ALAUNTES—continued

the French classics Chasse dou Cerf and Roy Modus do not mention this dog, though there is ample evidence that they existed in France from very early days. Probably they were relics left there by the Alani in their wanderings through Gaul. About the same period as our MS. we find Alans mentioned by Chaucer, who in the "Knight's Tale" describes Lycurgus seated on his throne around which stand white Alaunts as big as bulls wearing muzzles and golden collars:

About his char ther wenten white Alantz,
Twenty and mo, as gret as any steere;
To hunten atte leon or the deere;
And folwed him with mosel fast ybounde;
Coleres with gold and torettes filed rounde.

Corpus MS. 2148.

It is not certain that Chaucer had seen such dogs in England, although that they existed long before his time in the British Isles may be considered proved. There were various places called Alaun, this being the early name of the Avon in Hampshire, and the Alne in Northumberland, the town of Allaway in Scotland, and other places bore that name (Jesse, vol. ii. p. 83). Coming originally from the Caucasus with the Alani, Jesse thinks that the Northmen brought these dogs to our shores. Chaucer may have seen some of the descendants of these early comers to our isle, whether of Phœnician or Norwegian origin, or he may have seen some more recently imported from Spain or France, or he may possibly have gone for his models to the court of King John of France (1350-1364), who possessed some of these huge Alans. In the accounts of this King, Pierre des Livres receives 19 ecus for silver to use for the ornamentation of the collars of two great Alans; the silver was to be gilt, and the collar further richly decorated with the coat of arms of the King (De Noirmont, vol. ii. p. 298). Louis XI. also had the collars of his Alans decorated with nails of fine gold and soldered with silver.

De Noirmont further tells us that the ancient Gallo-Latin name of veltrahus, or veltris, which in the first instance denoted a large greyhound used for the chase of the bear and wild boar, passed later to a different kind of dog used for the same purpose. These veltres, viautres, or vautres were also known under the name of Alan, and resembled the Great Dane or the German Boarhound (vol. ii. p. 295-7).

The description given by a Spanish author of the seventeenth century (1644), Martinez de Espinar, although more than two hundred years subsequent to our MS., is worth quoting, as it is in Spain that the breed of Alans is supposed to

have survived, although the present-day Alano may not be very near his early progenitors in type.

Espinar says, "his limbs are strong, his muzzle blunt, with a forehead straight and large, his eyes are round and sanguinary, his mien is terrible, he has a short thick neck, and his strength is such that he can conquer an animal as valiant and as ferocious as the bull" (Lavallée, p. 29. See also note on Mastiff and Pl. XLVIII.).

ANTLER, O. Fr. auntilor, antoiller, or andoiller, derived from a Teutonic root; Anglo-Saxon andwlit; Frank. antlutt or antluzze; Goth. andawleiz; O. Ger. antliz; face. Gaston Phœbus and Roy Modus and other old French authors invariably use teste, or head, when referring to a hart's antlers, but English writers did not observe time-hallowed terms of venery so rigorously, and our author frequently uses the jarring and, from every point of view, incorrect term "horns" when speaking of the hart's attire or head.1 Later on, a more sportsmanlike regard for terms of venery is observable, and Turbervile in one of his few original passages impresses upon his fellow sportsmen: "Note that when you speake of a harts hornes, you must terme them the Head and not the Hornes of a hart. And likewise of a bucke; but a Rowes hornes and a Gotes hornes are tollerable termes in Venery" (p. 239).

Up to the end of the seventeenth century it was customary when speaking of a stag's head to refer only to the tines "on top," or the "croches" or "troches," leaving unconsidered the brow, bez and trez tines, which were called the stag's "rights," and which every warrantable hart was supposed as a matter of course to possess. When referring to the number of tines a head bore, it was invariably the rule to use only even numbers,² and to double the number of tines borne by the antler which had most. Thus, a stag with three on each top was a head of "twelve of the less" (or "lasse"); "twelve of the greater" when he had three and four on top, or, counting the rights, six and seven tines, or, as a modern Scotch stalker would call it, a thirteen-pointer. The extreme number of tines a hart was supposed to bear was thirty-two.

There was a curious belief that heads of even fourteen points, i.e., four on each top, were so extremely rare as to form lusus naturæ, and for this reason fourteen of the lesser or fourteen of the greater were omitted from all tables; the latter (four on one and five on the other top, or fifteen tines in all) being called "sixteen of the lesser," followed when there were sixteen tines by "sixteen of the greater" and "eighteen

The substance of deers' antlers is true bone, the proportion of their constituents differing but very slightly from ordinary bones. The latter when in a healthy condition consist of about one-third of animal matter or gelatine, and two-thirds of earthy matter, about six-sevenths of which is phosphate of lime and one-seventh carbonate of lime, with an appreciable trace of magnesia. The antlers of deer consist of about thirty-nine parts of animal matter and sixty-one parts of earthy matter of the same kind and proportion as is found in common bone.

² The only exception to this rule I have ever come across occurs in the Lansdowne MS. 285. See Table.

ANTLER—continued

of the lesser" for a seventeen-pointer. A glance at the table I have appended will explain these somewhat intricate observances:

Designation of Stags and their Antlers

	TWICI, MS. PHILLIPPS.	TWICI, VESP. B. XII.	LANSDOWNE 1 MS. 285.	TURBER VILE.
First year Second year Third ,, Fourth ,, Fifth ,, Sixth ,,	Veel Broket Espayard Sour Graunt sour Cerf de la pre- mere teste	Calfe Broket Spayer Stagg Greet-stagg Hert of the fyrst hed	Calfe Brokett Espayard Sower Great sower Hart of the first hed Perche	Calfe Brocket Spayde Staggard Stagge Hart Burre
Beam Brow antler ² Bez Trez Sur-royal, ''on top," or ''crown''	Porche Auntilor Real Souzreal Troches	Auntelere Ryall Surryall Troche	Aunculer Reall Surreiall Furche	Antlier Surantlier All the re which gro afterward until you come the crown palme, croche, a called ro als and su royals
Head with two on both tops	dres (ten of the less)	X of the lasse	X demandres	
With 2 and 3 on top With 3 and 3	dres (ten of the greater) XII des mein-	XII. of the		
,, 3 ,, 4	dres (twelve of the less) XII des grein- dres (twelve	XII. of the	X degrayn- ders	
., 4 ,, 4	of the greater) There cannot be a head of XIV among a hundred you will not	Ye shall not fynde II ac- cording to		
4 5	find two XVI des mein- dres (sixteen of the less)	XVI of de- faunte	XII degrayn- ders	
,, 5 ,, 5	XVI des greindres (sixteen of the greater)		for it maye not be of XIIII for among a gyde of hartes yow shall fynde two accordant to iiiior	
,, 5 ,, 6	XVIII des meindres (eighteen of the less)	XVIII of de- faunte	XVI	
,, 6 ,, 6	XVIII des greindres (eighteen of the greater)	XXIII atte fulle 3	And then he ed, and shall yf any man ore Branches	
,, 6 ,, 7	XX des mein- dres (twenty of the less)	yl he is he cause th no	And hed, ar d yf an nore B	
	XX des grein- dres (twenty of the greater)	ig t lan for rexi	XXXII. gne of syre, an rt of n land.	
., 7 ,, 8	Meindres (XXII of the	th wexy II yere, resygne at tyme	th to X d Resigned Arere n a hau in this	
,, 8 ,, 8	XXII des greindres (XXII of the	n he go o XXXI an hert after th	cerfy an n to go ath see was not	
,, 13 ,, 13	greater) XXXII des greindres (XXXII of the greater)	And when come to callyd an his hed a furthere.	And so goeth is cliped ce then begin saye he hat thinck he w	

Turbervile's notes on antlers are interesting, and though by no means original (see Bibliography: Turbervile), they are worth quoting. I have followed for this purpose the 1611 edit. p. 53.

contracts at a starte at a

"Harts beare their heads in divers sorts and maners, some well growne, some other ill growne and worse spred, some other againe counterfet, and all this according to the age, country, feed and rest that they have, and you must note, that they beare not their first head which wee call broches (in a fallow Deare pricks) untill they enter the second yere of their age. In the third yeare of their age, they ought to beare foure, six or eight small braunches, at their fourth yeare they beare eight or ten, at five, ten or twelve, at six, twelve, fourteene, or sixteene, and at their seaventh yeare, they beare their heads beamed, branched, and somed with as much as ever they will beare, and do never multiply therin, but only in greatnes, and according to the feed and rest that they shall have. After they have once accomplished their seventh yeare, they will beare markes on their heads, sometimes more and sometimes lesse, although men shall alwaies know the old harts by these tokens which follow.

"I. First, when the compasse of the bur is large and great, well pearled, and neare unto the moisture of the head.

"2. Secondly, when the beame is great, burnished, and well pearled, being streight and not made crooked by the Antliers.

"3. Thirdly, when the gutters therin are great and deepe.

"4. Also if the first antlier (which Phœbus calleth and termeth Antioller) is great, long, and neare to the Bur, the Surantlier neare unto the Antlier the which ought a little to enlarge itself somewhat more from the beame than the first, and yet it should not be to long, and they ought to be both well pearled, all these things betoken an old Hart.

"5. Also the rest of the branches or hornes which are higher, being well ordered and set, and well growne, according to the bignesse and proportion of the head, and the croches, palme, or crowne being great and large according to the bignesse of the beame, are tokens of an old hart, and if the croches which are somed aloft, do double together in the crowne or palme, it is a signe of a great old Hart.

"6. Also when harts have their heads large and open, it signifieth that they are old, rather than when they are crooked and close bowed. And because many men cannot understand the names and diversities of heads according to the termes of hunting."

This Lansdowne MS. is the work of a careless transcriber, who knew nothing about venery. At the very beginning "hart" is written instead of "hare," which makes nonsense of the whole passage. (See Bibliography: The Craft of Venery.)

The first time that the term "brow antler" is, to my knowledge, used occurs in the British Museum MS. Harl. 838, where in a hand of the latter half of the fifteenth century there are drawn some pen-and-ink sketches of red deer and fallow deer heads. The terms used are: "tynys" for tines; "beme" for beam; "ye mowse" for burrs; "surrial" for surroyal; "ryall" for royal; "brow auntler" for brow-antler.

This, of course, is a mistake on the part of the transcriber and should read "XVIII atte fulle," an "X"