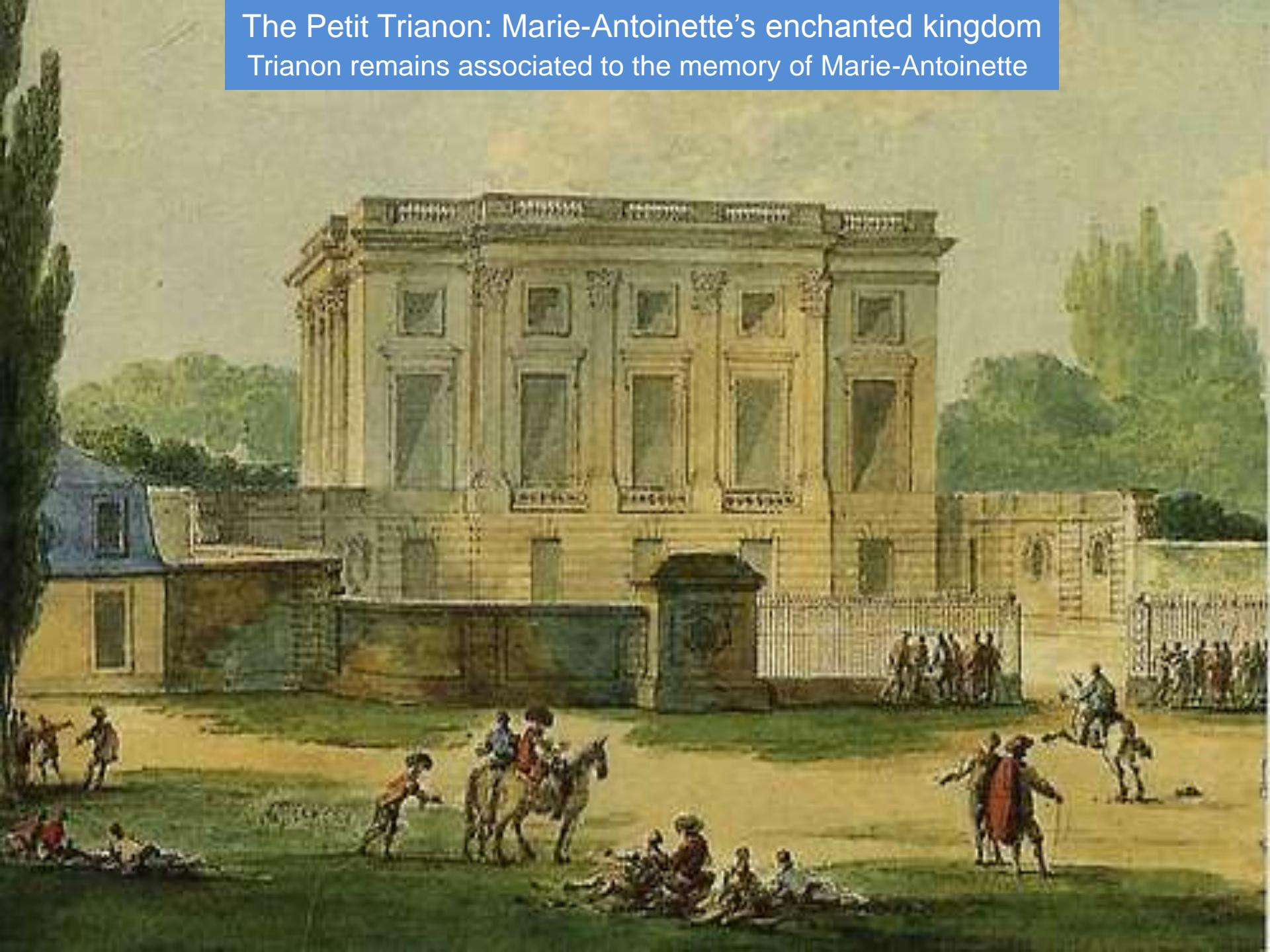


# The Petit Trianon: Marie-Antoinette's enchanted kingdom

Trianon remains associated to the memory of Marie-Antoinette



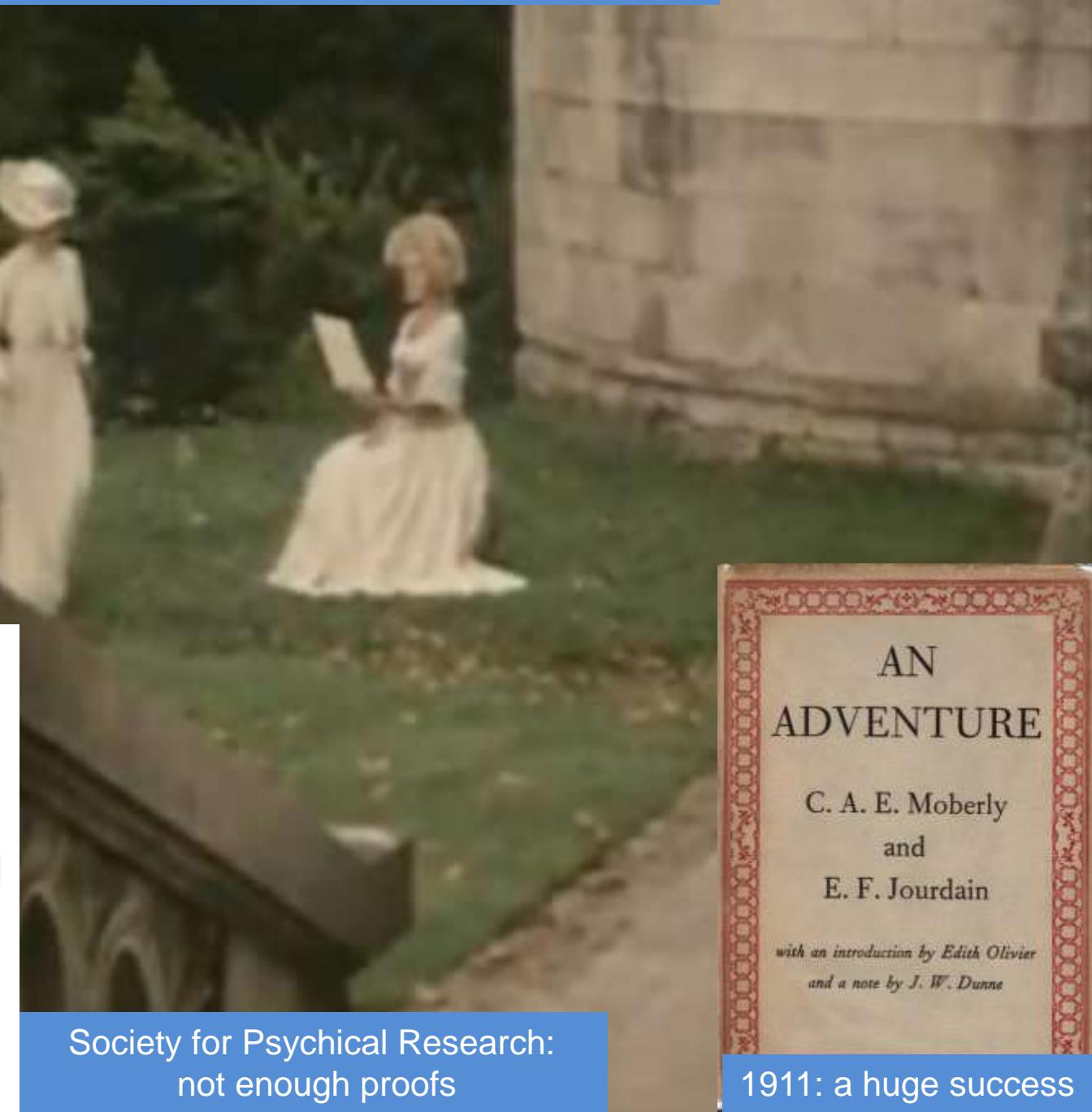
Miss Moberley & Miss Jourdain: a strange adventure in the gardens  
of Trianon (10 August 1901)

2 respected English teachers

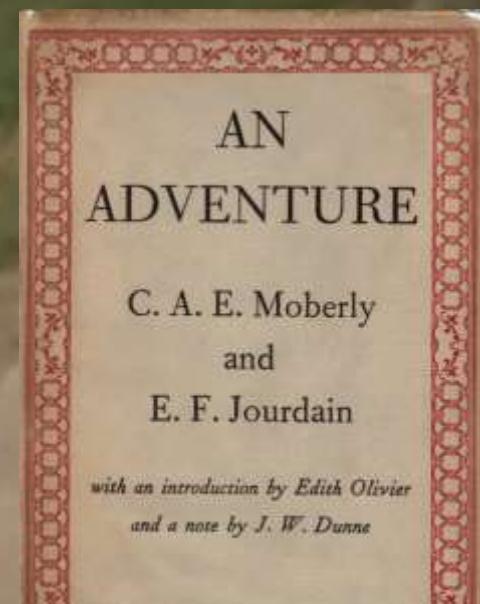




Did they see the ghost of Marie-Antoinette?

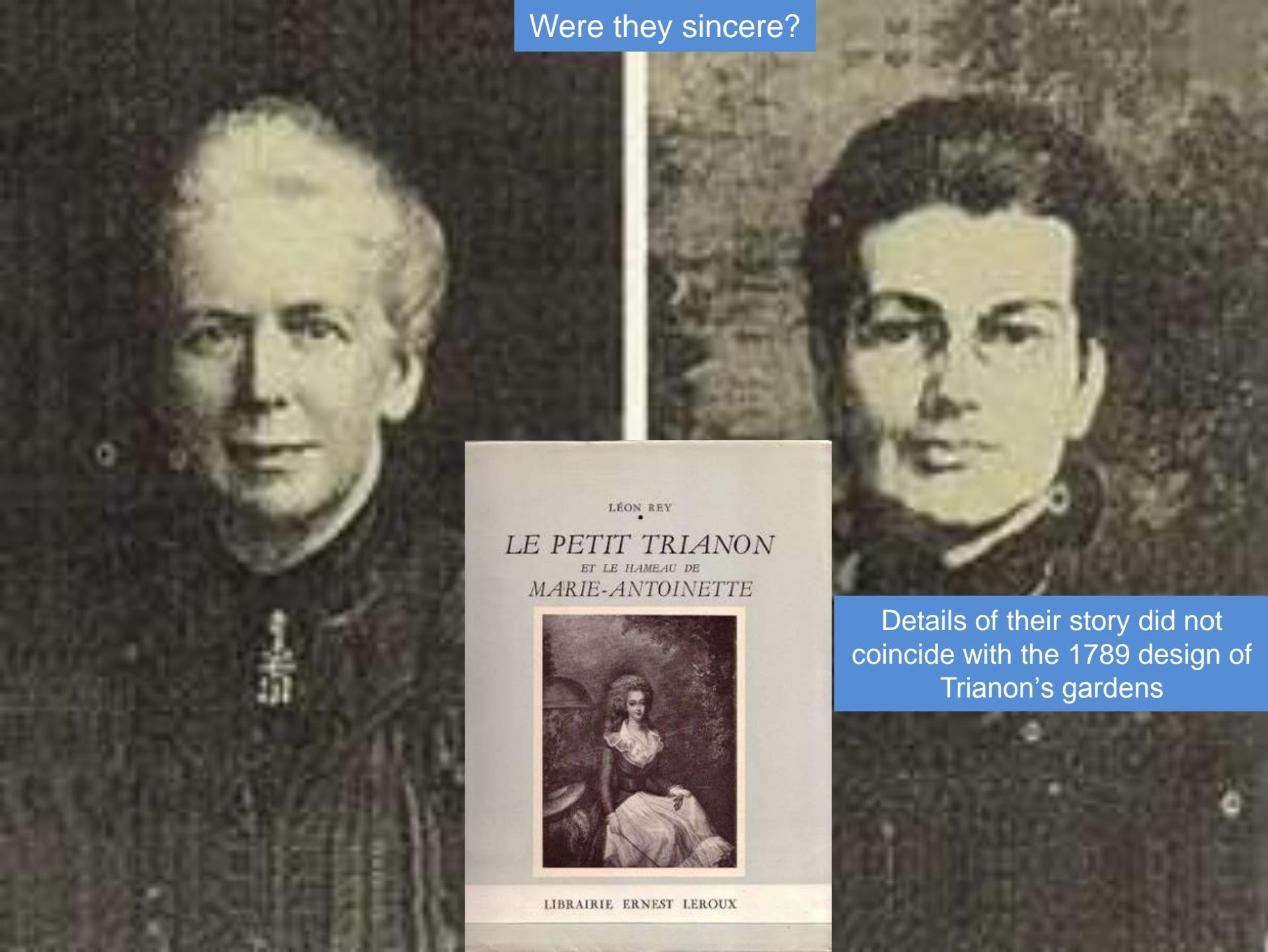


Society for Psychical Research:  
not enough proofs



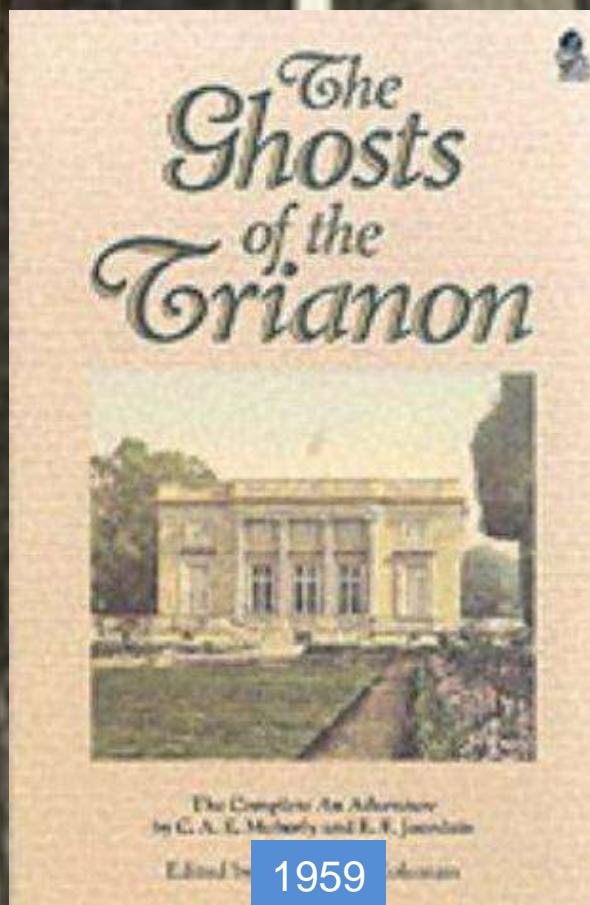
1911: a huge success

Were they sincere?

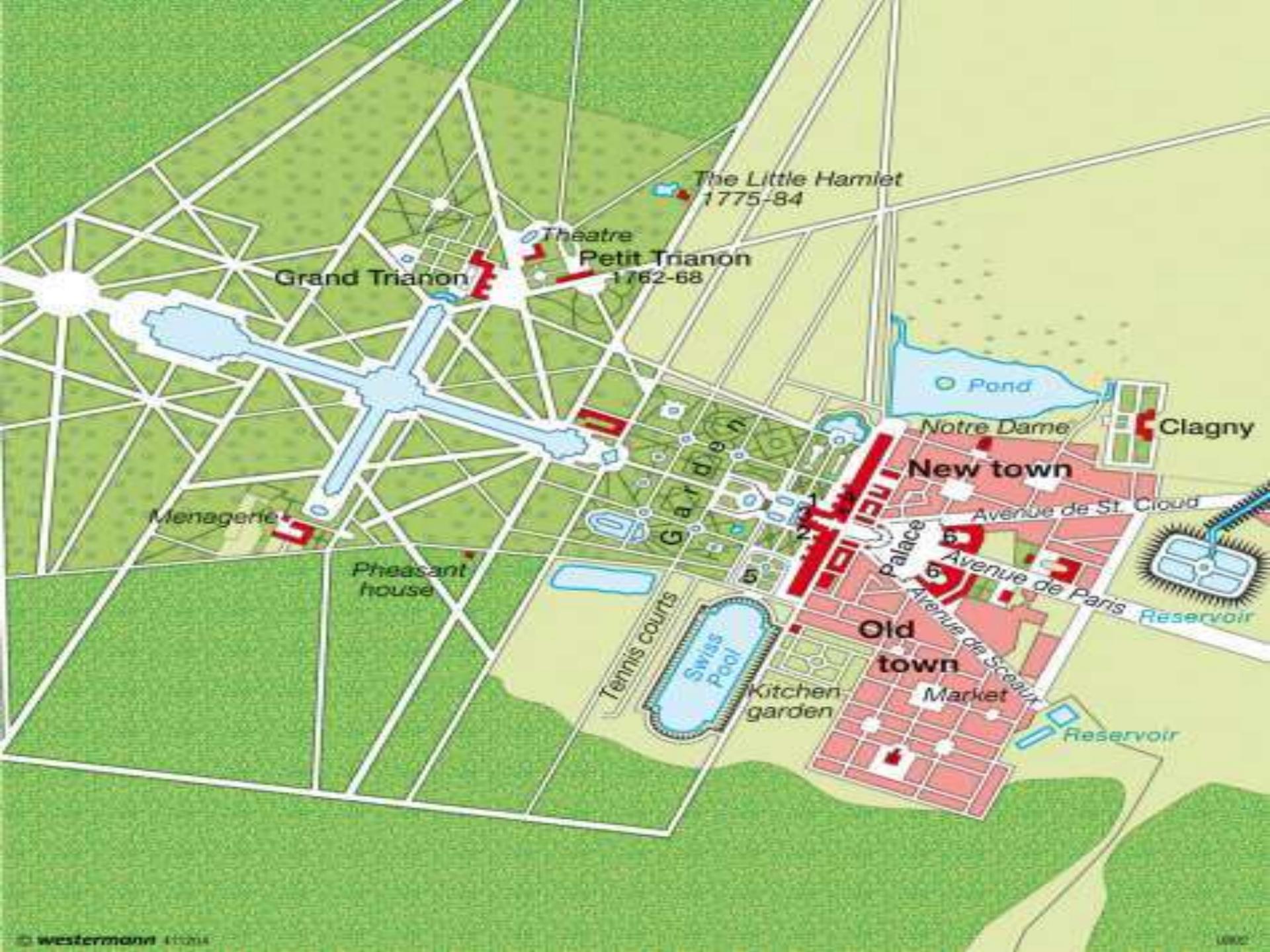


Details of their story did not coincide with the 1789 design of Trianon's gardens

A new study: 1774 plans of Trianon (**discovered** in the 1950s)  
Vision of Trianon at the end of Louis XV's reign? Striking coincidences



1959



The Petit Trianon before Marie-Antoinette



1668: Louis XIV ordered the creation of a small pavilion on newly acquired land  
The existing village of Trianon was destroyed

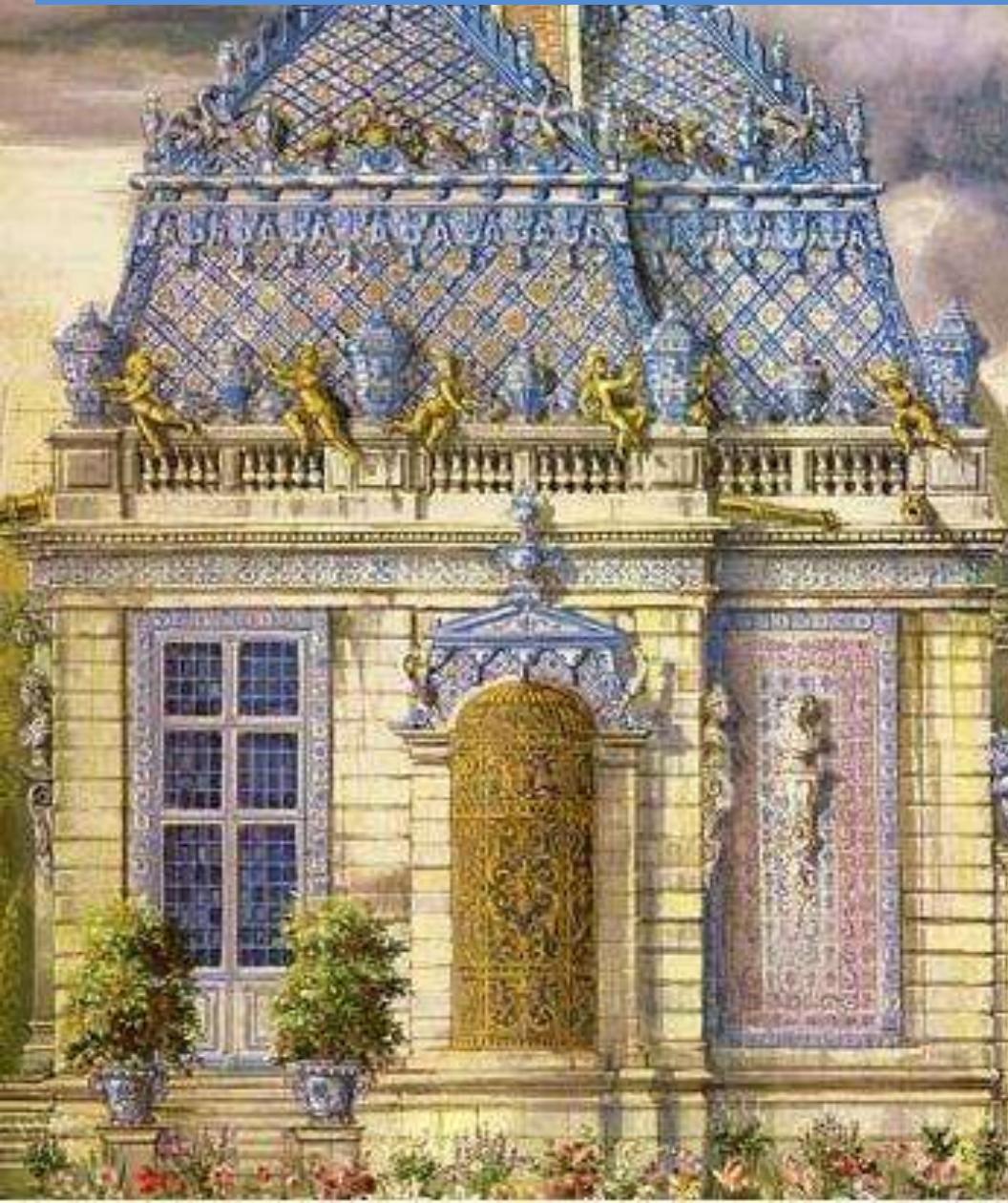


Mme de Montespan



Vue en Perspective de Trianon du costé du Jardin

The **Trianon of porcelain**: the building was covered with ceramic tiles from the Dutch city of delft  
A place for relaxation and amusements



1687/1688: the Trianon of porcelain replaced by the **Grand Trianon** (red marble used)



# King Louis XV fond of the Grand Trianon and its surrounding gardens



1750: the French Pavilion  
The largest botanical garden in Europe - Greenhouses





The Petit Trianon ordered in 1762 and completed in 1768  
Built for the king's mistresses but offered to Marie-Antoinette  
Neo-classical style: harmony & elegance



Louis XV: a passion for architecture



Ange-Jacques Gabriel

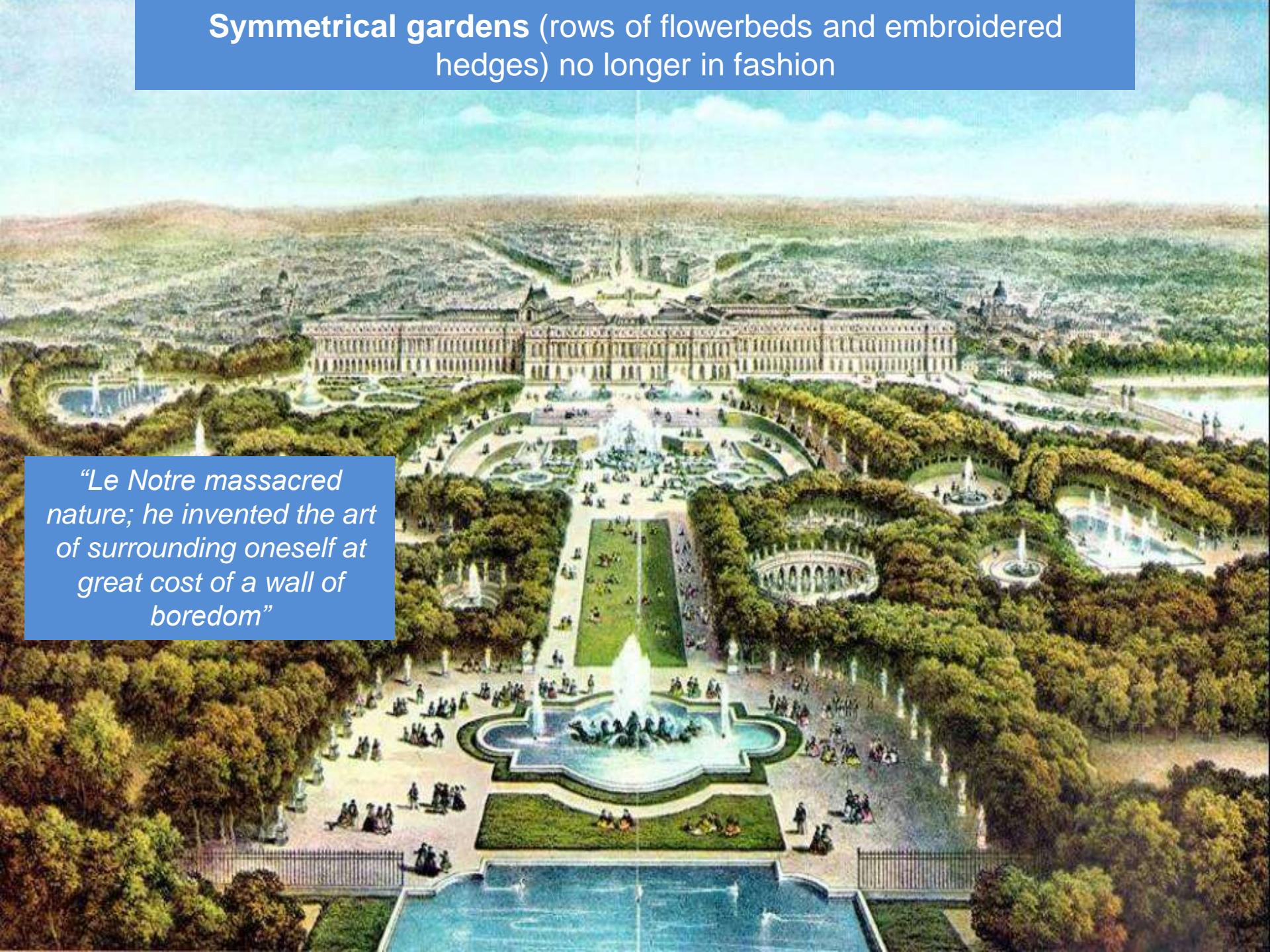


Mme du Barry

## A fashionable garden for the Queen



**Symmetrical gardens** (rows of flowerbeds and embroidered hedges) no longer in fashion



*"Le Notre massacred nature; he invented the art of surrounding oneself at great cost of a wall of boredom"*

*“Nature plants nothing in line!”* (Jean-Jacques Rousseau)



The gardens of the duc de Chartres (Louis XVI's first cousin) at Monceau







# The gardens of Chantilly



## June 1774: Louis XVI offers the Petit Trianon to the Queen



*« The King's generosity for Trianon, which is said to be the most adorable of houses, pleases me greatly! »*

*« Do not embark the King on the path of extraordinary spending »*

July 1774: Building a wall around the estate in the name of **privacy**

Trianon: the dream of a young (19) queen willing to escape court Etiquette and enjoy the charms of a “simple” country life



## The Queen's enchanted kingdom The King as a guest – NO etiquette



*"The monarchy has spent here  
enormous amounts of money to  
hide from itself"*  
(Gouverneur Morris)

The Queen's desire for privacy **suspect** in the imagination of all those excluded



*"I know well enough how tedious and futile is a representative position; but, believe me, you will have to put up with both tediousness and futility, for otherwise you will suffer from much more serious inconveniences"*

(Maria-Theresa)

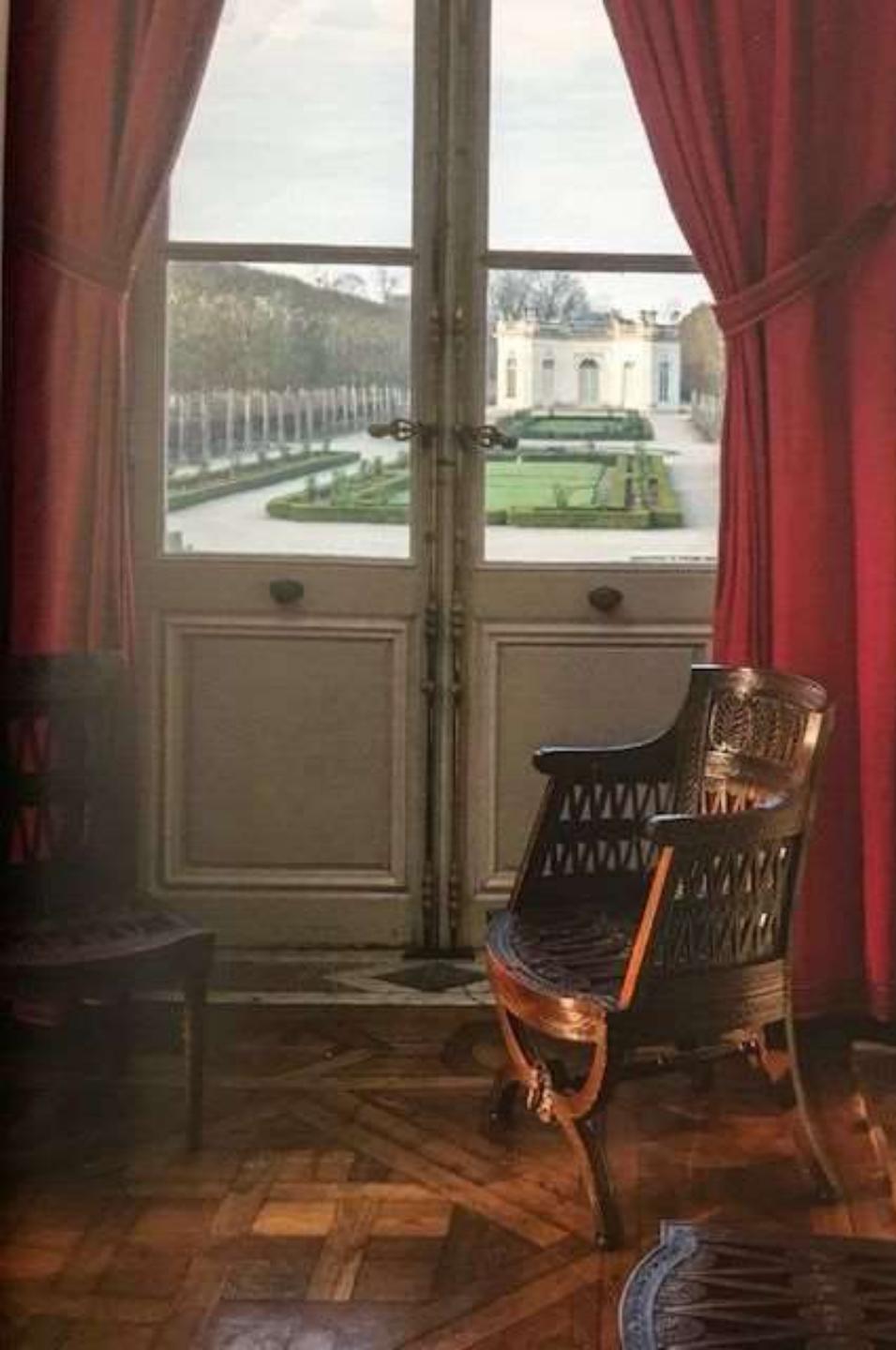


A set or exquisite rooms “*intended to give the impression of privacy and comfort*”  
(Stefan Zweig)



“Voyages” (spending the night) vs. “promenades”  
116 nights only (1779-1789)  
Average of 15 days per year



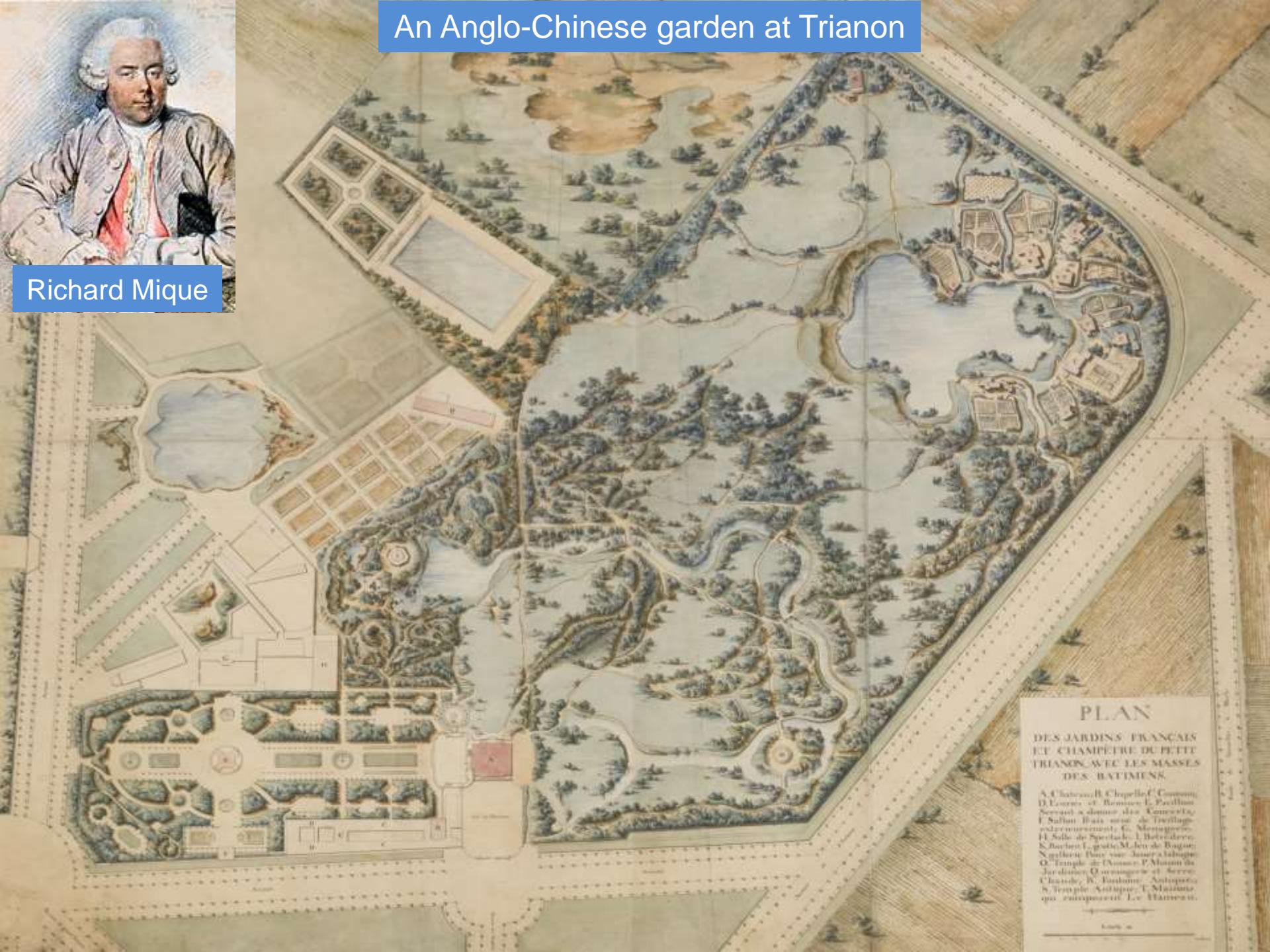




# An Anglo-Chinese garden at Trianon



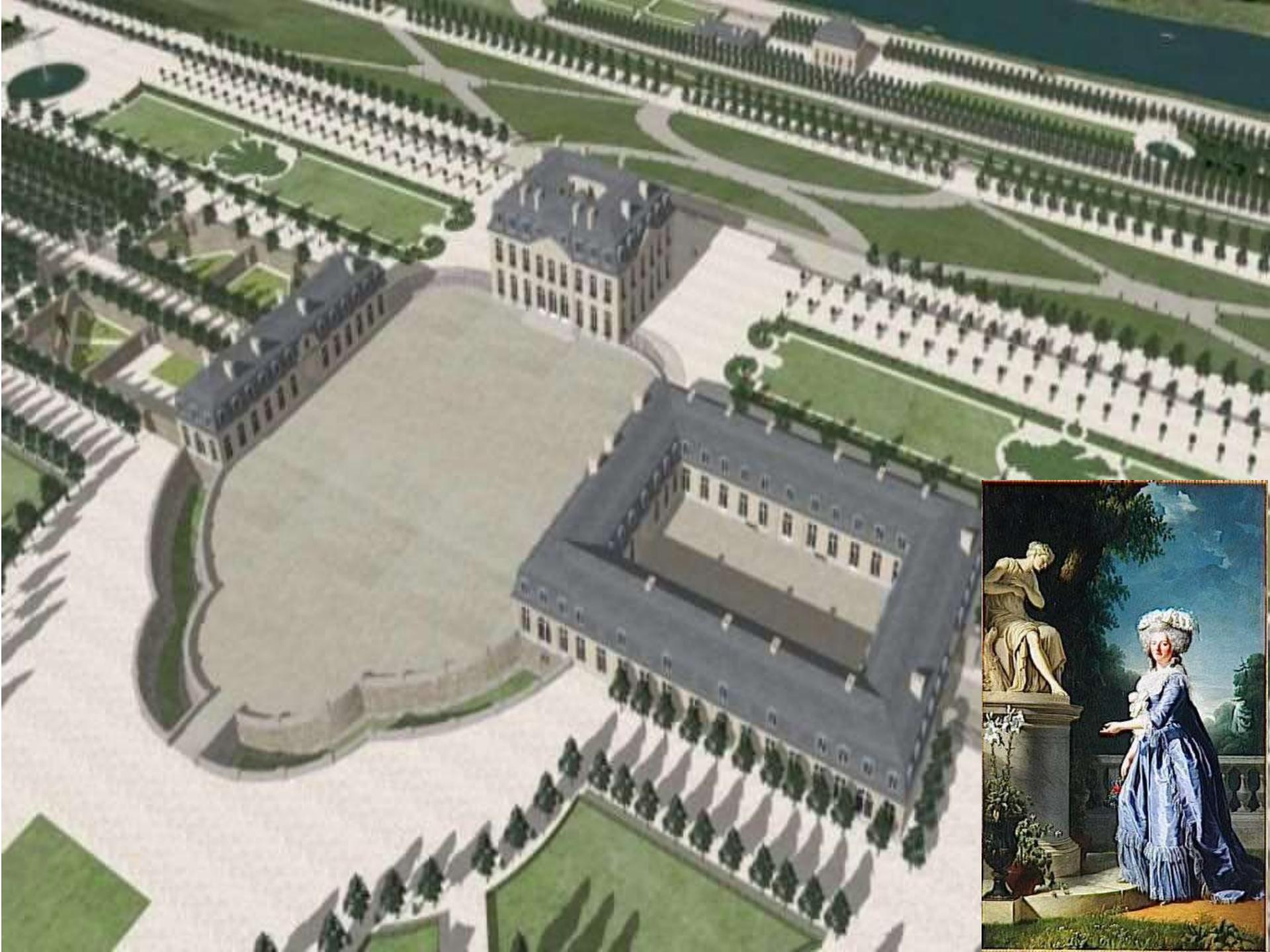
Richard Mique



## PLAN

DES JARDINS FRANÇAIS  
ET CHAMPIERRE DU PETIT  
TRIANSON, AVEC LES MASSES  
DES BATIMENS.

A. Chambre, B. Chapelle, C. Communs,  
D. Loggia et Bornees, E. Pavillons,  
Serrant à droite des Communs,  
F. Salle de l'Assemblée, G. Menagerie,  
H. Salle de Spectacle, I. Belvedere,  
K. Bûcher, L. grès, M. Jardin de Bougues,  
N. Glacière pour vins, Jardins à la anglaise,  
O. Temple de l'Amour, P. Musée du  
Jardinier, Q. Orangerie, et Serre,  
Château, R. Bûcher, S. Antiquité, T. Muséum  
qui entourent le Hammeau.





**Hubert Robert** (Designer of the King's gardens)



**Comte d'Angevillier**  
(Director of the King's buildings)



**Richard Mique** (General Director of the Queen's buildings)

Mique's title & functions never existed before  
In the French monarchy's tradition, a Queen had never owned a property before!

Hubert Robert well known for his landscapes



An entirely new “natural” garden to be created: considerable work required



Comte de Caraman:  
the designer



The Queen involved in the decision-making process  
All projects had to be approved by her



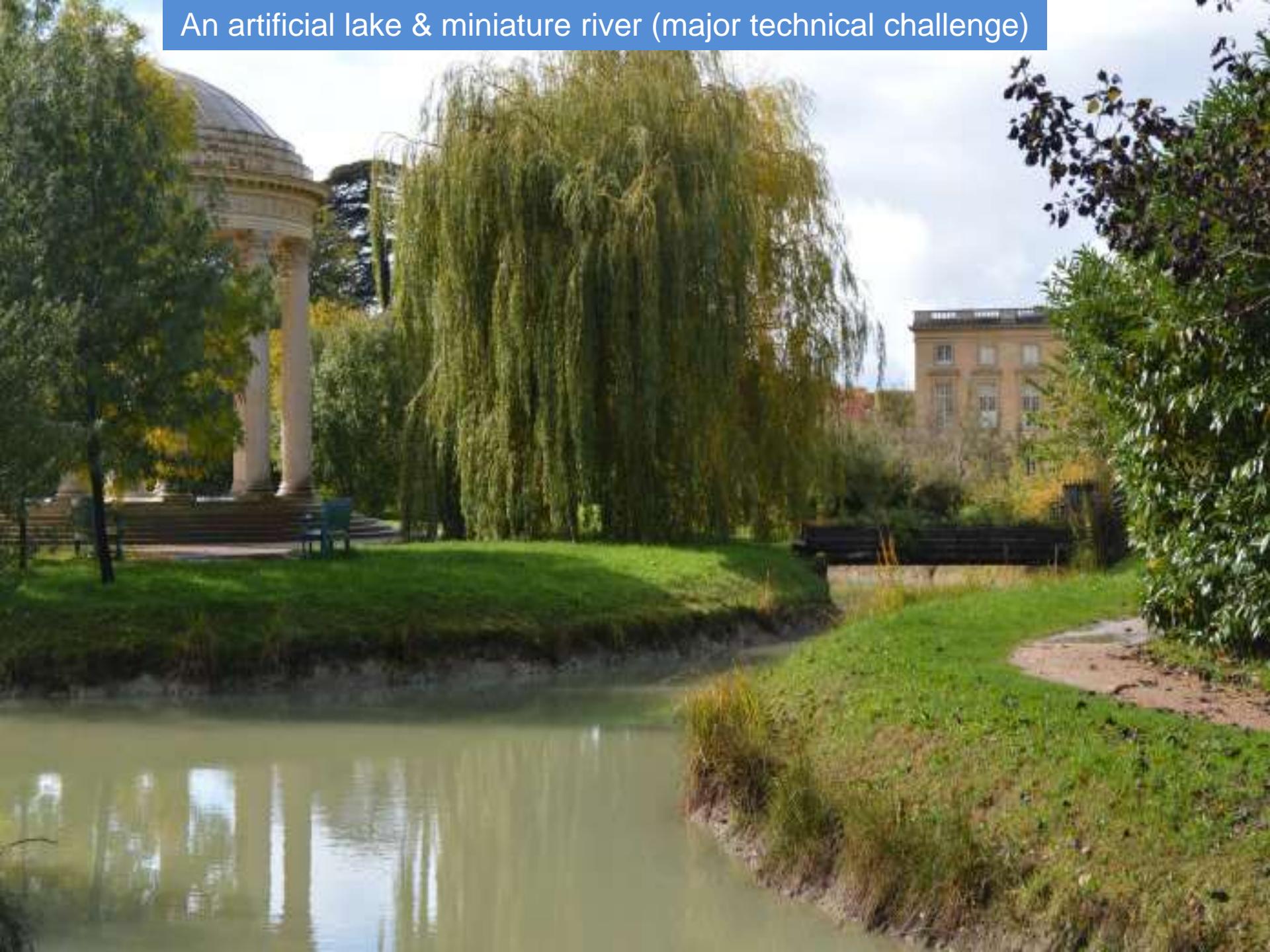
Jacques Turgot  
(Comptroller of  
finances)



Countless trees & a great variety of plants brought from royal nurseries



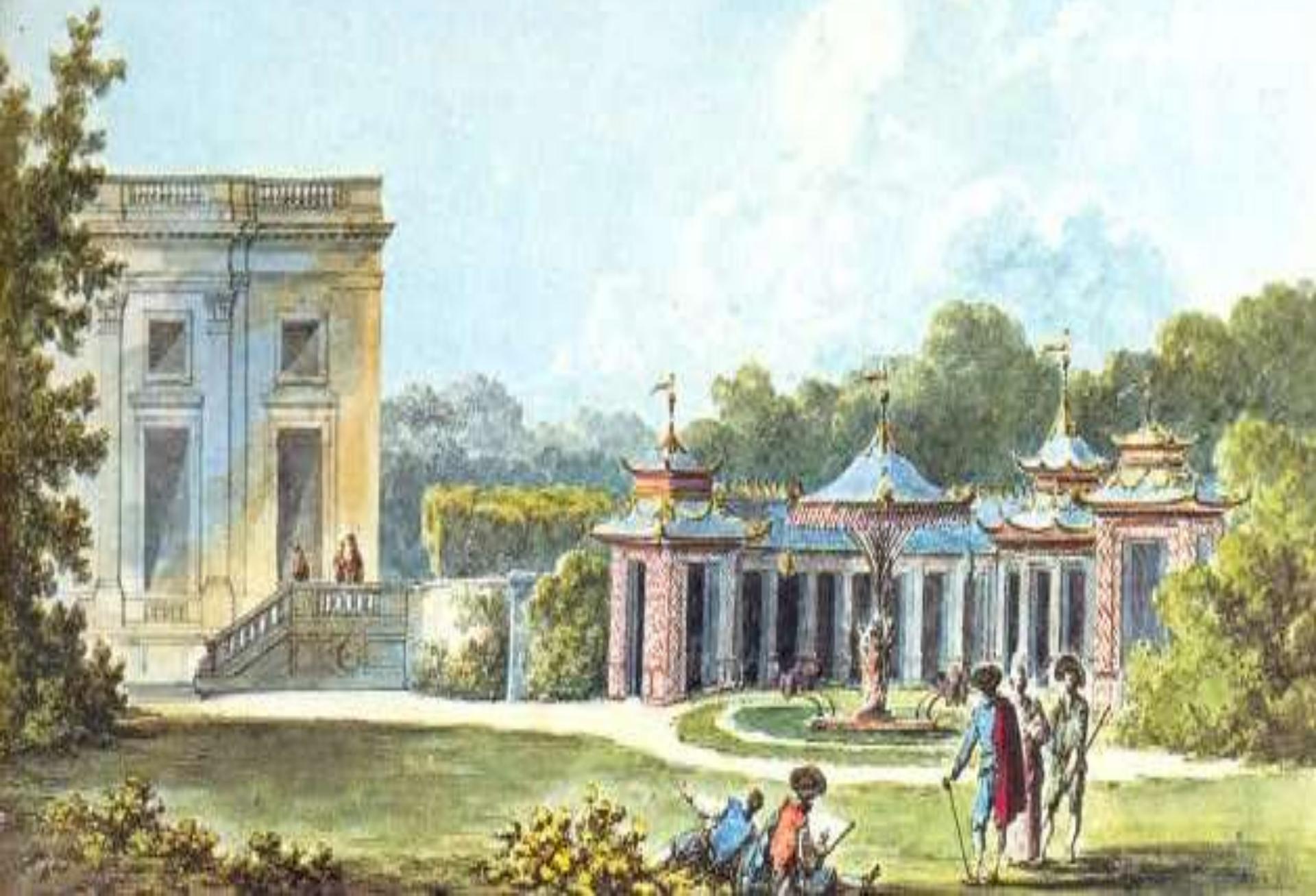
An artificial lake & miniature river (major technical challenge)



Sinuous paths & artificial rock covered with moss



A “Chinese” merry-go-round (1777)  
The Queen criticized for indulging in “childish games”

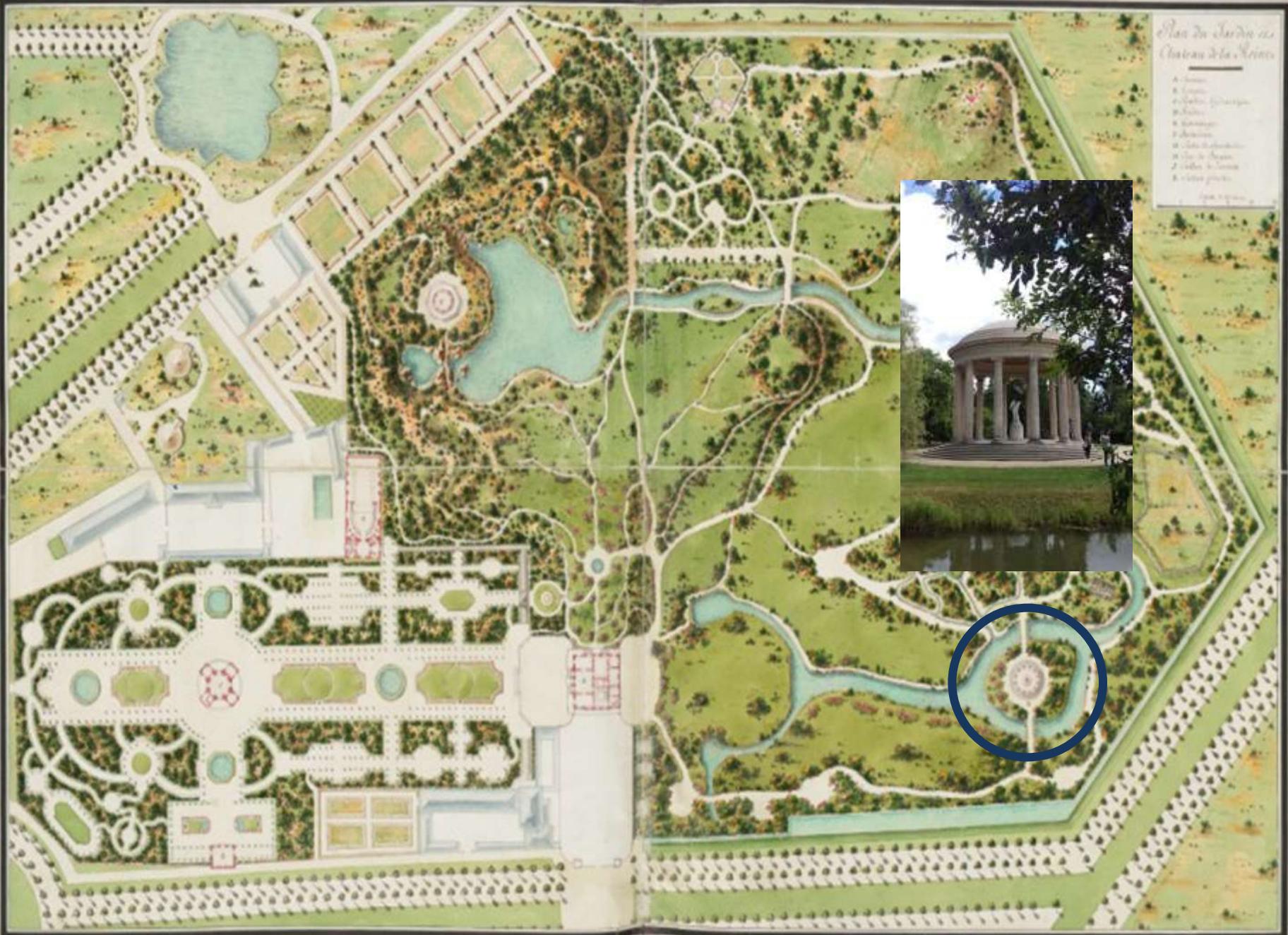


The **Temple of Love** (1778): domed circle of 12 white marble Corinthian columns built on a minuscule island



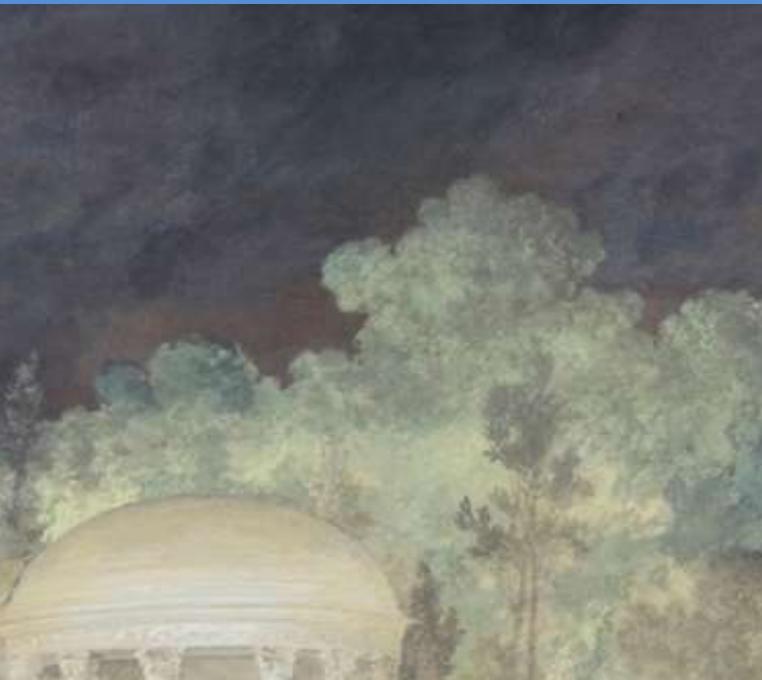
*Plan des Jardins au  
Château de la Reine*

A. Château.  
B. Grotte.  
C. Pavillon à l'anglaise.  
D. Galerie.  
E. Béguinage.  
F. Béguinage.  
G. Château de la Reine.  
H. Château de la Reine.  
I. Château de la Reine.





## Evening party in honor of King Gustav III of Sweden (21 June 1784)



*"The Queen had opened the gardens to respectable people who had been warned that they must dress in white, which really provided an elysian sight"*



**The Belvedere:** octagonal neo-classical pavilion (1778-1781)  
The completion of the “Anglo-Chinese” garden



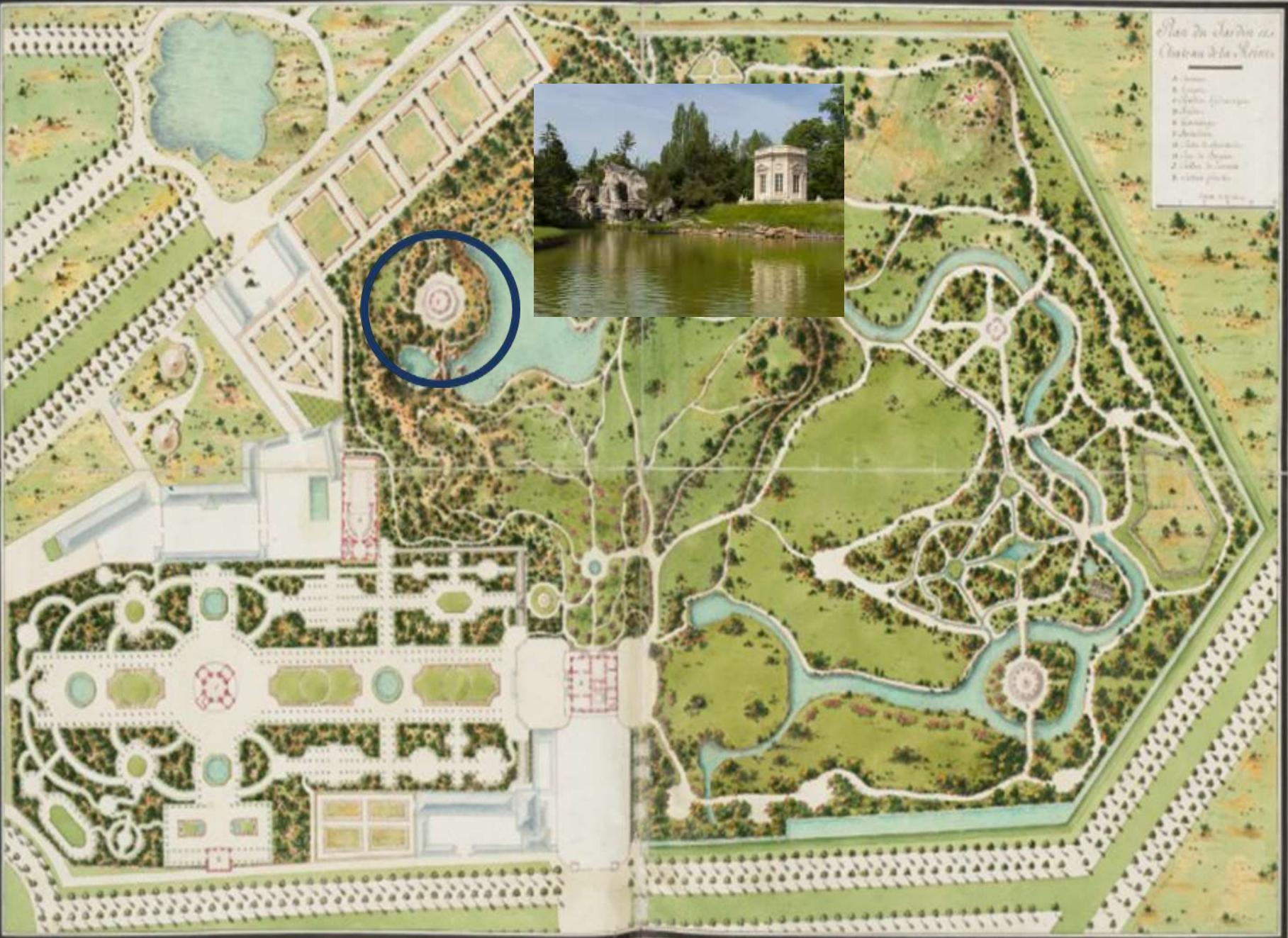




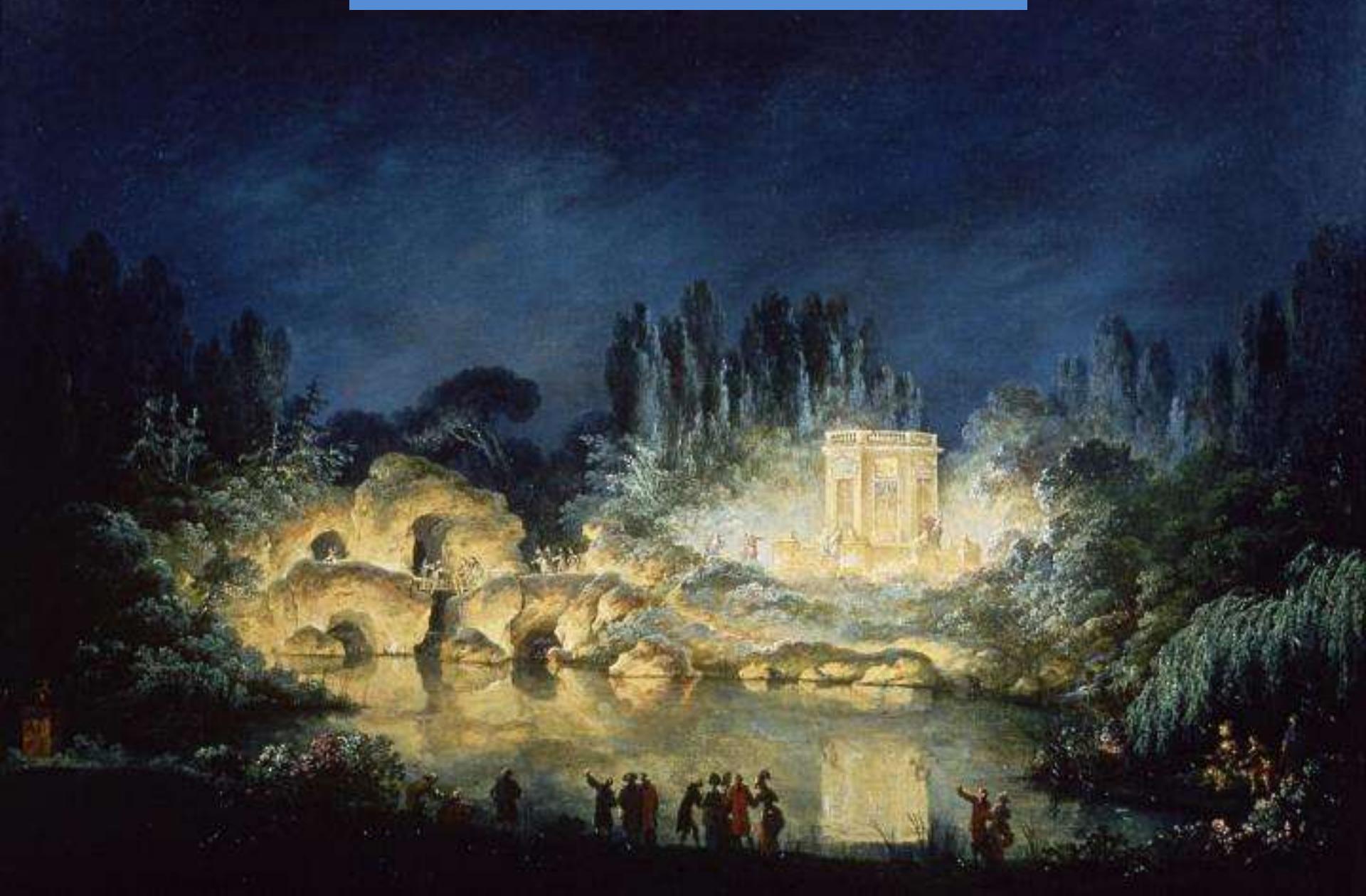
Plan du Jardin au  
Château de la Reine

A. Château  
B. Loggia  
C. Pavillon d'Amour  
D. Bassin  
E. Fontaine  
F. Allée  
G. Allée de chênes  
H. Allée de peupliers  
I. Allée de bouleaux  
J. Allée de saules  
K. Allée de houx

... et autres



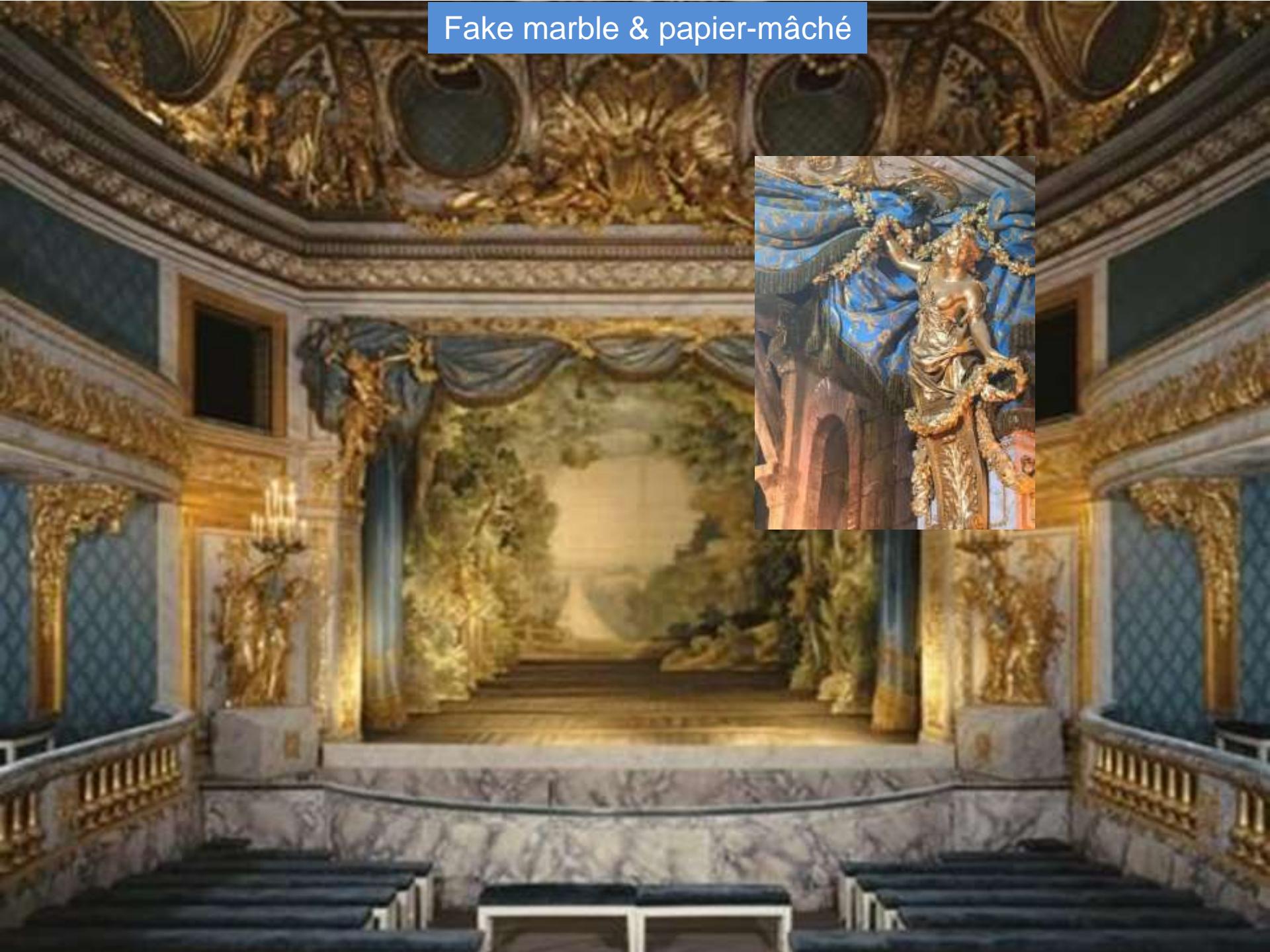
Evening party in honor of Joseph II  
( 1 August 1781)  
A pre-romantic atmosphere



# A hidden theatre



Fake marble & papier-mâché





The Queen's hamlet: a real village but an apparent simplicity  
Rousseau's "return to nature"  
A laboratory

1783: the construction of a « Normand style » village begins



Eleven rustic half-timber houses around an artificial lake (another technical challenge!)

1783-1787

2 separate sectors



Sector reserved for the Queen & her guests  
Each house = a room (a “split château”)

Like a theatre set

The heart of the hamlet: the **Queen's house** (the largest & most beautiful)  
Artificial cracks and crumbled stones to give the illusion of real peasants' dwellings

Two houses joined by a wooden, ivy-covered gallery





The restoration of the Queen's house: a project financed by the **House of Dior**

Cost: \$5 million Euros

A technical challenge: the hamlet was not supposed to last



The Queen's boudoir



The windmill







Sector dedicated to [real] farm work  
Managed by real families of peasants



## The farm

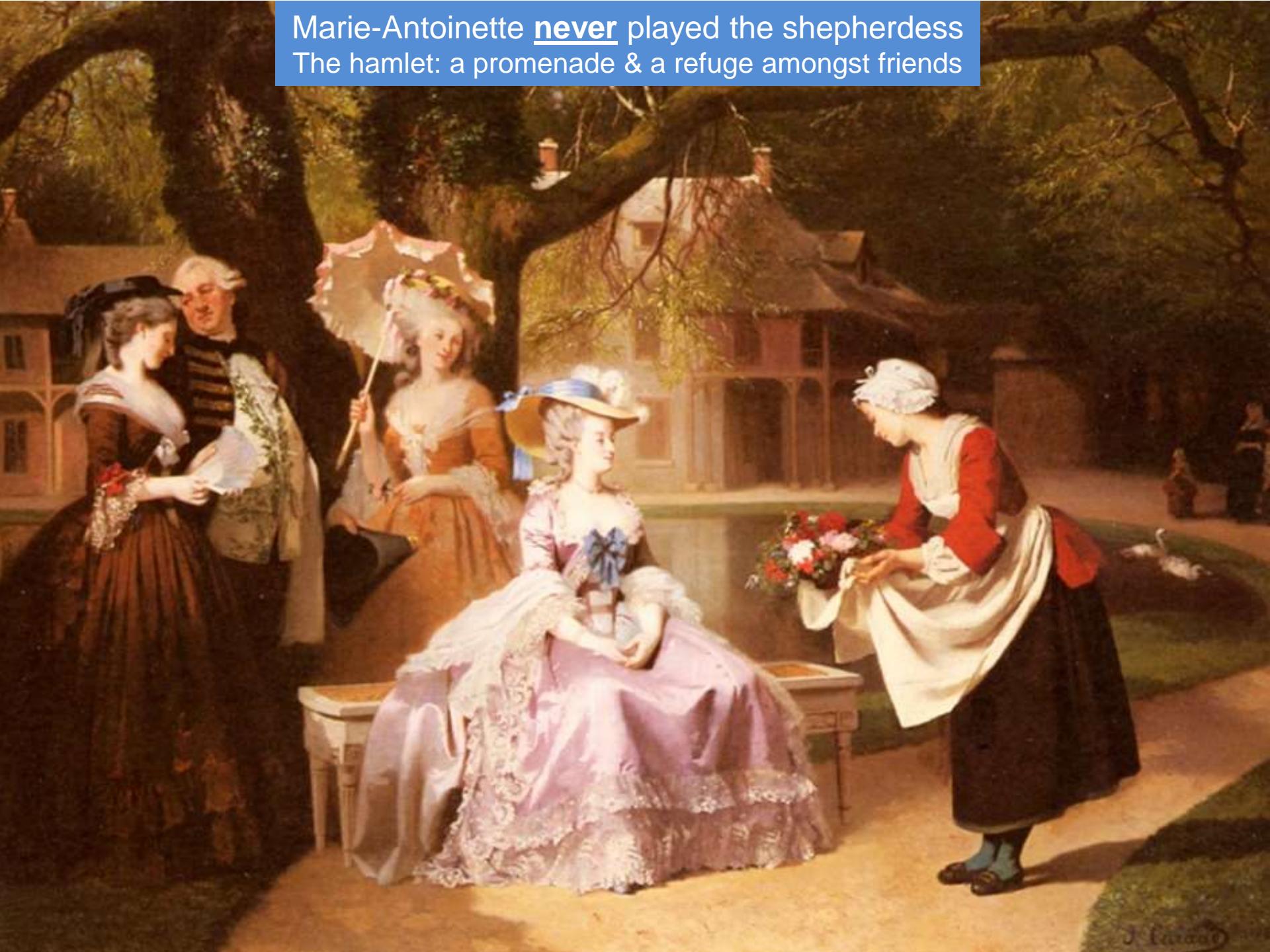


## The dairy farm

Tasting of farm products (milk considered an ideal nourishment – Moral & physical purity)



Marie-Antoinette **never** played the shepherdess  
The hamlet: a promenade & a refuge amongst friends



## Marie-Antoinette and her children



### ÉMILE, OU DE L'ÉDUCATION.

Par J. J. ROUSSEAU,  
Citoyen de Genève.

Sentibus agotamus milles : lorsque nos in rebus  
natura genitos, & emendari velimus, juvam.  
Sen : de ira. L. II. c. 13.

TOME PREMIER.



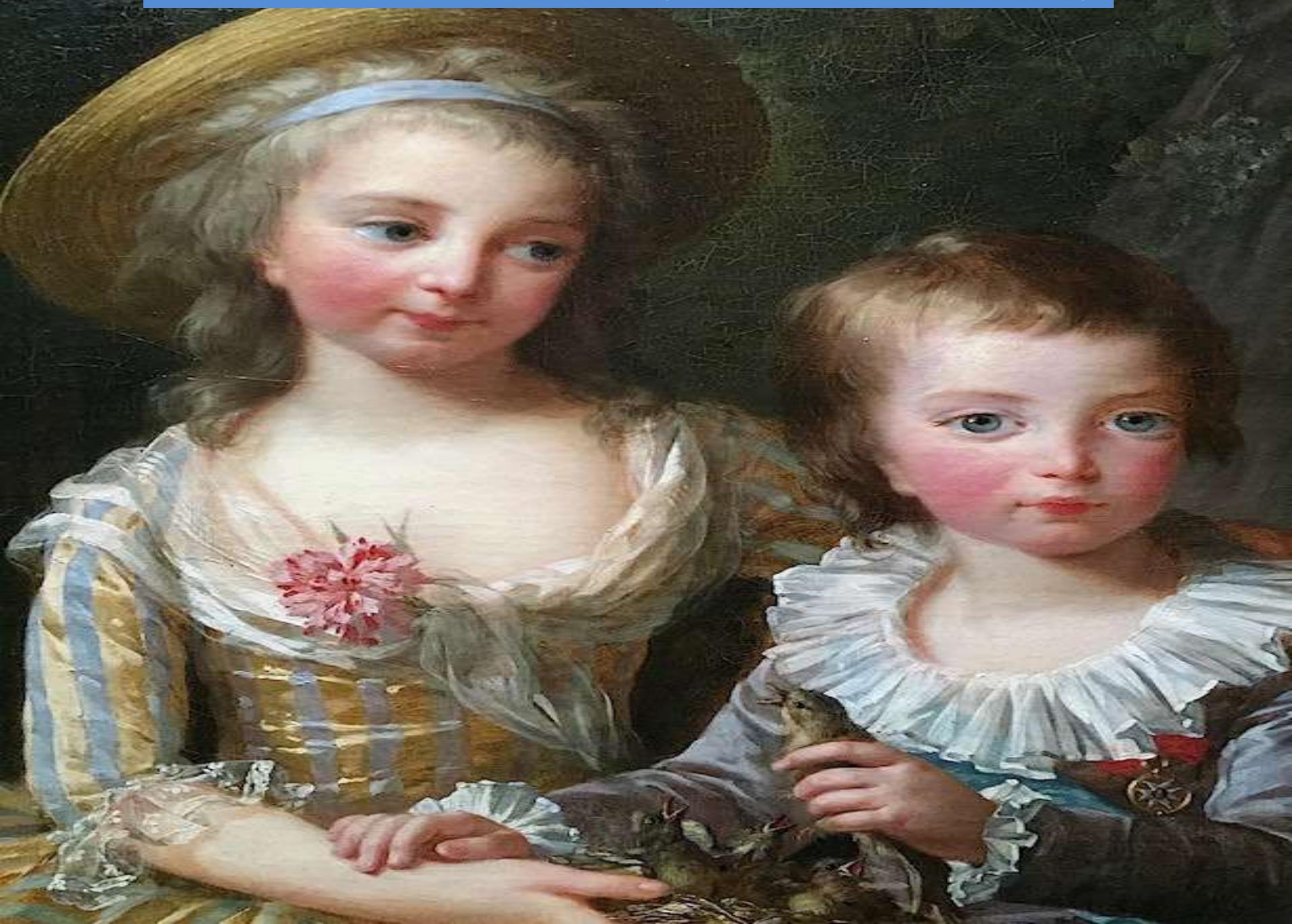
A LA HAYE,  
Chez JEAN NEAULME, Libraire:

M. DCC. LXII.

Avec Privilige de Nostreign, les Etats de Hollande  
& de Walfrise.

Education principles enunciated by Rousseau: to safeguard simplicity & spontaneity in children

An **educational role**: to help the royal children discover simplicity



A queen disconnected from the real world and from Versailles  
Very few is known as to what happened at Trianon & the hamlet

A significant **political cost**

Enhanced hatred towards Marie-Antoinette: a Queen's duty is to be seen, not to hide



5 October 1789: the Queen warned of the Parisian mob marching on Versailles while at Trianon



She left in a hurry... never to return!

## Trianon and the hamlet AFTER the Revolution

1810-1812: restoration of the hamlet for Marie-Louise  
Only one evening party in 1811





Louis

## The Rockefeller donation: restoration campaign (1930s – 1950s)

