

# Jules Renard

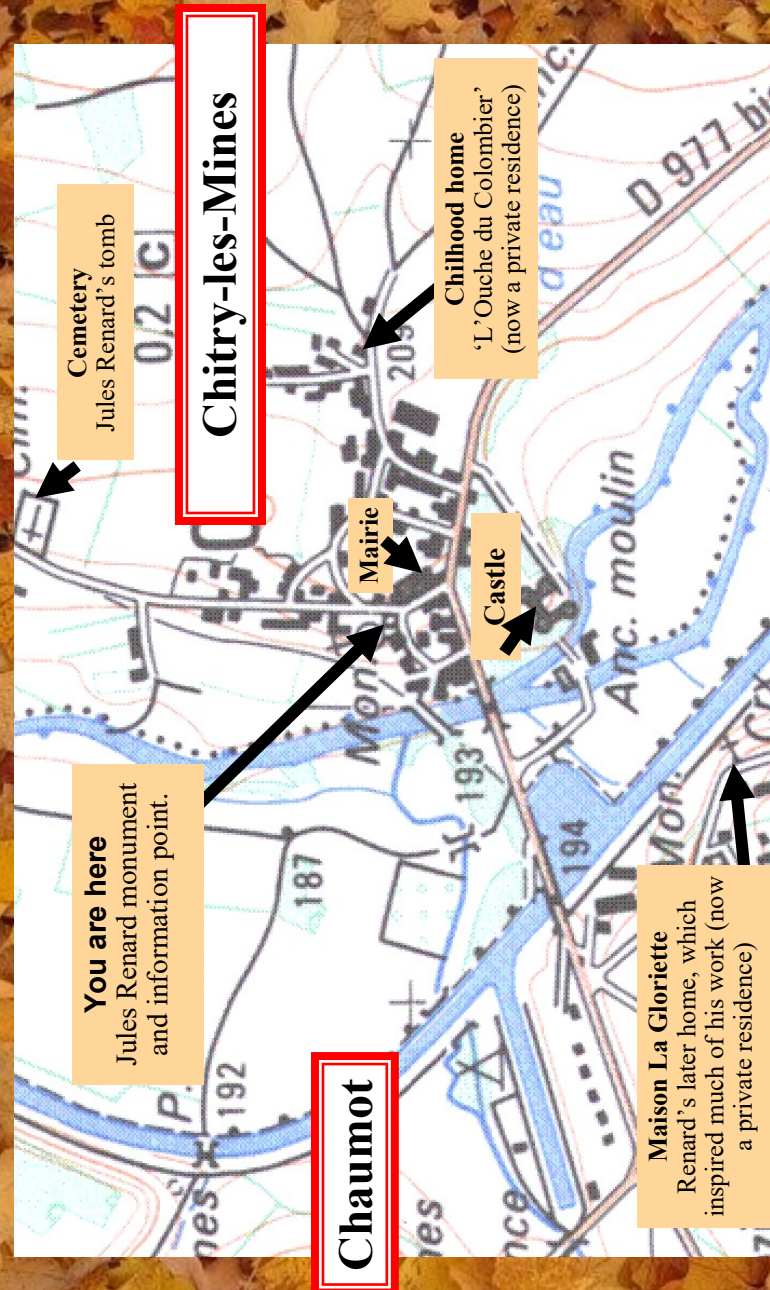


« Les Amis de Jules Renard » Mairie,  
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Walk in the footsteps of Jules Renard (5km)  
using the Iono app on iPhone or Android (phone and  
tablet).

Depart from the monument opposite the mairie in  
Chitry. From his childhood home to the cemetery  
where he's buried, and also taking in his private resi-  
dence, la Gloriette, and the mairie, you'll discover  
more about Renard's life, outlook, views on his con-  
temporaries etc, along the way.



Jules Renard monument, 1913,  
by Charles Pourquet.

Jules Renard (1864-1910) – man of letters

“The only man who is really free is the one who can  
turn down an invitation to dinner without giving an  
excuse.” (Jules Renard)

Jules Renard, best known as the author of *Poil de Carotte* ('Carrot Top'), was a novelist, playwright and humorist. He also gives his name to a long list of inspirational and witty aphorisms courtesy of his popular diaries, which he kept from the age of 23 until the year he died. He grew up in Chitry-les-Mines, and later returned to the village, where he served as mayor.



## Biography

Jules Renard was born at Châlons-du-Maine in Mayenne, northwest France, on 22nd February 1864, the youngest of three children of François Renard and Rosa-Anne Colin (*Poil de Carotte's* Mr and Mrs Lepic).

**1866** : The family moves to Chitry-les-Mines where Jules spends his childhood. His father became mayor of the village.

**1875** : Jules Renard studies at the high school in Nevers (today it's known as the Lycée Jules Renard). With his brother, Maurice, he boards at the Institution Saint-Louis. He only comes back to Chitry for school holidays.

**1881** : Leaves for Paris where he studies rhetoric at the Lycée Charlemagne.

**1882** : In July, Jules Renard passes the first part of the baccalauréat. In October he majors in philosophy and prepares to sit the entrance exams for the Ecole Normale Supérieure.

**1883** : Decides not to sit the exam and passes the second part of the baccalauréat.

**1884** : Jules works on his first novel, which will only be published in 1919.

**1885** : Military service.

**1886** : Self-publishes a poetry collection called *Les Roses*.

**1887** : Starts writing his *Journal*.

**1888** : On 28th April, Jules Renard marries Marie Moreau.

**1889** : Publishes *Crime de Village*.

**1890** : Contributes regularly to *Mercure de France* [French cultural magazine] and publishes *Sourires Pincés*.

**1891** : Starts contributing to *Gils Blas* [daily literary newspaper].

**1892** : Publishes *l'Ecornifleur*.

**1893** : First incarnation of *Poil de Carotte* and publication of *La Lanterne Sourde*.

**1895** : First performance of *La Demande*, a one-act play.

**1896** : Publishes *Histoires Naturelles* and *La Maîtresse*.

**1897** : Writes *Plaisir de Rompre*.

**1898** : Jules Renard plays an active part in the campaign supporting Captain Dreyfus and Emile Zola. He has a new play, *Le Pain de Ménage*, and publishes *Bucoliques*.

## Biography

**1900** : *Poil de Carotte* is staged at the Théâtre Antoine. On 6th May, Jules Renard is elected onto the town council of nearby Chaumot. On 15th August, he is made a knight of the Legion of Honour. 3rd October sees the 100th performance of *Poil de Carotte*.

**1903** : First performance of *Monsieur Vernet*.

**1904** : Contributes to Jean Jaurès' *Humanité* [left-wing daily newspaper]. On 15th May Renard is elected mayor of Chitry-les-Mines.

**1905** : Renard delivers a speech at the unveiling of a statue of Claude Tillier [contemporary French writer] in the nearby market town of Clamecy.

**1906** : Maurice Ravel sets five of Renard's *Histoires Naturelles* to music.

**1907** : Jules Renard is elected member of the Académie Goncourt.

**1908** : The release of *Mots d'Ecrit, Nos Frères Farouches* and *Ragotte*.

**1909** : Performance of *La Bigote* at the Théâtre Antoine.

**1910** : April: the last entry in his *Journal*. On 22nd May Jules Renard dies at his Parisian apartment on 44 rue du Rocher. Civil funeral at Chitry on 24th May.

## Association « Les Amis de Jules Renard »

The association aims:

- ♦ to promote the memory and work of Jules Renard by all possible means.
- ♦ to provide information to its members.

The association's activities include:

- ♦ organising or supporting a variety of events.
- ♦ a touring exhibition of his life, his work and all the association's publications since 2000.
- ♦ cleaning his tomb and monument.
- ♦ networking with other regional literary groups (Romain Rolland, Claude Tillier, Henri Bachelin).

## Les éditions de l'association :

**Volume 1, année 2000** : Jules Renard, *Causerie sur le théâtre*.

**Volume 2, année 2001** : Jules Renard, *homme de lettres*.

**Volume 3, année 2002** : Jules Renard, *un contemporain*.

**Volume 4, année 2003** : Jules Renard *et le théâtre*.

**Volume 5, année 2004** : Jules Renard, *correspondances inédites*.

**Volume 6, année 2005** : Jules Renard, *le centenaire d'une élection*.

**Volume 7, année 2006** : Jules Renard *vu par ses contemporains*.

**Volume 8, année 2007** : Jules Renard, *débuts littéraires*.

**Volume 9, année 2008** : *les structures internes de Poil de Carotte, suivi de Poil de Carotte au théâtre, ou la compromission*.

**Volume 10, année 2009** : Jules Renard, *l'apôtre de Chitry*.

**Volume 11, année 2010** : Jules Renard, *hommage pour un centenaire*.

**Volume 12, année 2010** : Jules Renard, *l'amour du pays*.

**Volume hors-série, année 2011** : Jules Renard, *un œil clair pour notre temps* (Actes du Colloques 2010).

**Volume 13, année 2012** : Jules Renard, *l'art de la pointe sèche*.

**Volume 14, année 2013** : Jules Renard *et le naturalisme*.

**Volume 15, année 2014** : Jules Renard *et la Poésie*.

**Année 2016** : Jules Renard *Promenades de campagne*, recueil de citations illustrées.

## Les éditions de la Camosine

Les annales du pays Nivernais :

*Jules Renard en Nivernais*, présenté par l'association.

Volume 109, année 2002

Volume 114, année 2004

Volume 121, année 2005

**Price per volume €5, or €10 for three.**  
**Contact the Association by email:**  
**[lesamisdejules.renard@laposte.net](mailto:lesamisdejules.renard@laposte.net)**