

The Acadiana Way



The "artistic presentation" *Bataille de Guime* of the Historic Gallus Gallus Sparring Exhibition through the Cock or Le Coq, is certainly a strong symbol of expression of the Acadian people which further brings to light an important issue that the exhibitions have certainly not excluded communications of certain important concepts of the Christian religion. According to Fernand Cabrol and Henri Leclercq, Benedictine monks and co-founders of the *Dictionnaire d'archéologie chrétienne et de liturgie*, the cock, in announcing the dawn and as part of the biblical story of Peter's denial and repentance, was a symbol of Christ's Passion and Resurrection. The catholic-saints.info website further identifies the Easton Bible Dictionary as providing the following definition, meaning and emblem for the Cock Christian Symbol in the Bible. The cock symbolizes Peter's denial of Jesus. Jesus had prophesied that Peter would deny knowing Him three times before the cock crowed as detailed as follows:

John 13:37 Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake.

John 13:38 Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice.

Christian symbolism in art provides a clear graphic illustration which represents people or items of religious significance. A crowing cock not only represents Peter's denial of Jesus and generally symbolic of infidelity in the face of danger or persecution, but the cock being a symbol of watchfulness, vigilance, hope and faith. Catholic-saints.info further references the definition and meaning of the cock as a Christian Symbol detailing the information regarding the cock found in the Aberdeen Bestiary to be that "If two cocks are put together, they always fight. The two roosters symbolize the Christian who is called to fight the good fight of faith". Further reference to Christian symbolism from anthropologist and professor Dr. F. Frederick Hawley proved, "Indeed, the cockfight became an early church symbol of humankind fighting against its own lower nature, or of the struggle between good and evil." It is quite evident that the Louisiana Historic Gallus Gallus Sparring Exhibitions "artistic performance" has indeed contributed to the expression of the Christian faith through Christian symbolism.

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The "artistic presentation" *Bataille de Guime* through Le Coq symbolizes not only resilience, bravery and boldness but French culture through Acadian culture, as the cock remains one of the symbols of France as a nation and its history, land and culture, and is the most widely shared representation of the French people including that of use as an ornament on church bell towers. With the Latin word Gallus meaning both "rooster" and "inhabitant of Gaul" the Louisiana Historic Gallus Gallus Sparring Exhibition beginning with the very title itself communicates the historic cultural origins of the Acadian people and begins at that point to recognize and preserve their unique cultural heritage. The late anthropologist and professor, Clifford Geertz a "champion of symbolic anthropology", referenced culture as "a system of inherited conceptions expressed in symbolic forms by means of which people communicate, perpetuate, and develop their knowledge about and attitudes toward life" as well as stating "the cockfight is a means of expression". The allegory of Le Coq as an expression of the unique and culturally significant way of life through the "artistic presentation" is a further expression of the unique heritage that is preserved from French cultural history and further expressing that even in France today, Law preserves and protects traditional uses of Le Coq. (*Elles ne sont pas non plus applicables aux combats de coqs dans les localités où une tradition ininterrompue peut être établie*),.



Artistic Demonstration Of The Cajun Traditional Folklife "Bataille de Guime"
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