

This was a sculpture by Rodin was commissioned for the city of Calais to commemorate the heroism of Eustache de Saint-Pierre during the Hundred Years War

Though these men initially seem weak and frail, they are clothed in heavy drapery, anchoring them to the ground, symbolic of their desire to leave but their need to stay put and save the city

Rodin sculpted these men on varying heights and platforms, but each figure stands almost the same height tall, to show a group of equal status. He also brought them down to street level so the viewer could feel more personally connected to the expressions of the figures

The patrons asked for a heroic glorification of these men, hence the raised pedestal that puts the viewers beneath the reader. Because Rodin wanted the viewer to look at their faces he creates a second version in front of the Hotel Biron

These six malnourished men clothed in simple lays of tattered sackcloth; each man is a Burgher, or councilmen, of Calais (FR), and if they were to save their city then six noblemen must give up their lives. Eustache de Saint-Pierre is featured with a beard bowing his head. The figure to his left, Jean d'Aire is holding the keys to the city. Little do they know eventually they would be spared.

