



10 Farther on, in the centre of the room, find a series of metal masks. They remind one of the famous «**Iron Mask**», a mysterious character in the 17th century, shut up in various prisons. Nobody was allowed see his face nor know his name. Dumas, in his novels, introduces him as the twin brother of King Louis XIV...

Continue on your way and find the **scale-model of Belle-Île**, a french island on the Atlantic coast. In his novel, that's where Alexandre Dumas killed off Porthos, one of his three mousketeers.

11 Then go into the small room at the end of the hall. Imagine yourself in a trench during the siege of a town at the time of Louis XIV, who was called **the Sun King**. The horses are neighing, there is smoke everywhere, the cannon and mortar shots are making the ground tremble...

Leave this little room on the other side and find this small-scale model of a mortar. Contrary to the cannon which fires a ball (solid metal ball), the mortars fires a grenade (hollow metal ball filled with explosive powder), which bursts over its target.

Which symbol tells you that this type of mortar was made at the time of Louis XIV? Write your answer below and circle the symbol on this picture.



A little white lace handkerchief is hidden in a display case on the left. Stand in front of it.



12

The title of the novel *The Three Musketeers* by Alexandre Dumas talks about three characters which will become the comrades-in-arms of d'Artagnan: **Athos, Porthos and Aramis**. To create them, Dumas based them on three musketeers who really did exist and who were born in Gascony (region in the South-West of France), like d'Artagnan. But he changed their names slightly!

With the help of the explanatory panels, write the name of the Dumas musketeers. Then connect the character to the object representing it in one of the three display cases on the wall.

a- _ _ _ _ _

Inspired by Henri d'Aramitz (towards 1620-1674)

Object clue: *Atishoo!*



Damascened sword
(= incrustated with gold threads)

b- _ _ _ _ _

Inspired by Issac de Porthau (1617-towards 1650)

Object clue: *practical for transport*



Embroidered
handkerchief

© Musée
national de la
Renaissance



Baldric
sword holder

c- _ _ _ _ _

Inspired by Armand de Sillègue d'Athos d'Autevielle
(towards 1615-1620 - 1643)

Object clue: *attention!*

 Find the portrait opposite
a little farther on.

13 This musketeer seems to be very young. It is true that one could join the musketeers from the age of 15 years onwards!

We do not know his name, but he is wearing his uniform proudly, as well as his grey hair, very fashionable at the time of the french King Louis XV.

Compare this picture with the portrait in front of you and circle the five errors.



14 Behind you, see a series of small statuettes of musketeers in the centre of the room. Made in cardboard then painted, they were made more than 260 years ago.



In your opinion, what were they used for? Circle the right answer.

- a- They were used as toys for children.
- b- They enabled the king to prepare his battle plans.
- c- They were probably made by collectors enthusiastic about military history.
- d- They were used for puppet shows.

To end your visit, find this musketeer's uniform going back to 1814 below.



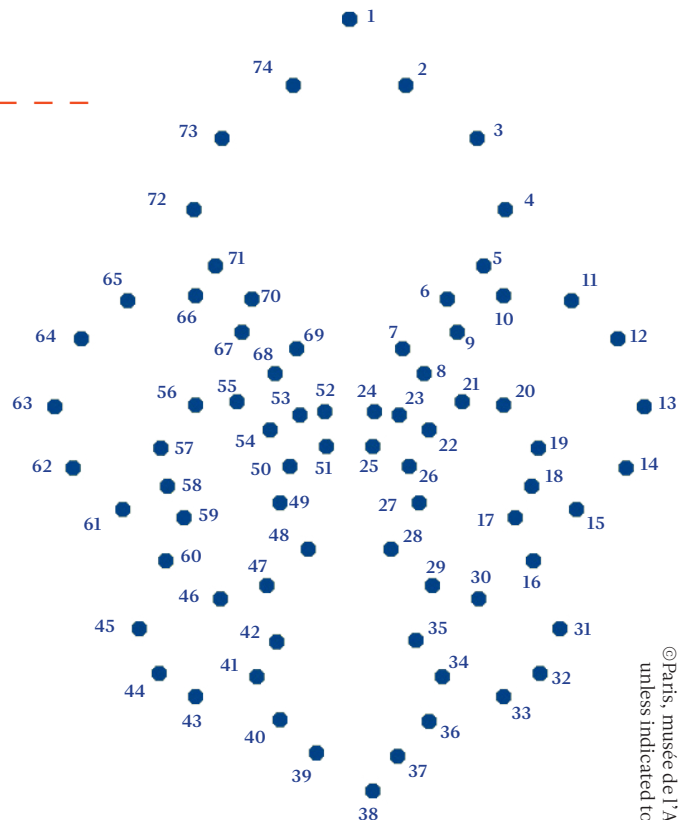
15 The regiment of musketeers was abolished in 1815, when Napoleon returned to power and drove away the King of France, Louis XVIII.

In 1824, Alexandre Dumas moreover met one of the last musketeers: the painter Théodore Géricault, who, having become a musketeer in 1814, stayed faithful to the king even when Napoleon returned. Furthermore, you can see a drawing of his left hand nearby.

Connect the points below to see the symbol of the Kings of France, which decorates the cross worn by the musketeers.

What is it called?

The l _ _ _ _ f _ _ _ _ _



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Your visit ends here!

Would you like to know more? Take part in the investigation game:

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Answers :

1-b ; 2-e, d, c, a, b, f ; 3-a ; 4-Louis XIII ; 5- Anne d'Autriche, c: le duc de Buckingham ; 6- Louis XIII ; 7- arquebuse, rondache, bourguignotte ; 8- the spider helmet ; 9-b ; 10- the sun with a face ; 11- the sun with a face ; 12-a ; 13- Porthos (baldric), c : Athos (sword) ; 14-c ; 15- the lily flower (la fleur de lys)