

WEBSITE

www.oliviercourteaux.com

Click on Life Institute Members

Password to access the PowerPoint presentations: **lifeinstitute**

7 April 1679

Louis XIV appointed a **special court of justice** (Chambre Ardente – "burning
room") to judge a widespread
network of fortune-tellers, poisoners
& counterfeiters

Why such exceptional measure?

The sheer number of suspects





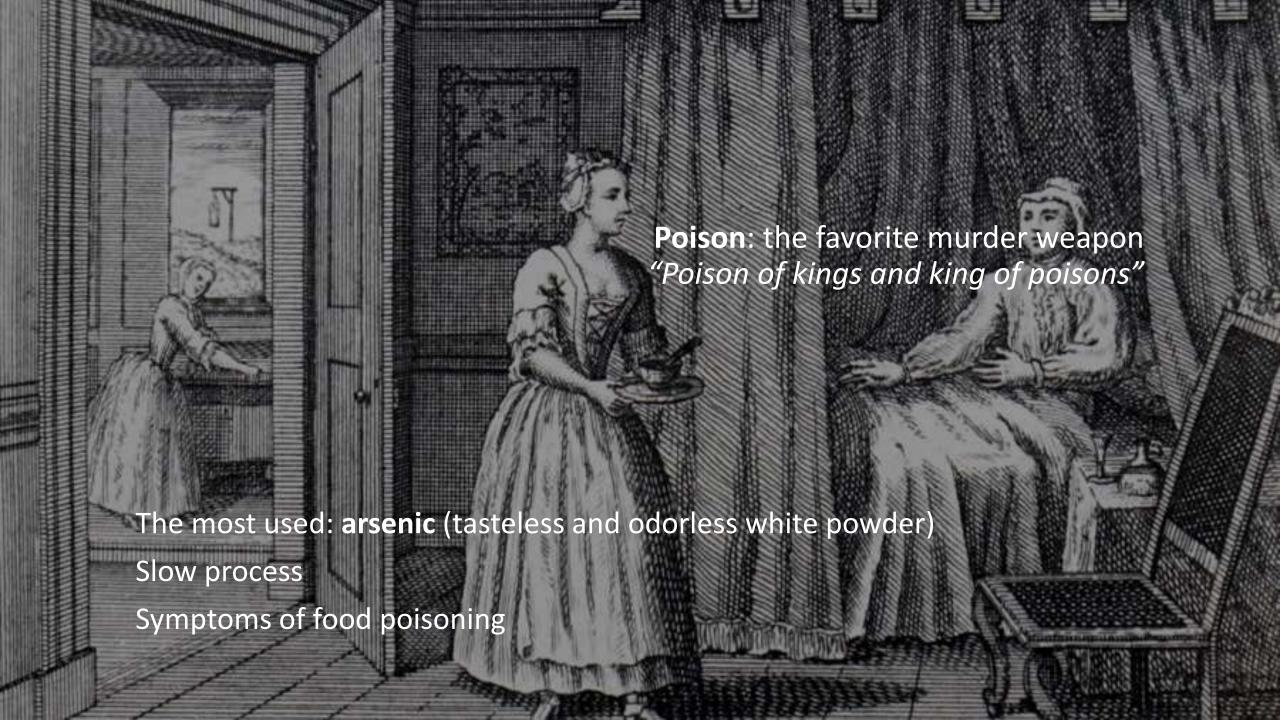














1677

A fortune-teller, **Madeleine de La Grange** accused of poisoning her "husband" (a wealthy lawyer)

Marriage certificate: a forgery

Her co-conspirator: a priest

Both convicted and hanged







The search for proofs

The opening of an investigation

The wife of a police officer sent to Marie Bosse with a made-up story

> She returned with a white powder: arsenic

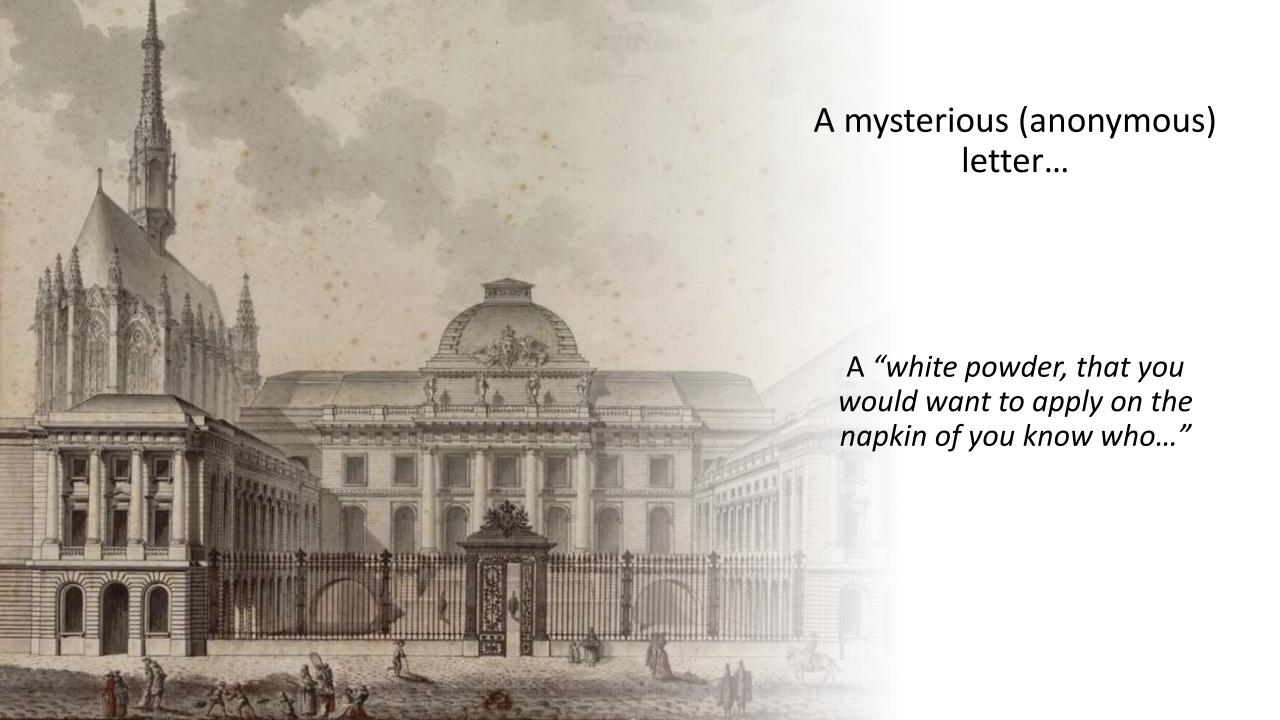


Le Grand Châtelet au XVIIe siècle











La Reynie's deputies: a small, efficient group

A convenient institution at their disposal: the *lettre de cachet*







Lettre de cachet

Letter signed by the King & countersigned by a minister

Orders to be enforced without trial and opportunity of defense





Louis XIV: "an exact justice, without distinction of person, rank or gender" to be rendered





Prominent courtiers arrested

"Mme de Bouillon, interrogated by La Reynie (Chief of Police) as to whether she had seen the devil... answered: 'Yes I saw him and he looked like you'"

(Primi Visconti, *Memoirs*)





Austrian Hapsburg lands Europe, 1650 British Stuart lands French Bourbon lands Prussian lands Ressian lands Spanish Hapsburg lands Boundary of Holy Roman Empire RUSSIA North Sea LITHUANIA UNITED NETHERLANDS PRUSSIA POLAND ATLANTIC ROMAN OCEAN FRANCE Black Sea

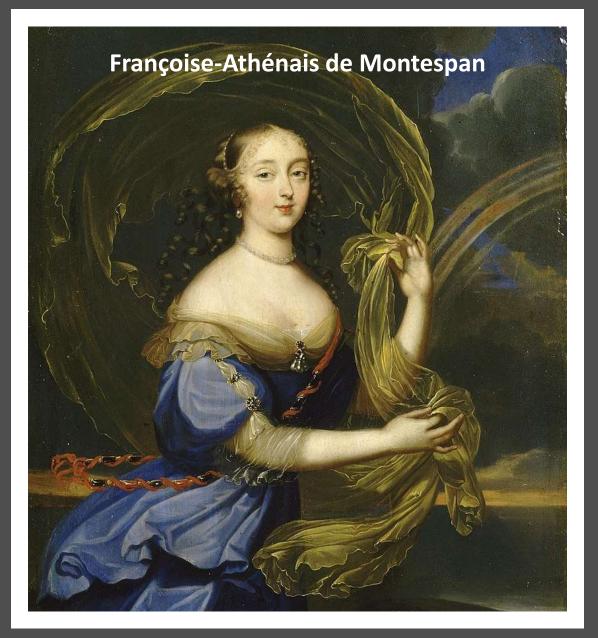
Peace with Spain: a priority

1658: a political union between the royal families of France and Spain to secure peace



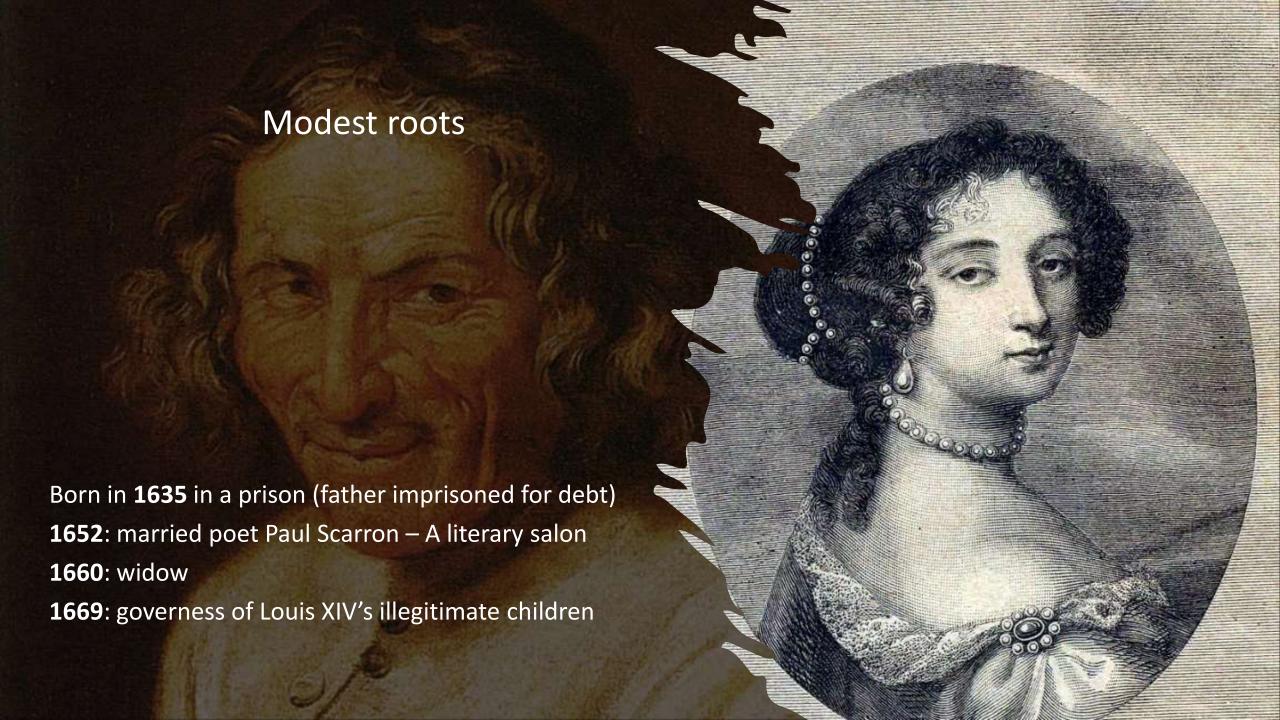
















The revelations of Marie-Marguerite Voisin (the daughter)

Mme de Montespan's lady-in-waiting: a frequent client

> Black masses performed for Montespan

Montespan accused of having her rival Fontanges poisoned

A poisoned letter addressed to the King?





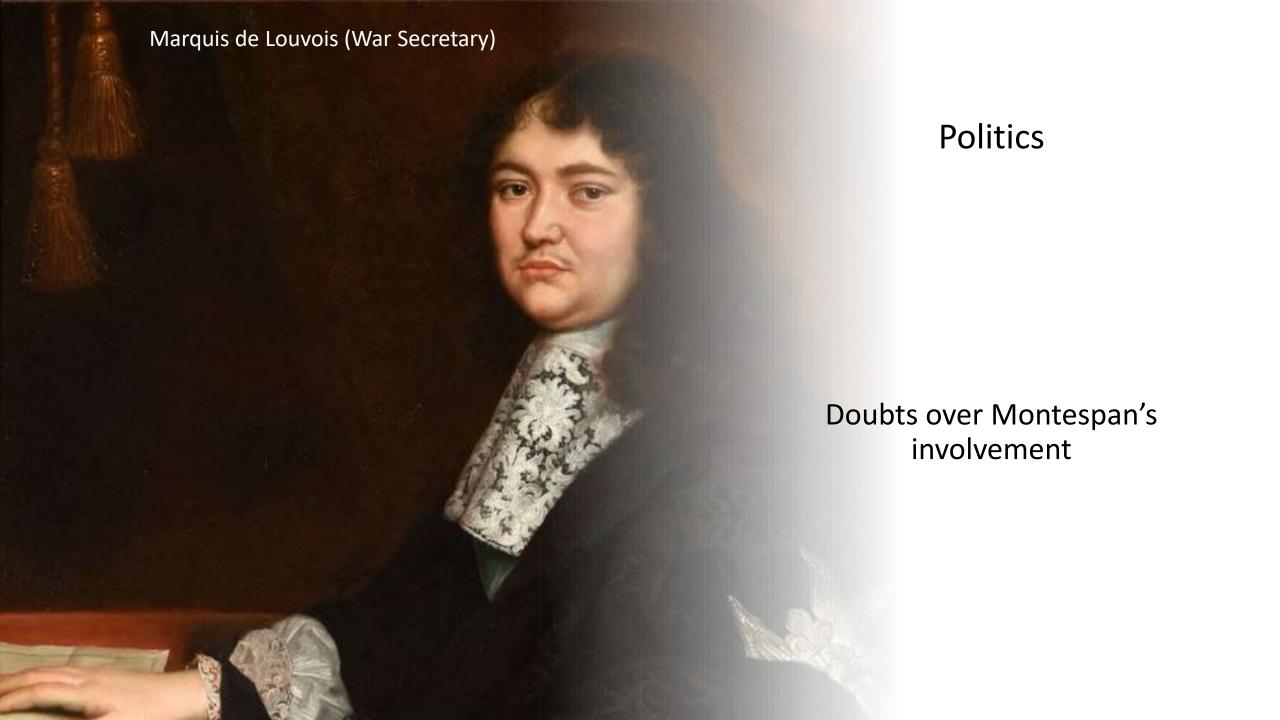


Montespan to be subpoenaed?

Louis XIV suspended the special court

Sensitive matters ("faits particuliers") to be kept from the court's records











19 May 1681

The special court reinstated BUT

Sensitive matters pertaining to Montespan to be excluded

16 July 1682: the special court dissolved

Key "witnesses" sentenced to life in

prison



July 1682: a royal edict (decree)

"For the punishment of poisoners, fortune-tellers and others."

Limited effects in the short-term Long-lasting consequences

11 articles: prevention & repression of crimes by poison (sentenced to death)





Selling poisons such as arsenic exclusively reserved to individuals "who need to use them because of their profession"

Selling poisonous insects prohibited





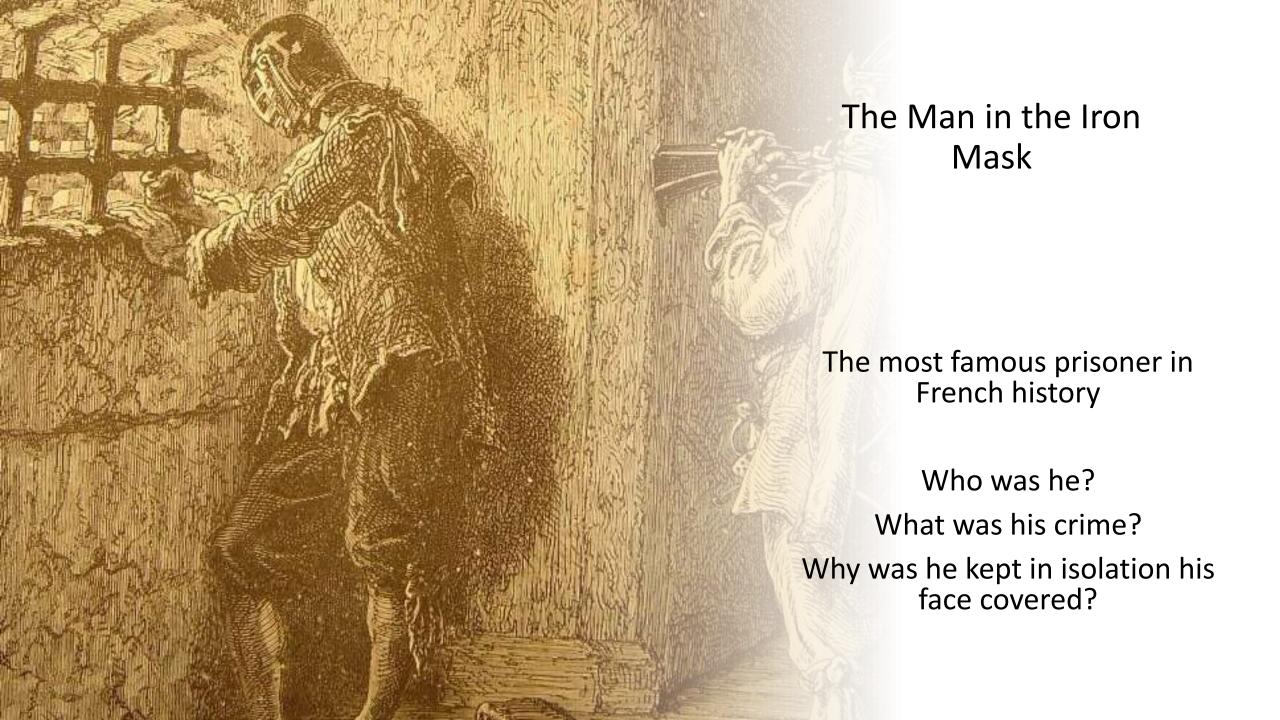








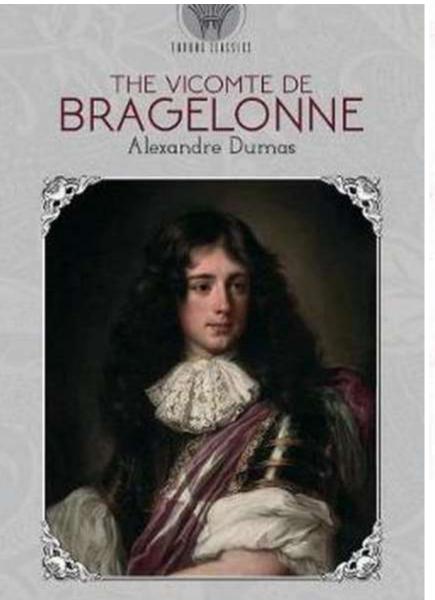




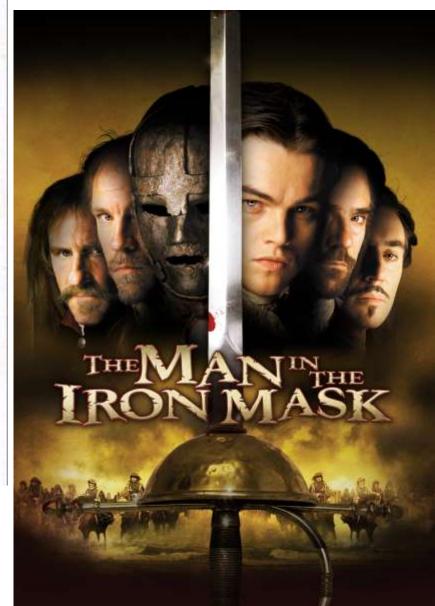


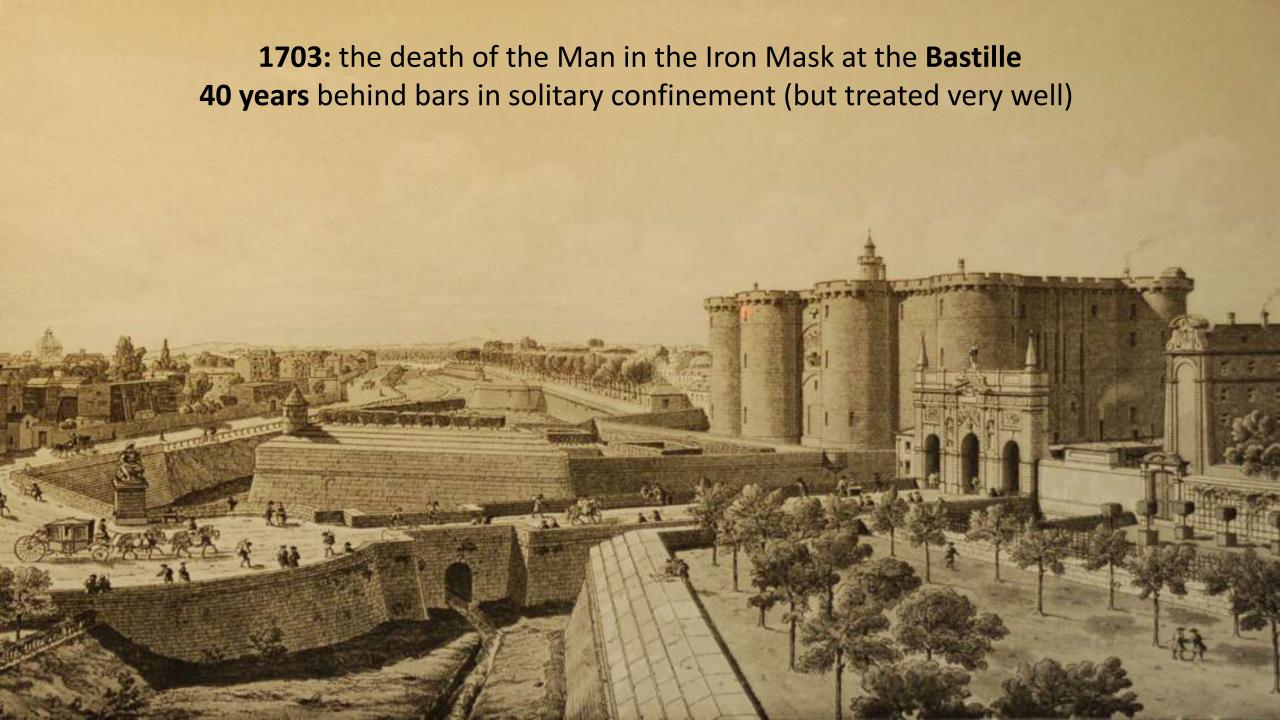
"A man remained at the Bastille for many years and died there masked... One never knew who he was"

(Madame Palatine, 1711)







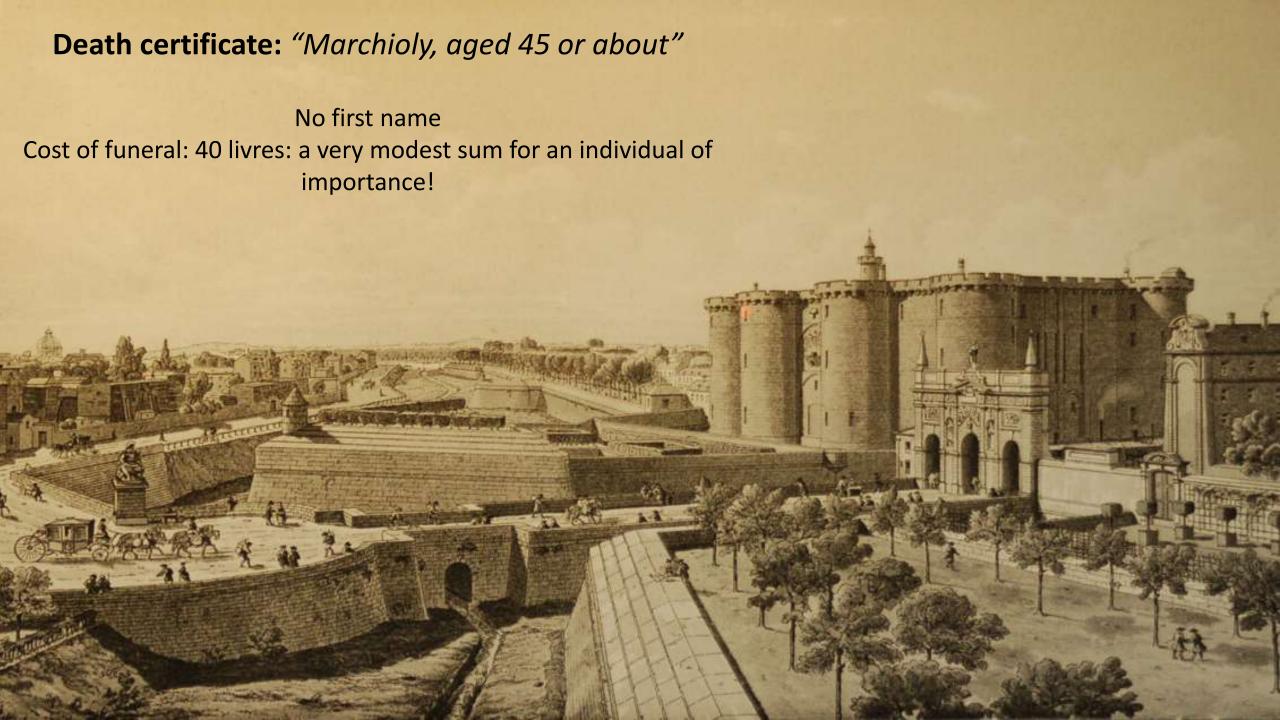














Rumors...

Louis XIV's illegitimate son?

The illegitimate son of the king of England (Charles II)?







1738

Approximations: a nobleman

Tastes for luxury goods

Physical resemblance with
Louis XIV

Le Siècle de Louis XIV



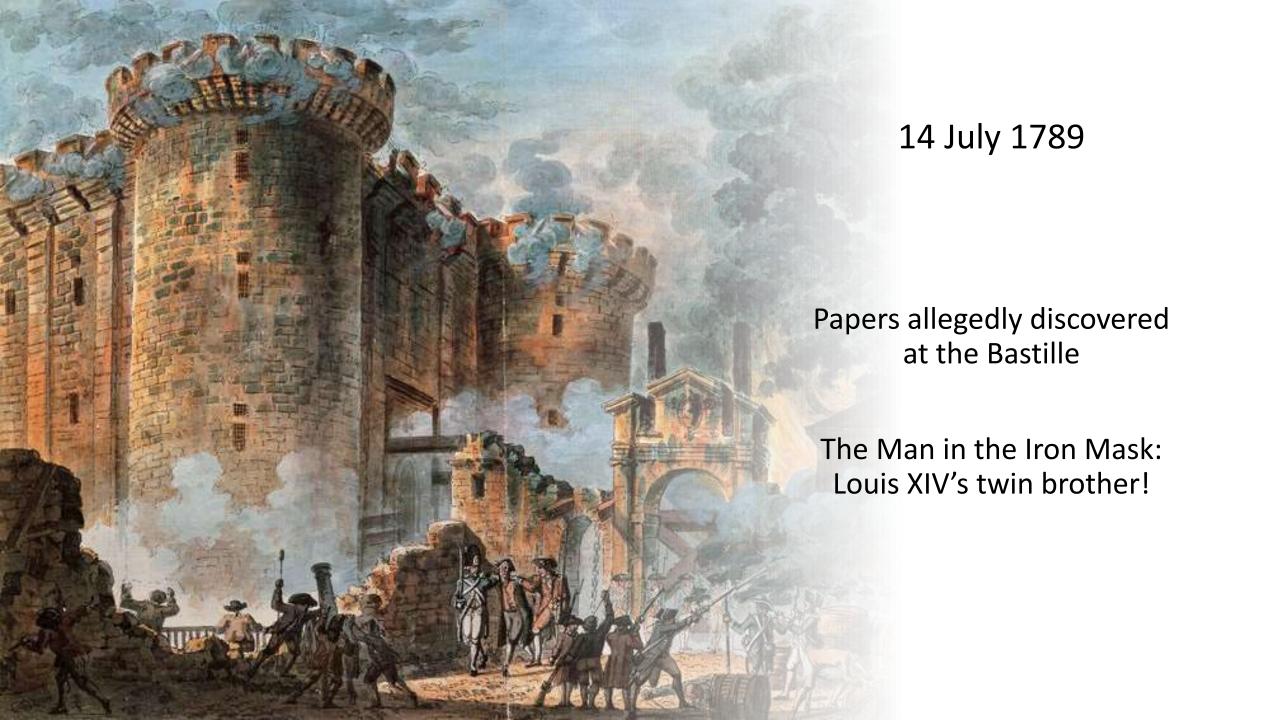


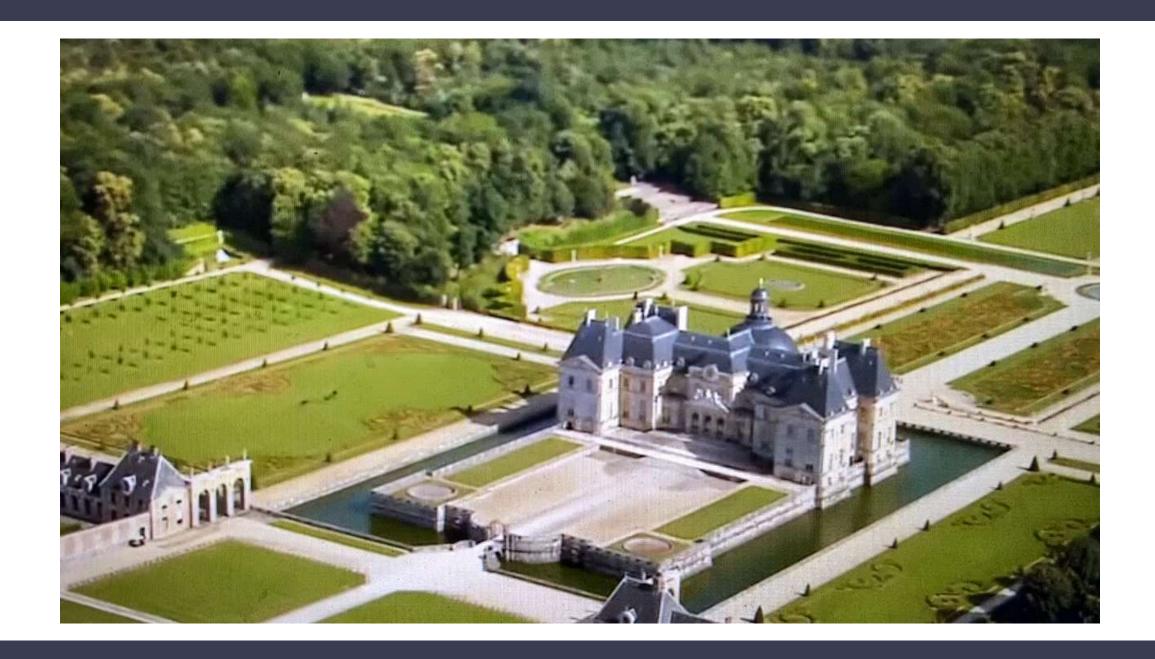
1738

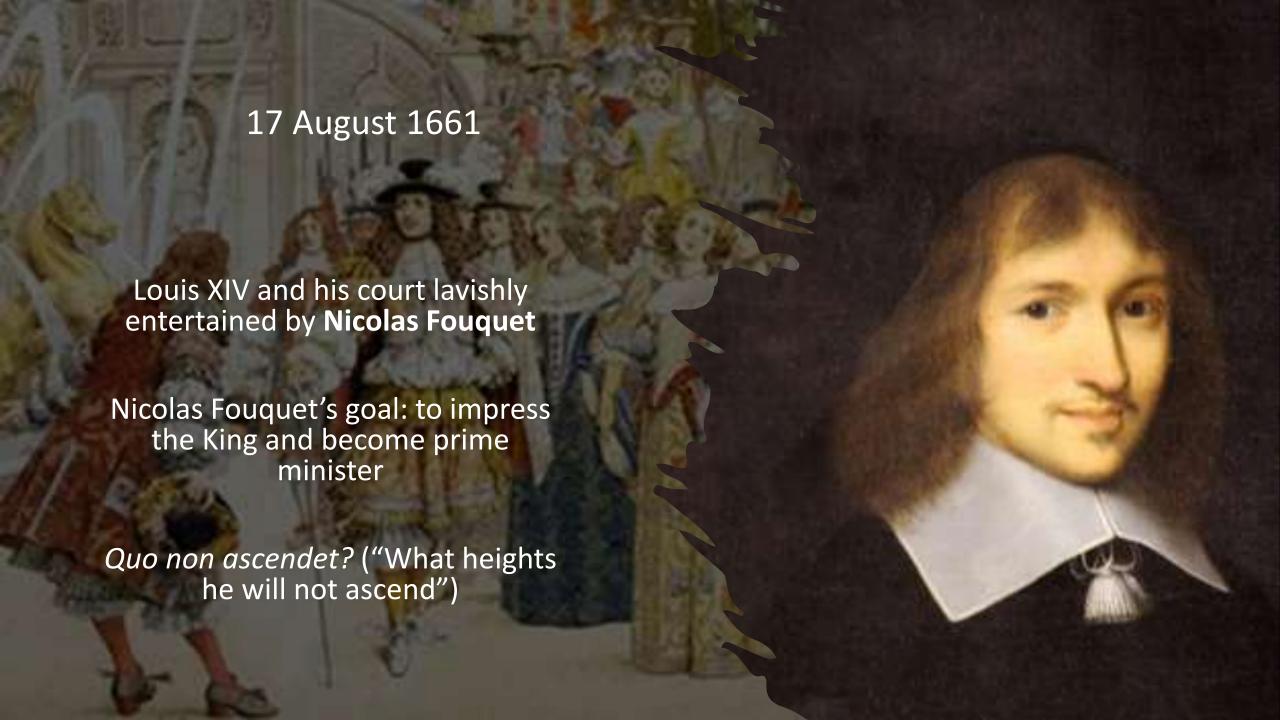
Denouncing a crime: a tyrant removing his elder brother (the rightful heir to the throne)

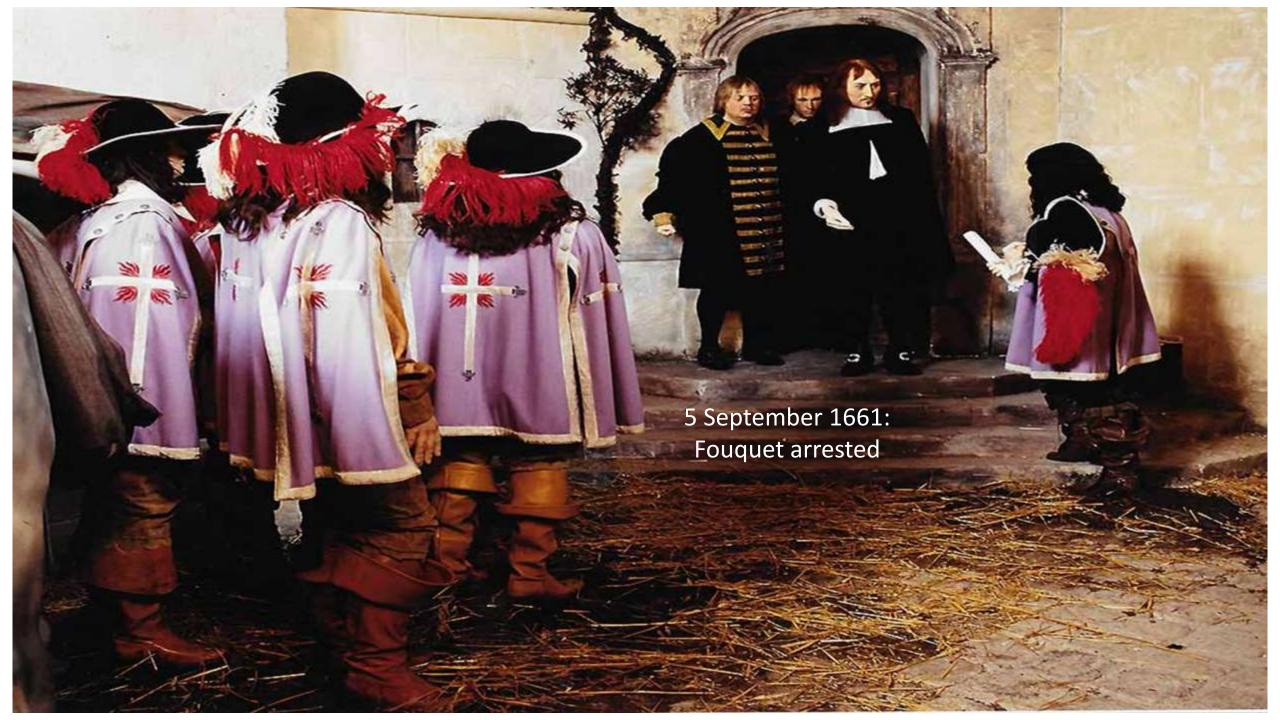
Le Siècle de Louis XIV

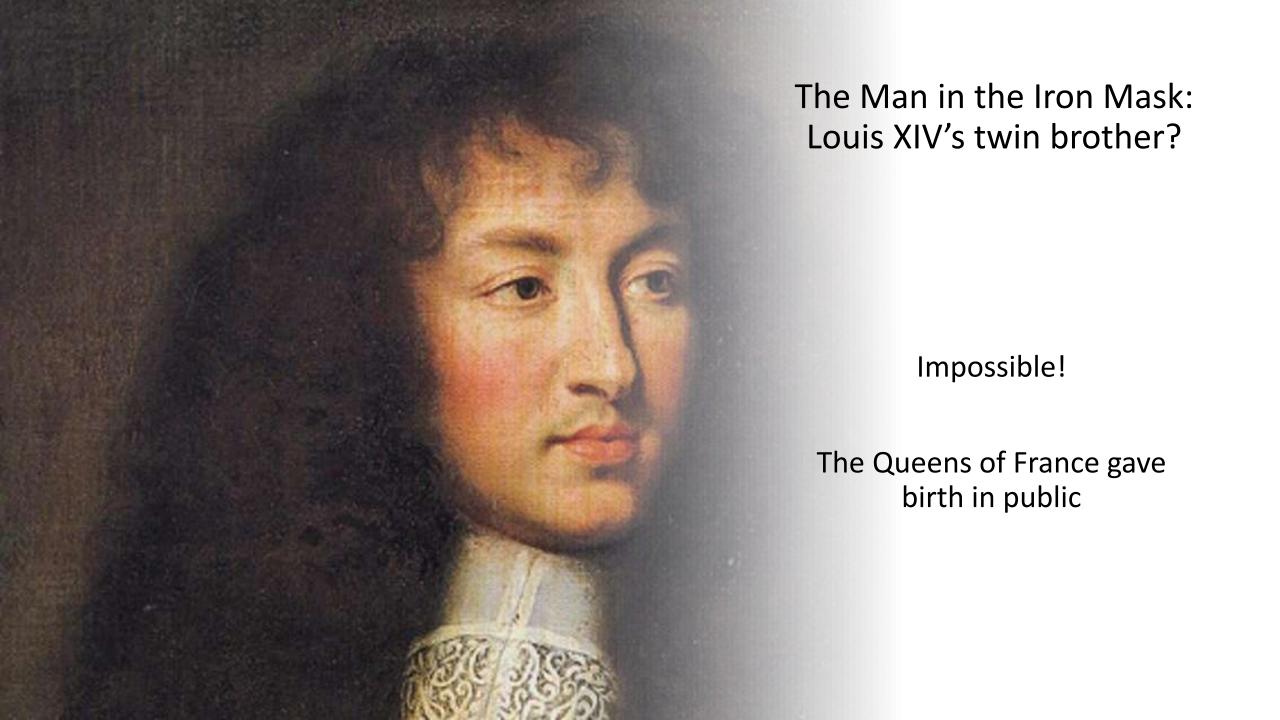




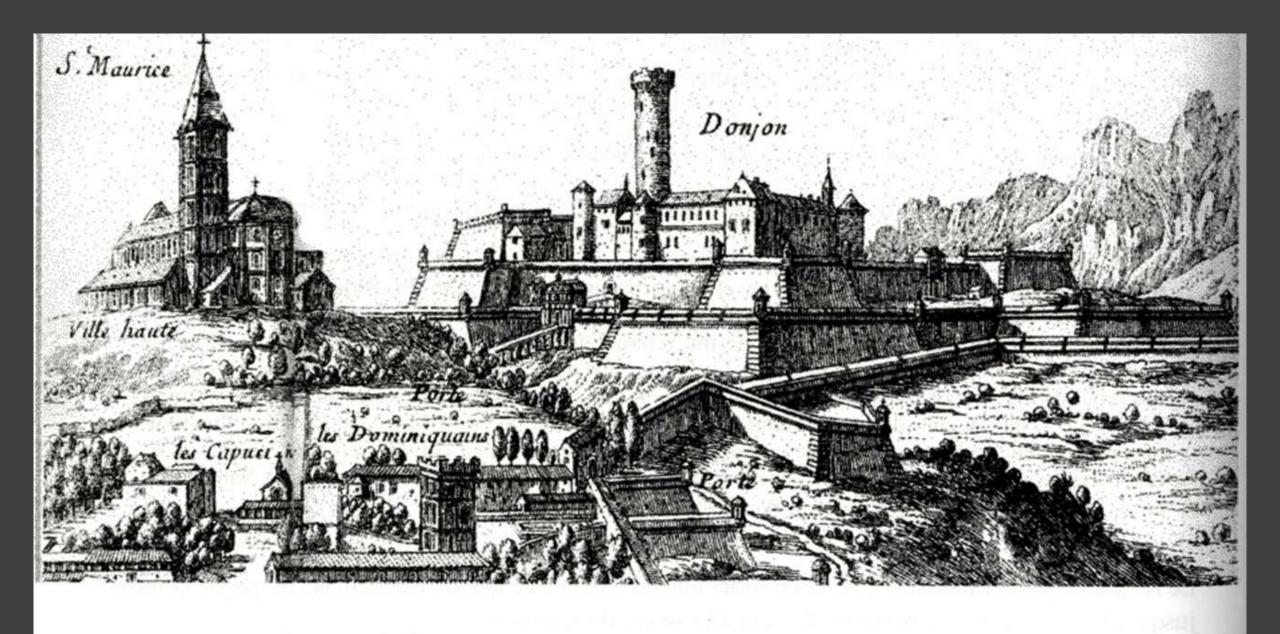












La citadelle de Pignerol (en italien Pinerolo) vers 1650

The fortress' records

Nicolas Fouquet (died in 1680)

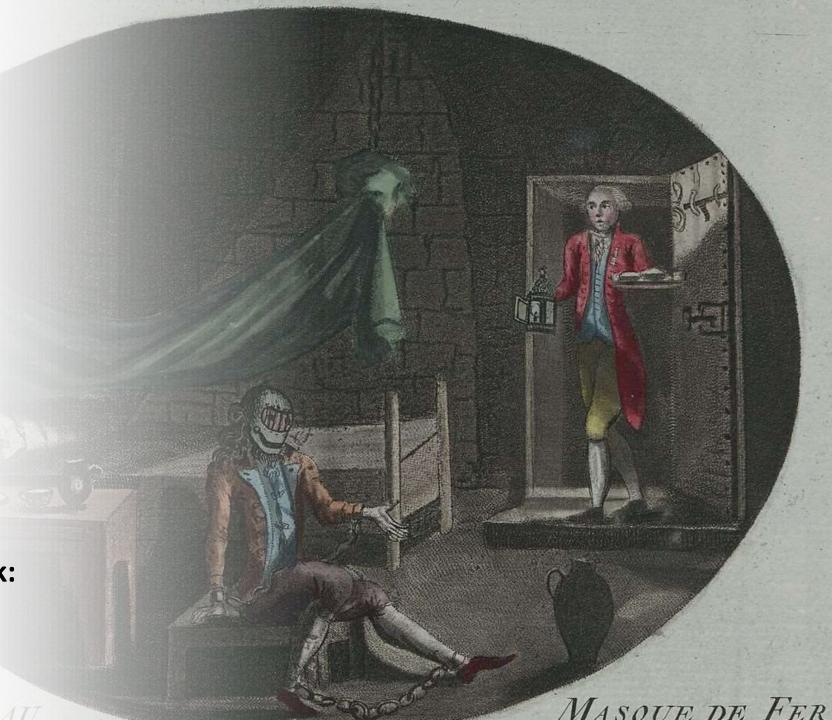
Antoine de Lauzun (released in 1681)

Eustache Danger (a valet)

A monk

A spy...

The Man in the Iron Mask: which of those men?



The fortress' expense statements

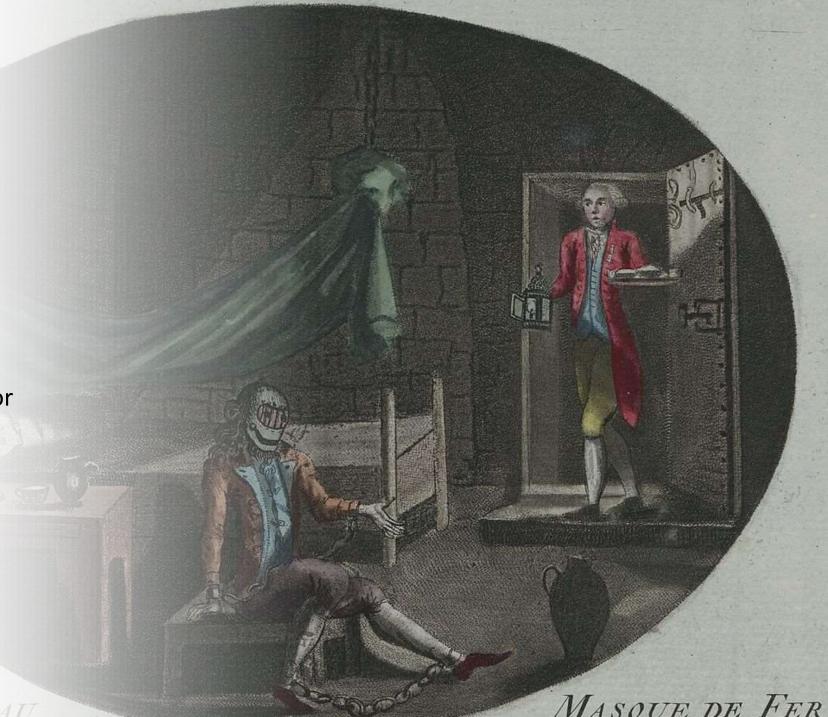
No clandestine prisoner

Modest roots: not a prince, a duke or high ranking official

Food expenses:

5 livres per day

500-600 livres (Fouquet or Lauzun)



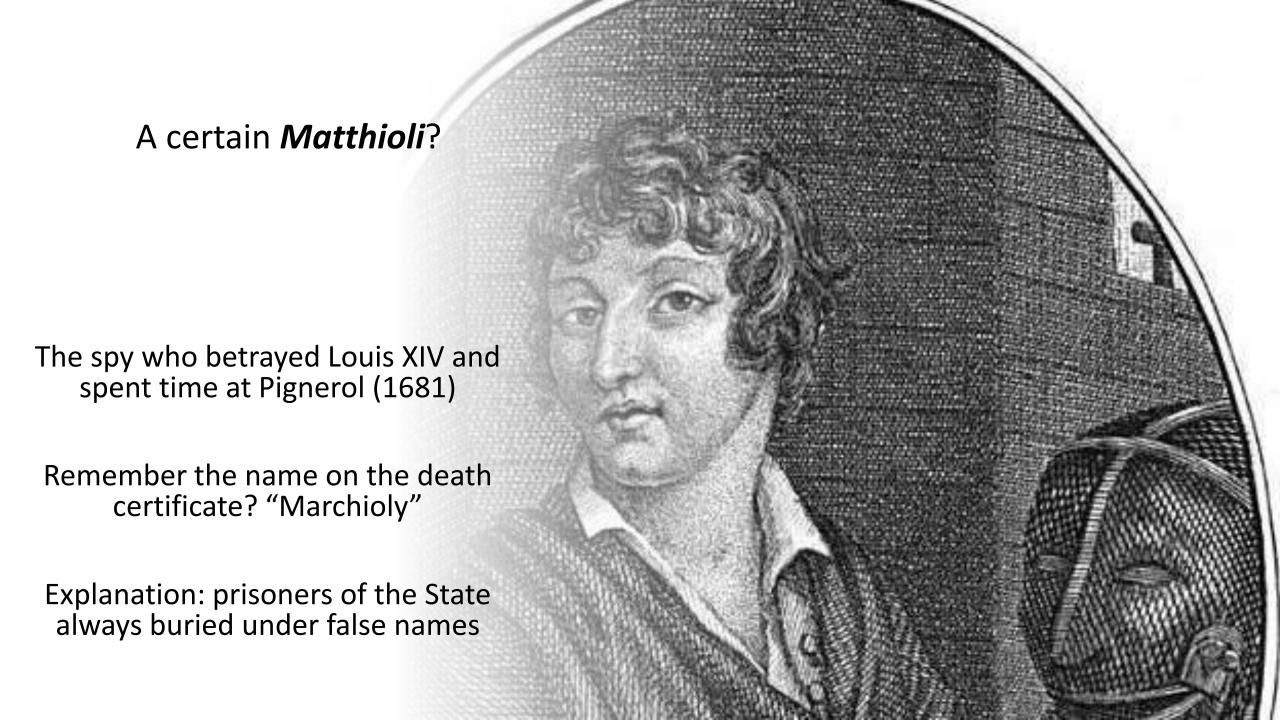
Left Pignerol in 1687

The content of his cell sold

"My prisoner's bed was so old and broken that... it was not worth anything..."

(The Governor to Louvois)





The fortress' records

Nicelas Fouquet (died in 1680)

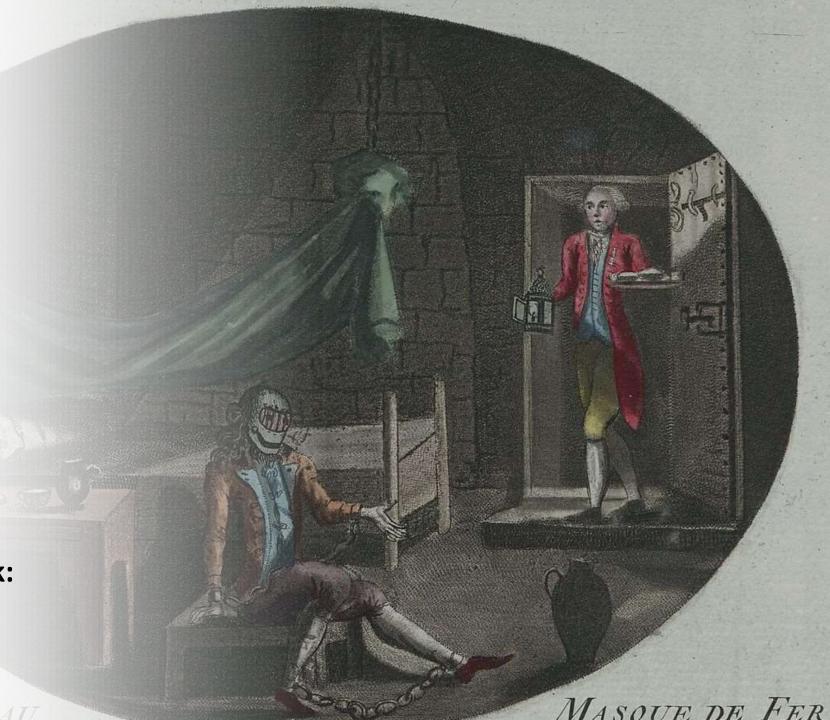
Antoine de Lauzun (released in 1681)

Eustache Danger (a valet)

A monk

A spy...

The Man in the Iron Mask: which of those men?





Nicolas Fouquet (died in 1680)

Antoine de Lauzun (released in 1681)

Eustache Danger (a valet)

A k (became crazy and died in 1693)

A spy...

The Man in the Iron Mask: which of those men?

