

**A Royal Chase in the Company of Three?
The Hunting Scene in Vergil's *Aeneid* IV, its Courtly Imitators
and in Berlioz's *Chasse Royale***

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ABSTRACT

Carthaginian Dido's decision to set off on an early-morning hunt is motivated by her aim to smother the now-festering flames of love for Aeneas, caused by the gods (Cupid, Venus and Juno too). At *Aen.*, IV. 129-172 the morning hunt commences and by noon, Dido and Aeneas have consumed their joy in passionate ecstasy. The specific passage is adapted in interesting ways by both the anonymous poet in his *Roman d'Enéas* (ca. 1160), and by Heinrich von Veldeke in his *Eneasroman* (ca. 1170-1190). We will review the Latin original, then compare it with the Old French and medieval German versions, adding brief relevant comments on Berlioz's 19th-century *Les Troyens*.