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The Beast of Gevaudan: La Bete Du Gevaudan

By Abbi Pierre Pourcher, Abb Pierre Pourcher, Abbe Pierre Pourcher



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La Bête du Gévaudan was a real wolf-like monster living in the Auvergne from 1764 to 1767. She killed about one hundred people. Prowling Catholic pre-Revolutionary France, she spread terror among the aristocrats and peasants of the beautiful Auvergne countryside. Her story beats most mystery novels in false trails, horror and atmosphere. The big difference is La Bête was real, not fiction, and leaves for ever the unanswered question, "What was she?" All efforts to stop her failed and she became infamous throughout France. The king - Louis XV - took a personal interest in her activities and how to destroy her. Many explanations - alien, prehistoric beast, mutant etc. - were put forward at the time and during the two centuries since but none have ever been widely accepted. A mass of evidence remains that La Bête did exist and was not just a legend. Compared with other monster mysteries she is unique, leaving graves, witnessed parish records, and archives of official documents, many of them included in this book, proving her real and guilty beyond doubt. Read Pourcher's book carefully and draw your own conclusions. Even if you arrive at a conventional solution to the mystery, doubts might linger as darkness falls. If twigs crack, don't whistle.



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The Beast of Gevaudan: La Bete Du Gevaudan By Abbi Pierre Pourcher, Abb Pierre Pourcher, Abbe Pierre Pourcher **Bibliography**

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Editorial Review

About the Author

ABBÉ PIERRE POURCHER Pierre Pourcher was born on the 8th December 1831 in the village of Mazet, parish of Julianges. His parents were Barthélemy Pourcher and Jeanne -Marie, maiden name Roussel. Her was christened on the 10th December 1831, the godfather being Jean-Pierre Pourcher, his grandfather. He entered the Grand Seminary when he was 28 years old, being ordained priest in 1865. He became Curate of St. Martin de Boubaux in 1873 and held this office until 1900. Pourcher wrote several historical books of which *La Bête du Gévaudan* is the most well known. In it he makes several references to direct family experiences with *La Bête*. "The child from Serviès, taken by *La Bête* on Saturday 27th July, was Pierre Roussel, paternal uncle of my mother Jeanne-Marie-Roussel, widow of Barthélemy Pourcher, my father. The Roussel family, from Fajolle at Grèzes, near Sauges, inherited the domain of Guillaume de Serviès, today the Portal house, where almost all the six uncles and two aunts were born." Pope Léon XIII personally encouraged Pourcher's writing, approving of his good works and the various restorations he was able to achieve in his parish. Papal appreciation is particularly recorded in a letter of 30th July, 1887 written to him on the instruction of the Pontiff by Cardinal Rampolla. Pourcher died on 3rd March 1915 in the Chaldecoste district of Mende. The modest house in which he was born can still be seen. It has an enigmatic carving, said by some to be *La Bête*, over its front door. A thoughtful priest who left to his church and the world a book from which much can be learned. DEREK BROCKIS The TRANSLATOR is 73, retired, and married with two daughters and two grandsons. Lives in a house built in the grounds of an old rectory in Surrey, England, minutes walk from a village with two inns remaining open all day. His hobby is reading French and German literature. Derek was a Flying Officer - Armaments Branch - in the Royal Air Force, declined the offer of a permanent commissi

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