



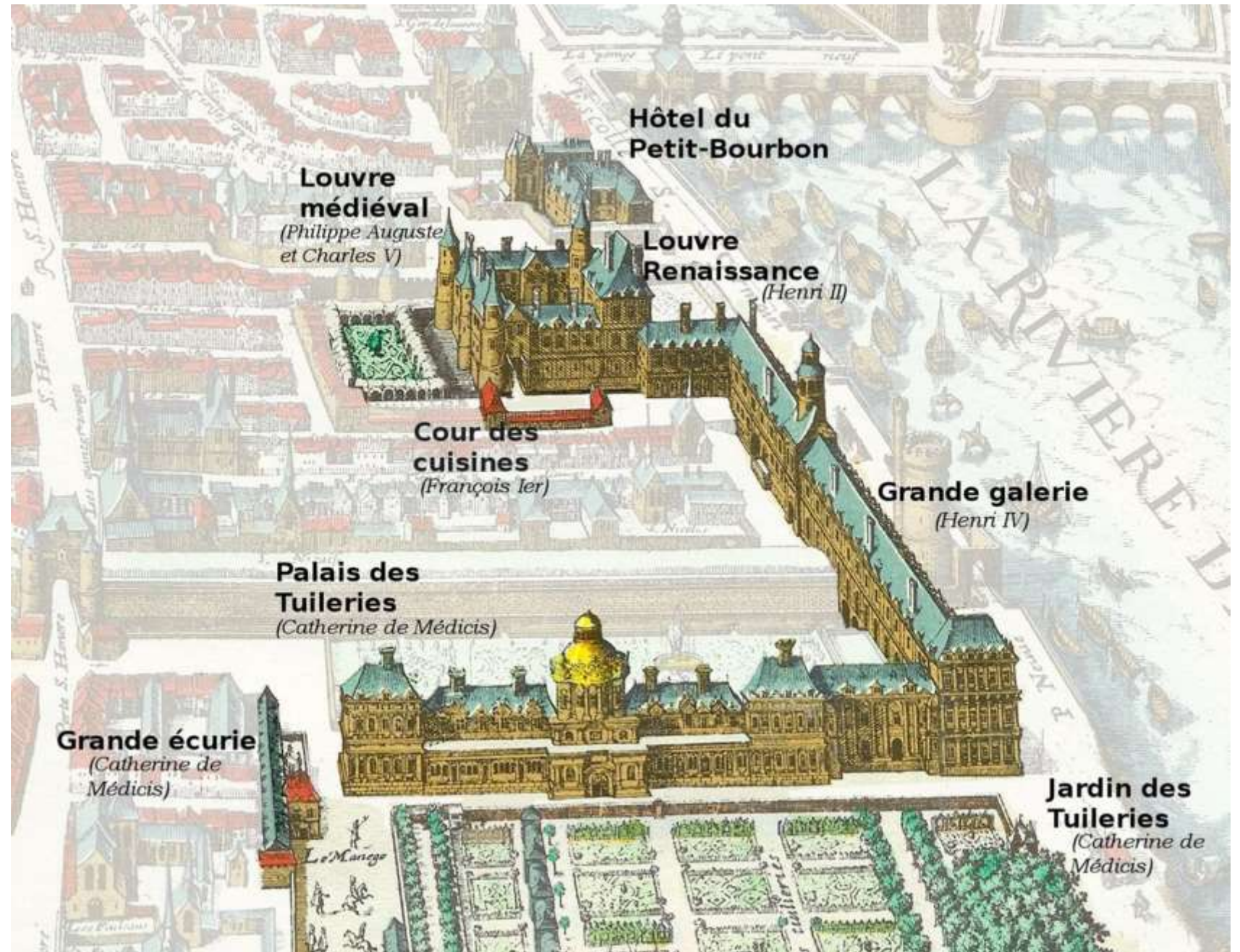
The Val de Loire: from the 17th century to the first
Empire
Sophistication and refinement





Francis I: Paris once again France's political capital

The Louvre:
the king's
residence in
Paris





Cheverny (1604-1634): a **turning point** in the history of the Val de Loire – Classical style (Louis XIII)



Châteaux of the Val de Loire: pleasure homes



The art of socializing – A new room: the drawing room

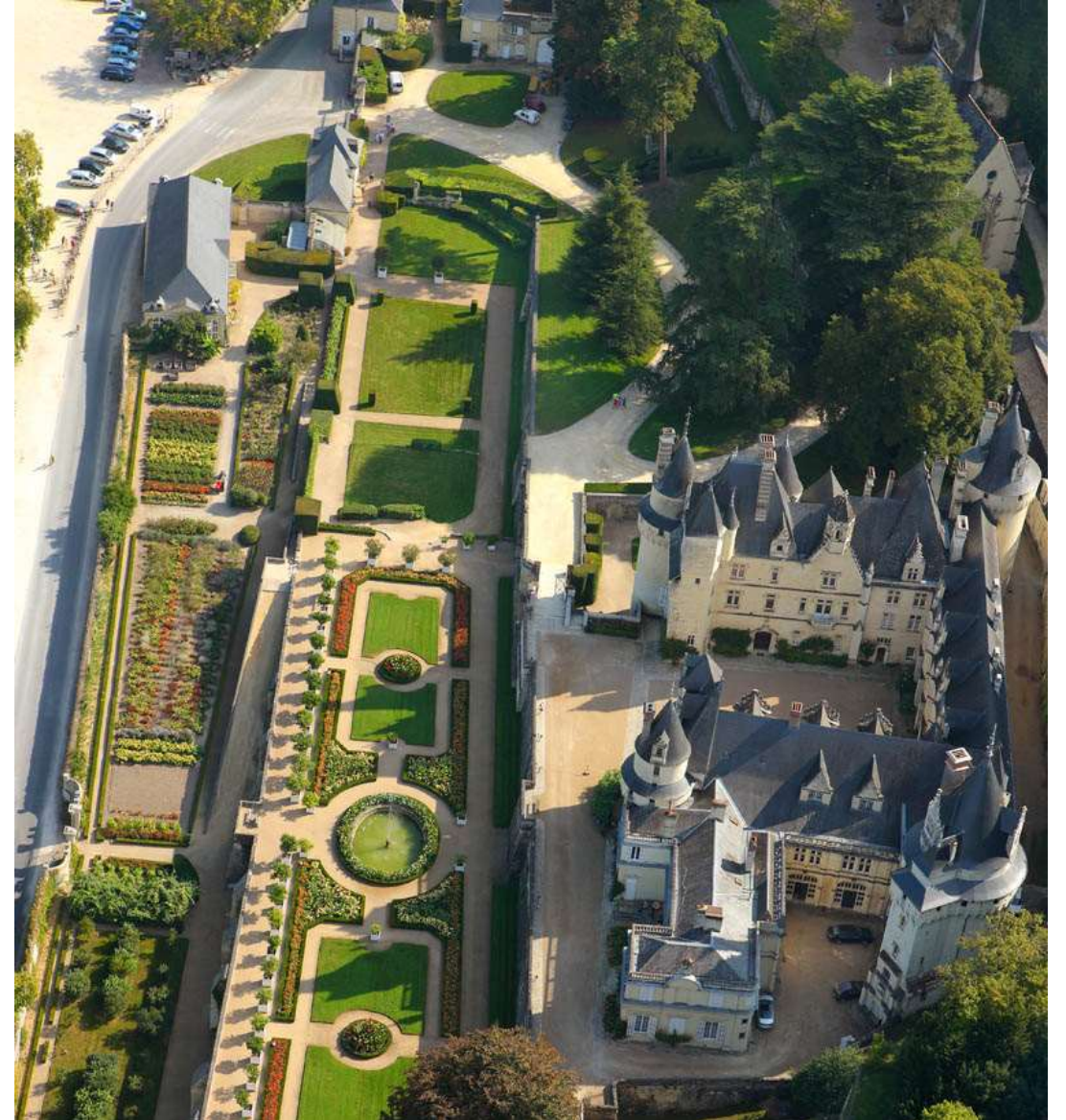




Louis de Valentinay: **finance officer** at the Court of Louis XIV



The French style gardens designed by **André Le Nôtre**





Nature is chaotic and a
landscape architect's
mission is to bring **order &
symmetry**

**The domination of nature
by man**

The perspective







Ussé: a fashionable pleasure residence
A literary salon



Charles Perrault: a frequent guest at
Ussé

Ussé: a source of inspiration

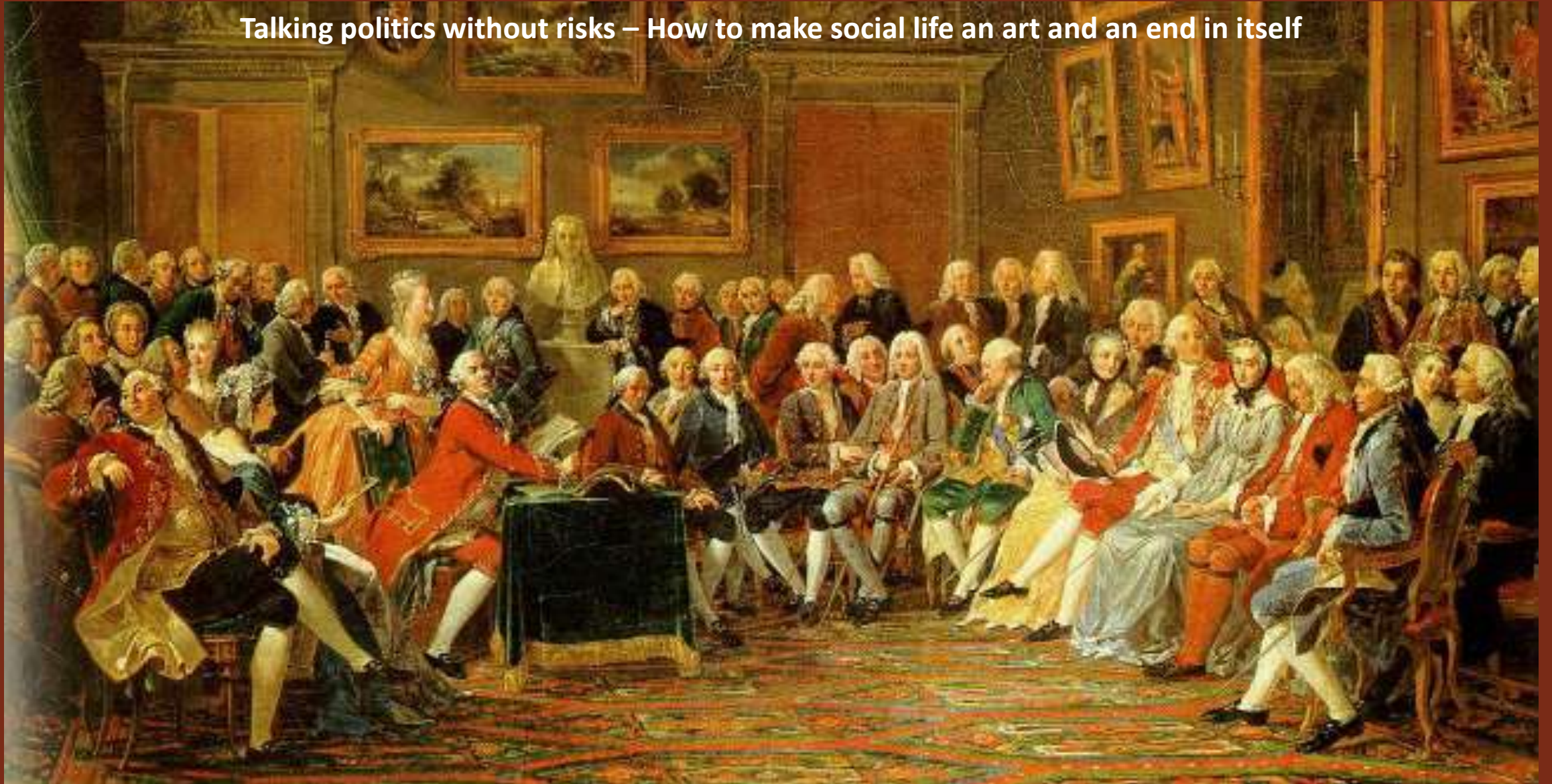


The 18th century: the art of conversation – The skills of politeness and writing



The literary salon (1610 – 1789): an arena away from the royal court where **ideas could be discussed**

Talking politics without risks – How to make social life an art and an end in itself



Marquise de Pompadour: the powerful mistress/friend of king Louis XV



Born in a **bourgeoisie** family

Scandal at Court: the position of “official mistress” normally reserved to women from the aristocracy

Jeanne Poisson presented at Court – Life at Court: a constant struggle





The most powerful (and
ambitious) woman at Court

Her initial mission: to entertain
a king prone to melancholy &
bouts of depression

Mme de Pompadour & Louis XV: from physical love to long-
lasting friendship

Mme de Pompadour: a system to introduce young (virgin) women from the lower classes to the King





Mme de Pompadour's exceptional rise: her "getting-up" ceremony ("*toilette*") always well attended (Princes, courtiers, ministers & foreign ambassadors)

Political “advisor” to the King – Involvement in French politics & foreign affairs



Protector of the arts



La Marquise de Pompadour by François Boucher (1756)

The hôtel d'Evreux (1753)



*Hortus & Palatium Ebrauxense
Marchionissae DD de Pompadour*

*40^e Vue d'Ortigue
Représentant*

*Le Jardin et l'Hôtel d'Evreux appartenant
à Madame la Marquise de Pompadour*



A passion for châteaux – Champs-sur-Marne







Château de Ménars (Val de Loire) – A retreat away from the stressful life at Court







Ménars: a modern residence



“Pompadour style” – Flowery style





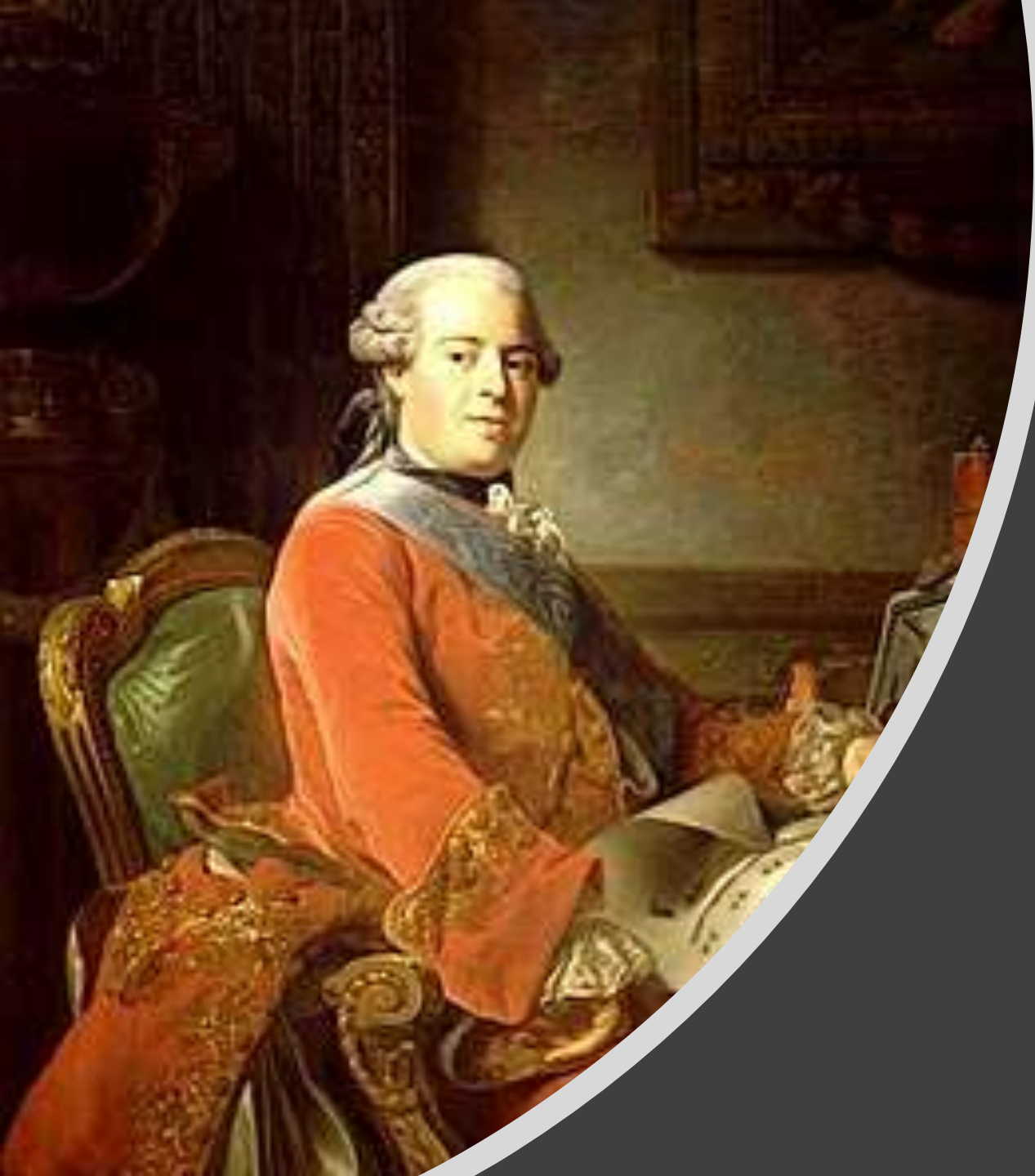
The **dining-room**: a 18th century novelty





The art of conversation
at its best

To talk about
everything without
being boring



1764: her brother (Marquis de Marigny) inherits Ménars

The gardens transformed



An English-style garden

Symmetrical gardens 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)

Château de Meung-sur-Loire





A “natural” garden









The French Revolution: most of the châteaux of the Val de Loire survived



The “*Great Fear*” of 1789: violence against the châteaux



Château de Luynes (in the hands of the same family since 1610)



Many châteaux had changed ownership in the 18th century (Château de Langeais)



Château de Chaumont acquired in 1750 by a wealthy tradesman



Show of patriotism: no major problems during the Revolution



Chenonceau acquired in 1733 by a wealthy finance officer (Claude Dupin)

Marie-Madeleine Dupin: one of most famous literary salon ("liberal" ideas discussed)







1764: Nicolas Durfort (in charge of the protocol at Versailles) acquired Cheverny



Arrested in 1794 but quickly liberated
No longer able to maintain Cheverny
(sold to a banker in 1802)







Azay-le-Rideau



The fate of the **royal residences** – What to do with Chambord?

**A subscription in 1821 to offer Chambord to the duke of
Bordeaux (heir to the throne)**



Château de Blois saved by... the Revolution!



Revolutionary vandalism – Royal symbols removed



Amboise also transformed into military barracks







Philippe d'Orléans (Louis XVI's first cousin)
*"D'Orléans, a vase in which one has thrown all the garbage of
the Revolution"* (Talleyrand)

Château de Chanteloup: a victim of greed and speculation



A **Chinese pagoda** at Chanteloup: a homage to Choiseul by his friends following his dismissal (1770)



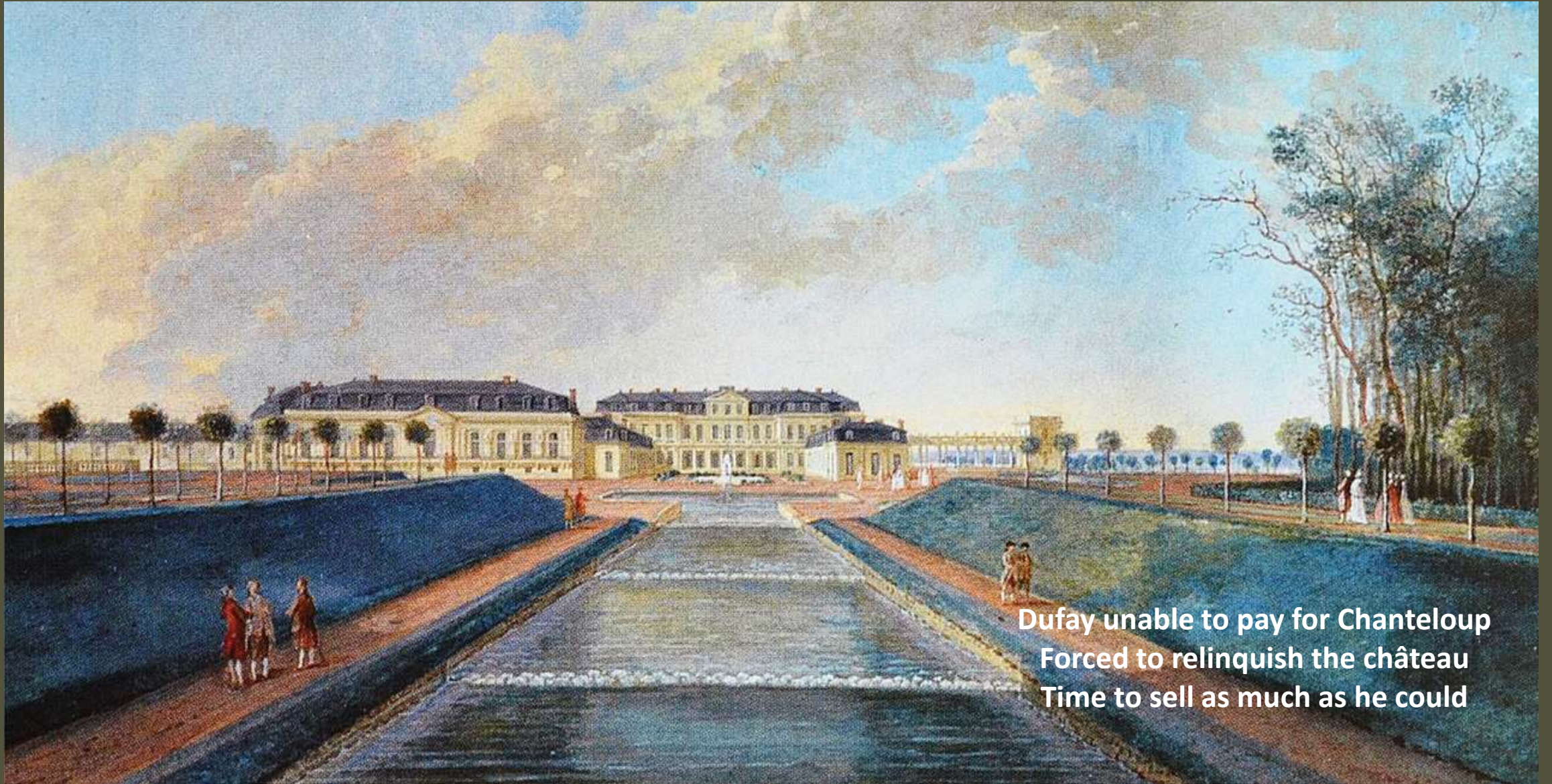
China in fashion
(1750-1770)

1785: Chanteloup sold to the duc de Penthièvre (a grandson of Louis XIV)





1798: Chanteloup auctioned & acquired by a military officer (Michel Dufay)



Dufay unable to pay for Chanteloup
Forced to relinquish the château
Time to sell as much as he could

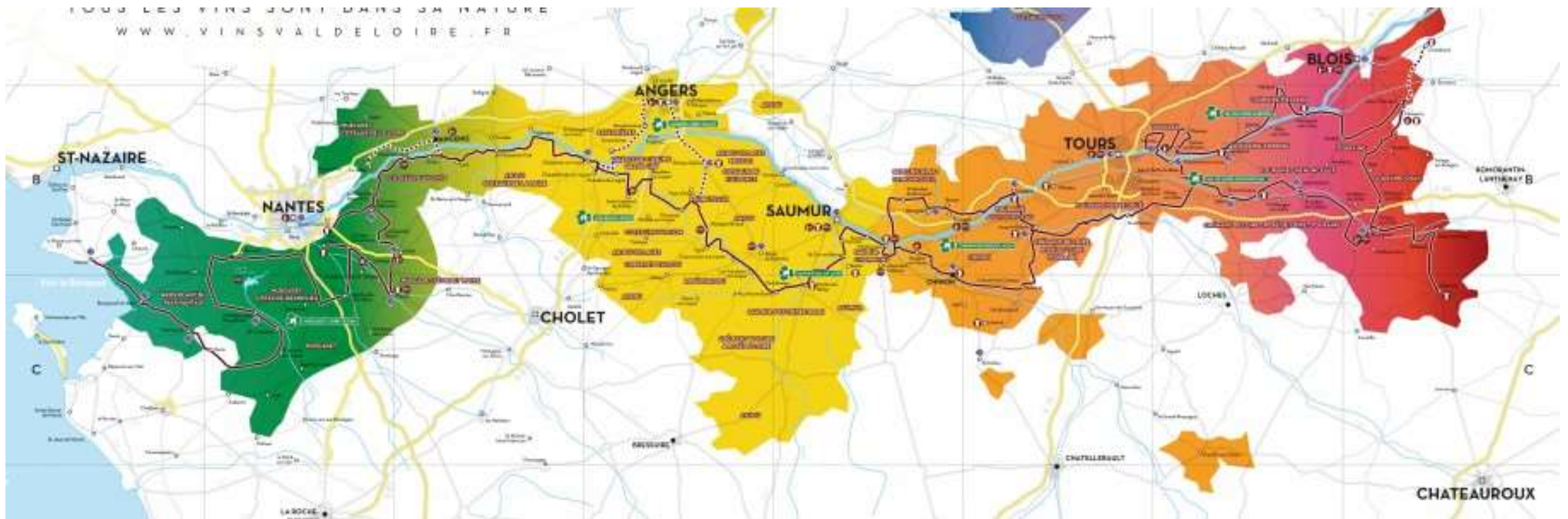
Jean-Antoine Chaptal (chemist and agronomist)



A model farm for the cultivation of sugar beets

A treatise to revolutionize the art of **wine-making**
New procedure of adding sugar to increase the final alcohol content of wines
("Chaptalization")

The vineyards of the Val de Loire: success and reputation thanks to the kings of France



An **extraordinary variety** (soils, climate...): Pinot noir, Sauvignon, Sancerre...

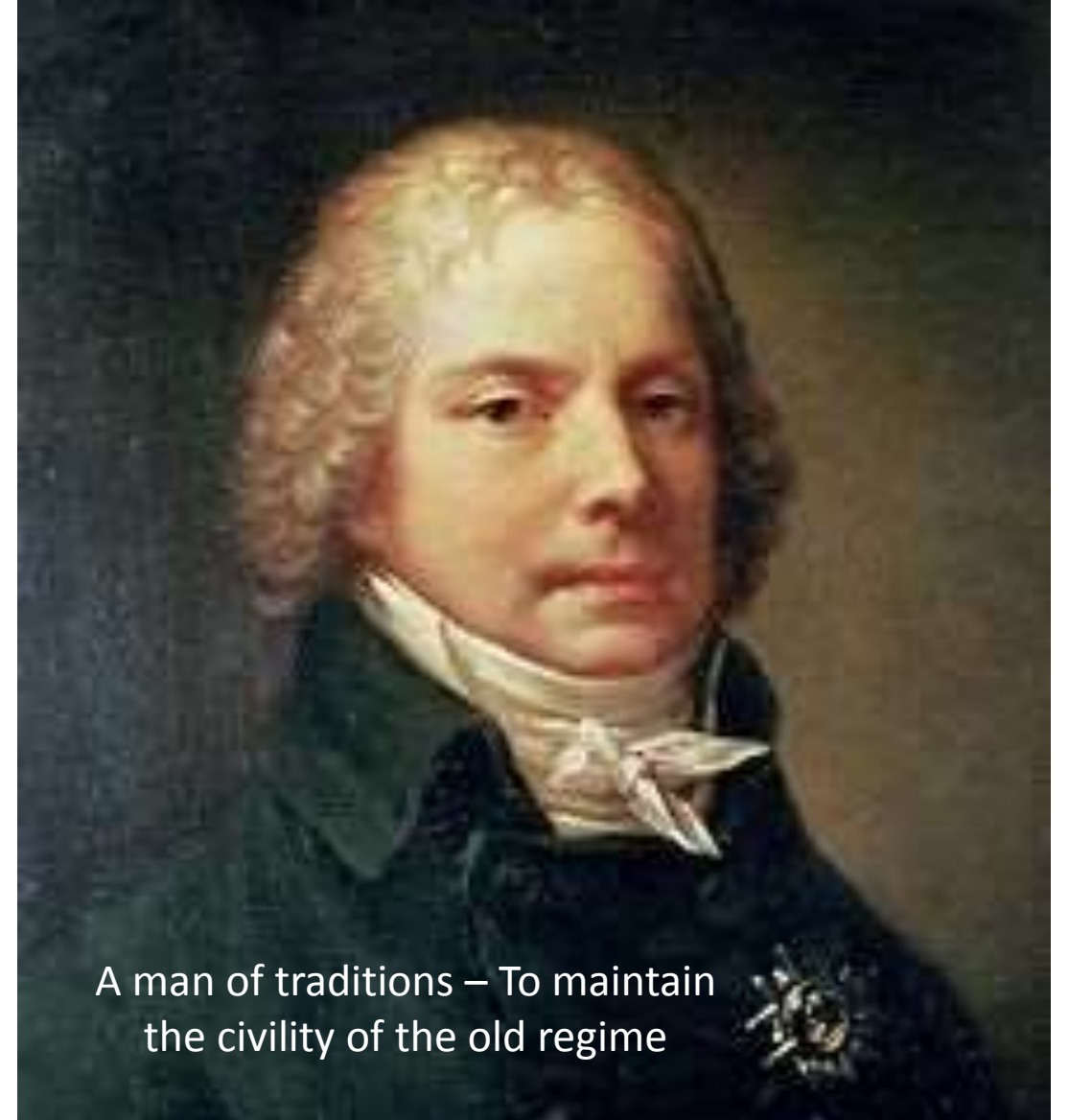


Valençay bought by Talleyrand (Napoleon's foreign affairs minister) in 1803

Residence purchased for the sole purpose of entertaining diplomatic guests from abroad



Talleyrand: the art of conversation to the service of diplomacy



A man of traditions – To maintain
the civility of the old regime

“There is no good diplomacy without good food” (Talleyrand)

Dining with Talleyrand: an experience

“The secret to please in society, that is to allow oneself to be taught things we already know by people who ignore all about those things” (Talleyrand)



Talleyrand involved in the menus





Antonin Carême: the invention of French *haute cuisine*

From poverty to fame

The most famous French Chef of the First Empire (1804-1814)

Spectacular pastry sculptures (*pièces montées*)



The invention of the *toque blanche* (white hat)
“Cooking is brings good health” – No greasy food (improved diet)



French style service
« *Service à la française* »

Courses all **on display** from the start

The host has the responsibility to slice the roasts in front of his guests



1810: the Russian style service (« *service à la Russe*») replaced the French style service



Alexander Kurakin



The Continental System



The whole of Spain in open rebellion against the French: Napoleon is furious



Valençay: a royal prison

Talleyrand no longer foreign
affairs minister

Napoleon chose Valençay to
punish Talleyrand

A 6 year stay











