

Marie-Antoinette: the tragic queen
Beyond the myths

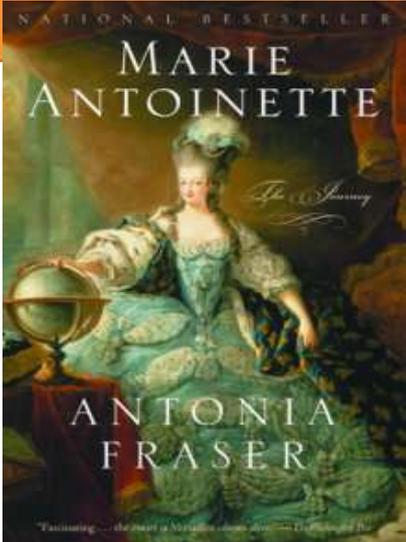
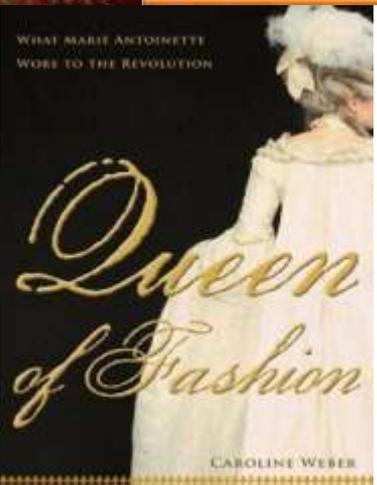
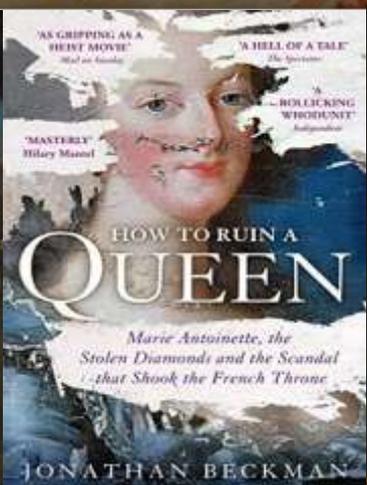
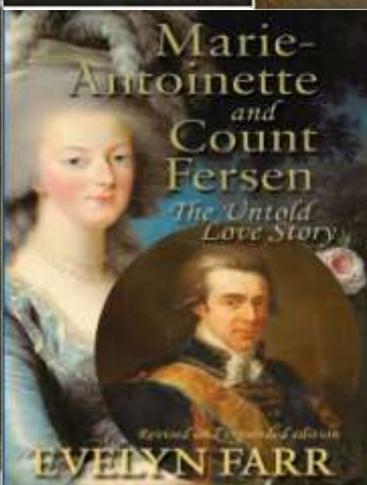
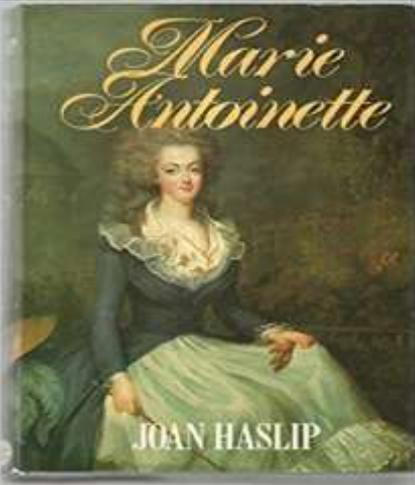
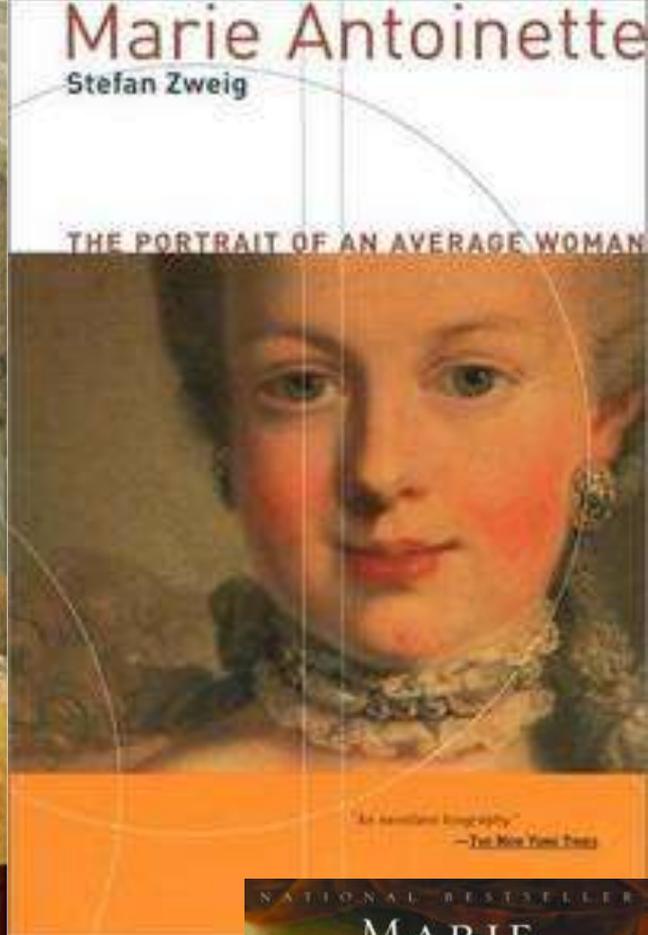
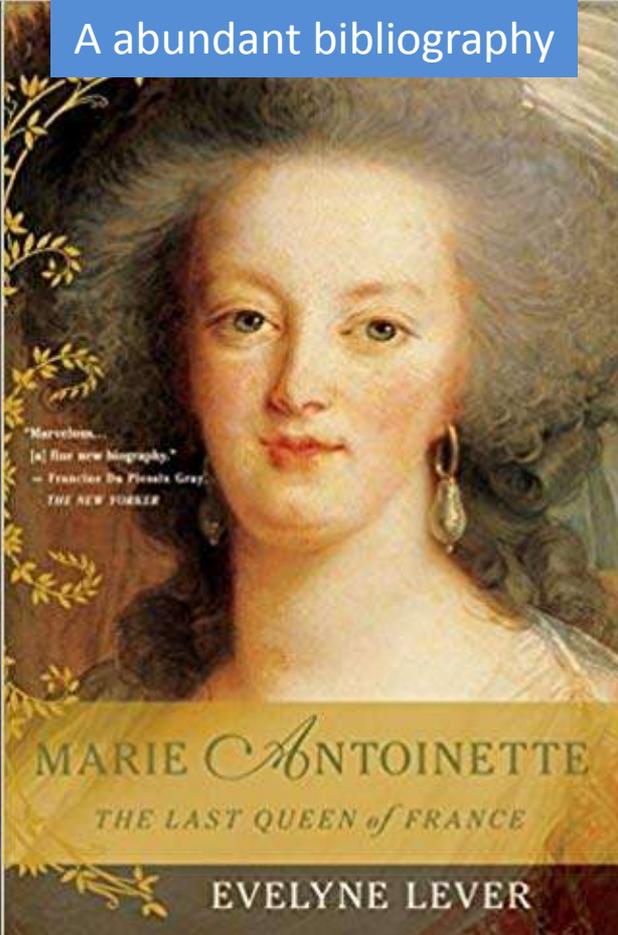
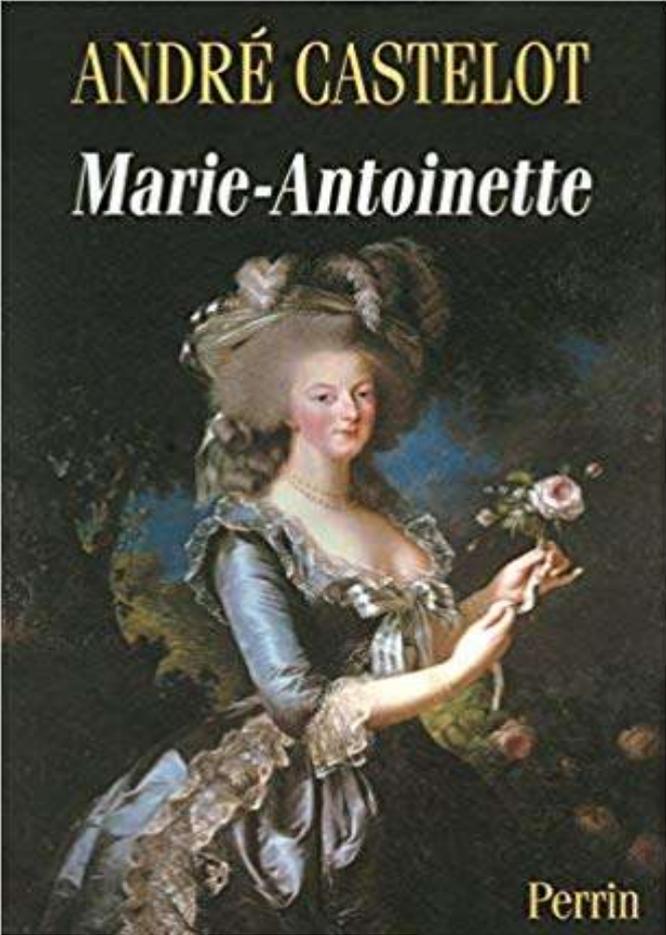


WEBSITE

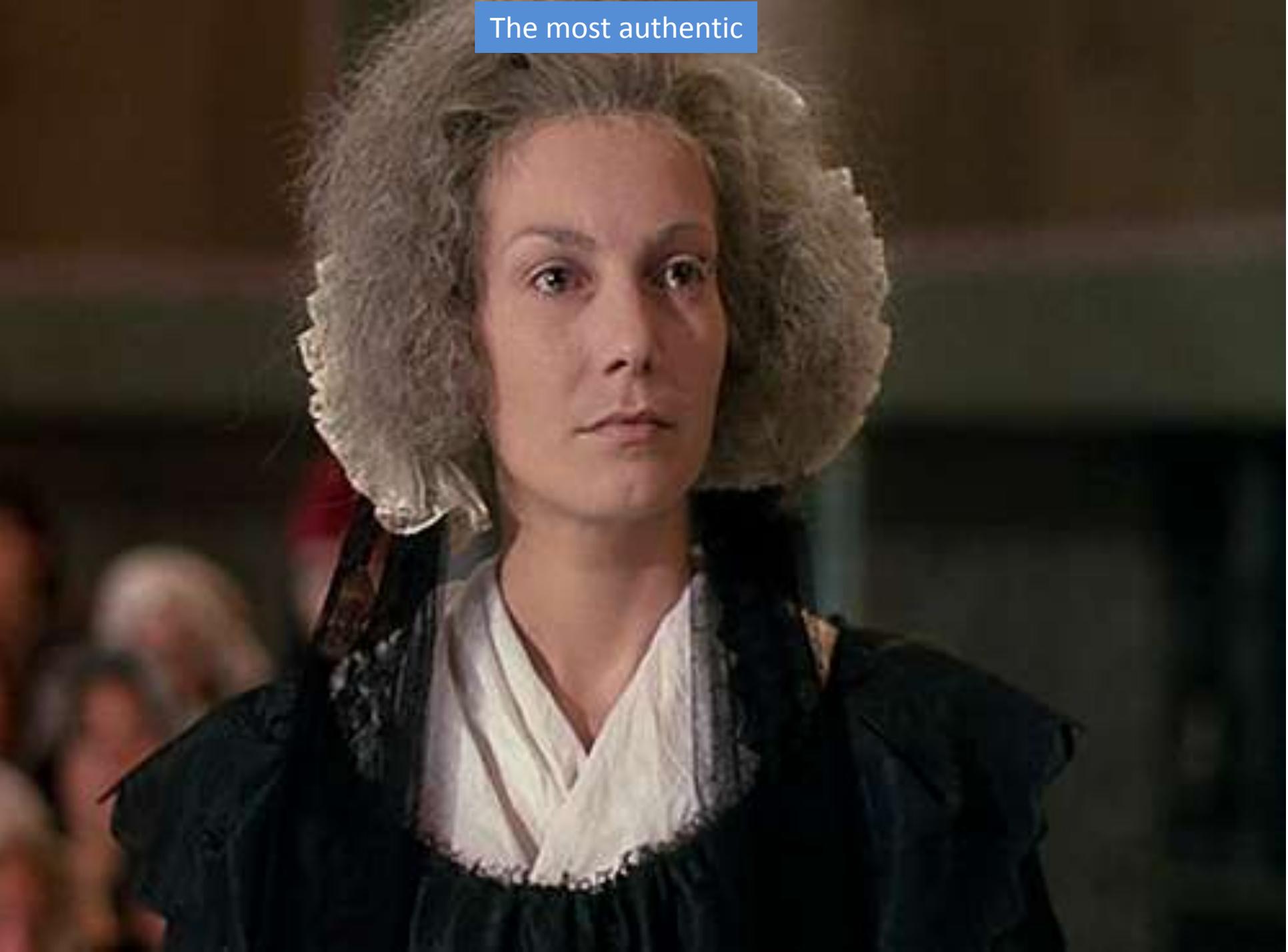
- www.oliviercourteaux.com

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

A abundant bibliography



The most authentic



When words kill...



"AT LENGTH I RECOLLECTED THE
THOUGHTLESS SAYING OF A GREAT
PRINCESS, WHO, ON BEING INFORMED
THAT THE COUNTRY PEOPLE HAD NO
BREAD, REPLIED, "THEN LET THEM EAT
CAKE!"

A decorative flourish consisting of a single, elegant, horizontal scroll-like line that curves upwards at both ends.

JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU

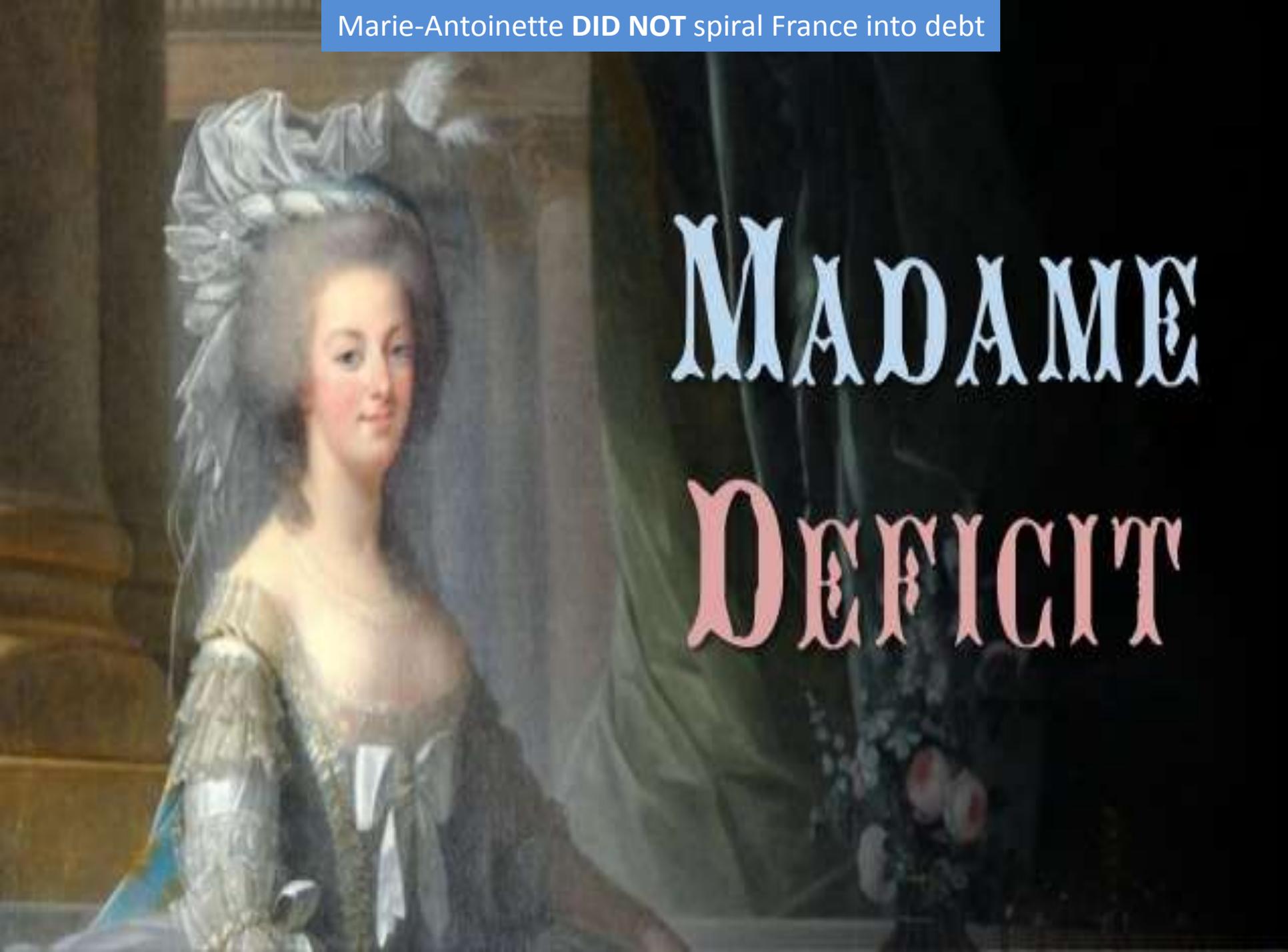
The Confessions of Jean-Jacques Rousseau

The Confessions were completed in 1769... when Marie-Antoinette
(age 14) was still in Austria !

Marie-Antoinette **DID NOT** rule over Louis XVI

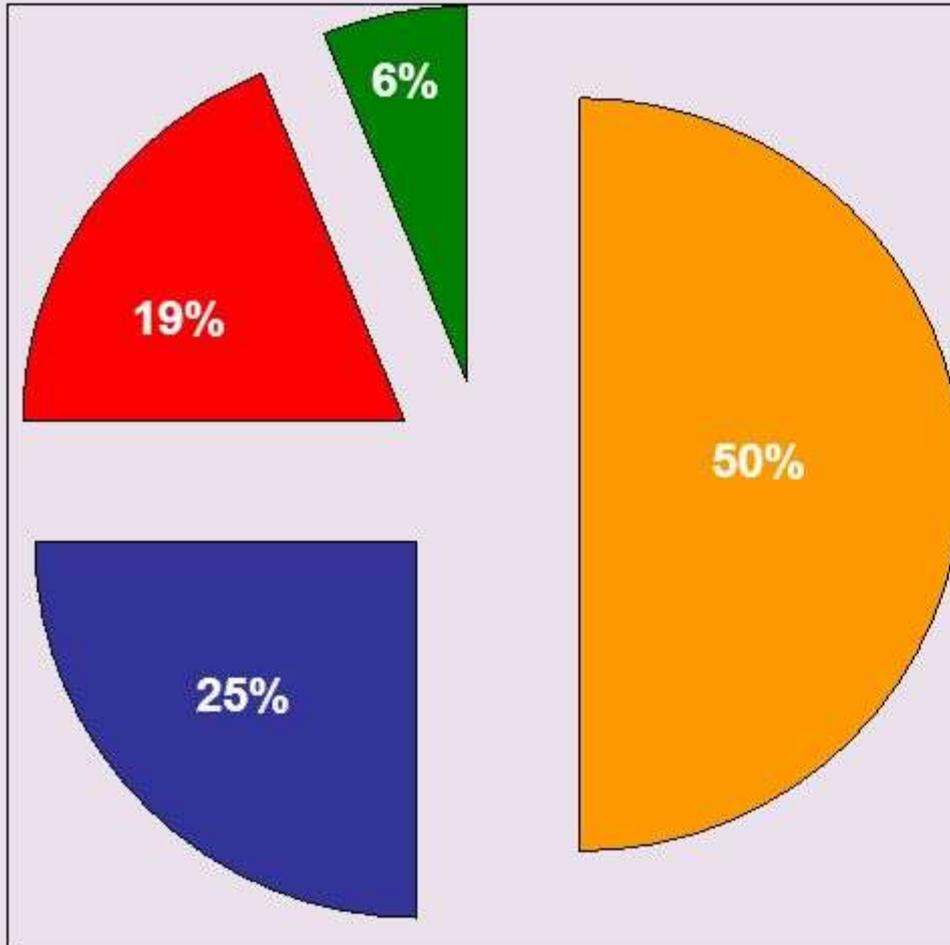


Marie-Antoinette DID NOT spiral France into debt

A portrait of Marie-Antoinette, Queen of France, wearing an elaborate white powdered wig and a dark, ornate dress with a white lace collar. She is looking slightly to the right of the viewer.

MADAME DEFICIT

By 1788 the national budget broke down like this



- Interest on the debt
- Military
- Operating costs of nation
- King and his Court

The Affair of the Diamond Necklace (1785): the Queen's reputation irreparably damaged even though she had **NOTHING** to do with it



Marie-Antoinette **DID NOT** play the shepherdess at the Petit Trianon



LA REVOLUTION FRANÇAISE

When it all started...

Rock Opéra



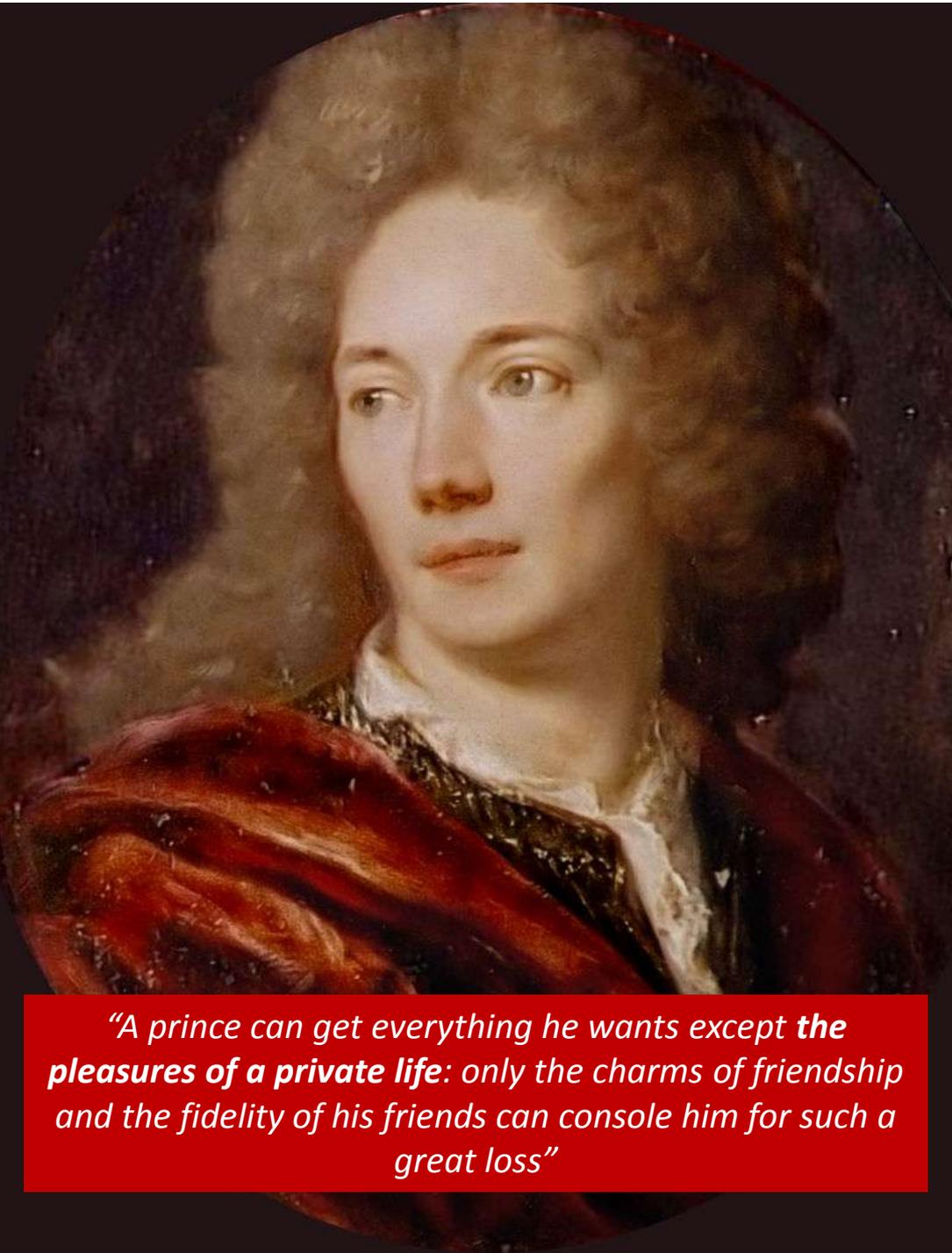
VOGUE

Course outline

- Marie-Antoinette: public & private lives
- Marie-Antoinette: a diplomatic pawn on the European chessboard
- The Petit Trianon: Marie-Antoinette's enchanted kingdom
- Marie-Antoinette: a fashion icon and a patron of the Arts
- Marie-Antoinette, friendship and politics until 1787
- The affair of the diamond necklace: the Queen vilified
- Marie-Antoinette and the French Revolution
- Marie-Antoinette's trial: the great infamy

Marie-Antoinette: public & private lives





*“A prince can get everything he wants except **the pleasures of a private life**: only the charms of friendship and the fidelity of his friends can console him for such a great loss”*

LES
CARACTERES
DE THEOPHRASTE
TRADUITS DU GREC;
AVEC
LES CARACTERES
OU
LES MOEURS
DE CE SIECLE.

PAR MR. DE LA BRUIERE.

Septième Edition, corrigée & augmentée.



Seigneurie de la Copie de Paris.

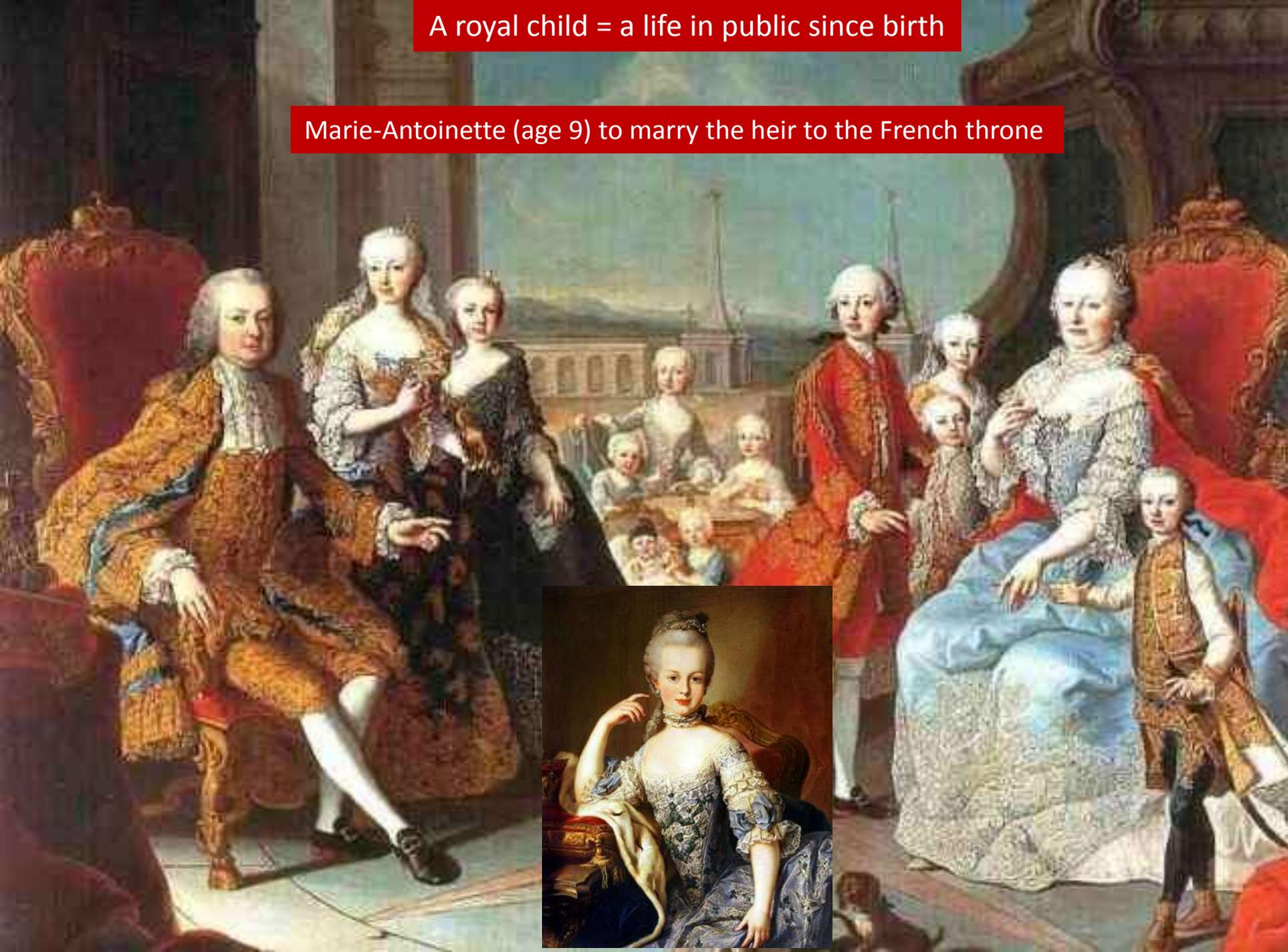
A BRUXELLES.

Chez JEAN LEONARD, Imprimeur-Libraire
rue des Coes, proche le Carrosse. 1692.

AVEC PRIVILEGE DU ROY.

A royal child = a life in public since birth

Marie-Antoinette (age 9) to marry the heir to the French throne



French Court confined to a narrow space and a few chateaux



The Court: a closed world disconnected from the outside world
Gossips & rumors
Rival clans, factions, intrigues & vendettas
Tight Etiquette (set of rules)

Members of the royal family: the most dangerous



Madame Adélaïde



“ Whenever it has to do with serious matters and that she sees in them nothing but mere inconvenience, she does not want to think and act accordingly”

« You must not do anything unusual. On the contrary you must absolutely lend yourself to what the court is accustomed to doing”

“All eyes will be fixed on you”



Marie-Antoinette: a rebel child



No to studying
Inability to dissimulate her likes & dislikes



Countess du Barry

Court rituals: "odious" constraints



Marie-Antoinette's mission: to produce a male heir & seal the Franco-Austrian alliance

Marriage unconsummated for 7 years
Humiliation (gossips)

Louis XVI mocked for his so-called sexual impotence



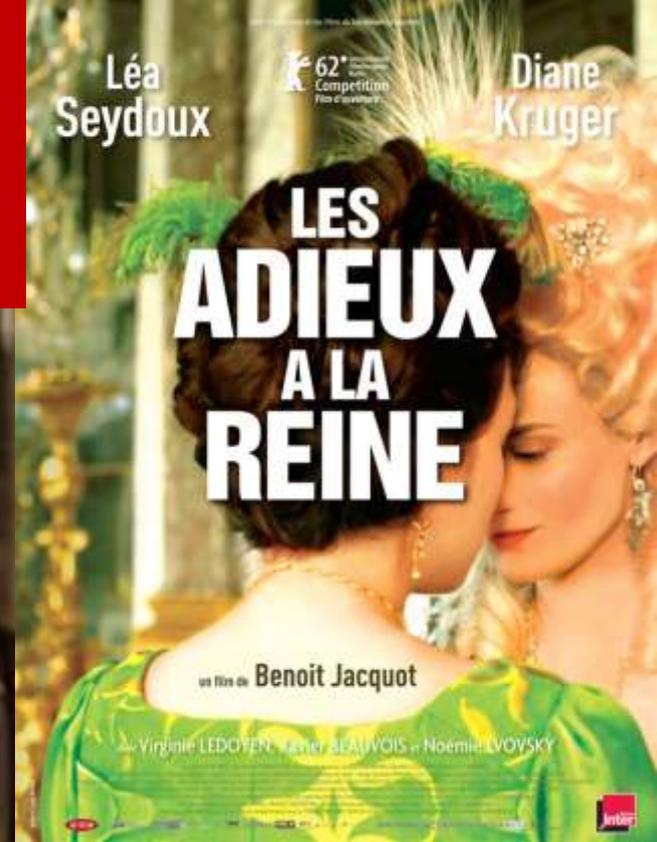
Axel Fersen

An impotent king = Sexual
debauchery
(countless lovers – Lesbianism)

Waves of pornographic libels



par tes baisers excite mes desirs,
je tuis, ma bonne, au comble des plaisirs.



Marie-Antoinette's key word: **to choose**
The right to select her friends

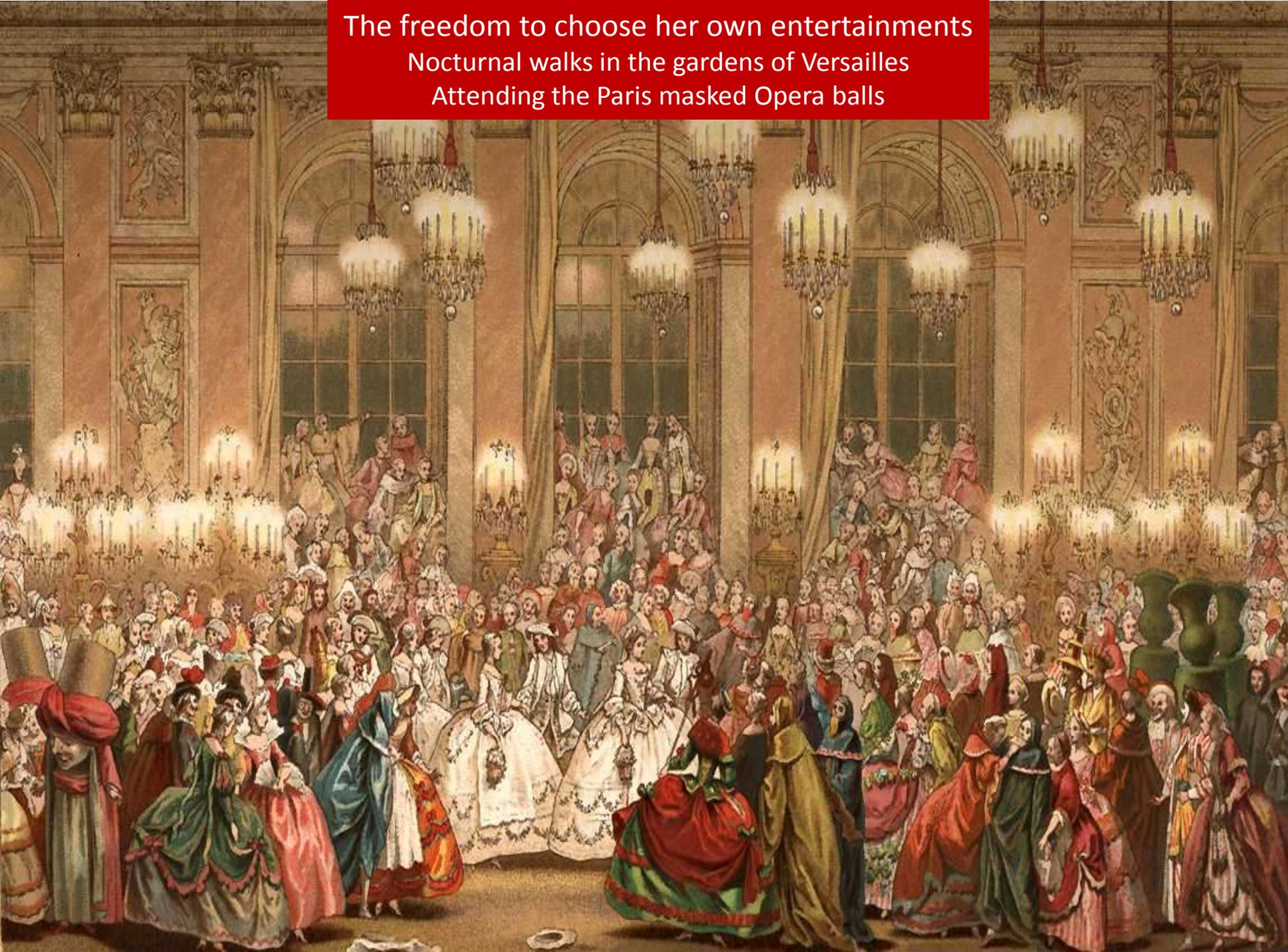


Princess of Lamballe



Countess of Polignac

The freedom to choose her own entertainments
Nocturnal walks in the gardens of Versailles
Attending the Paris masked Opera balls



The importance of fashion
The invention of a style: a form of freedom



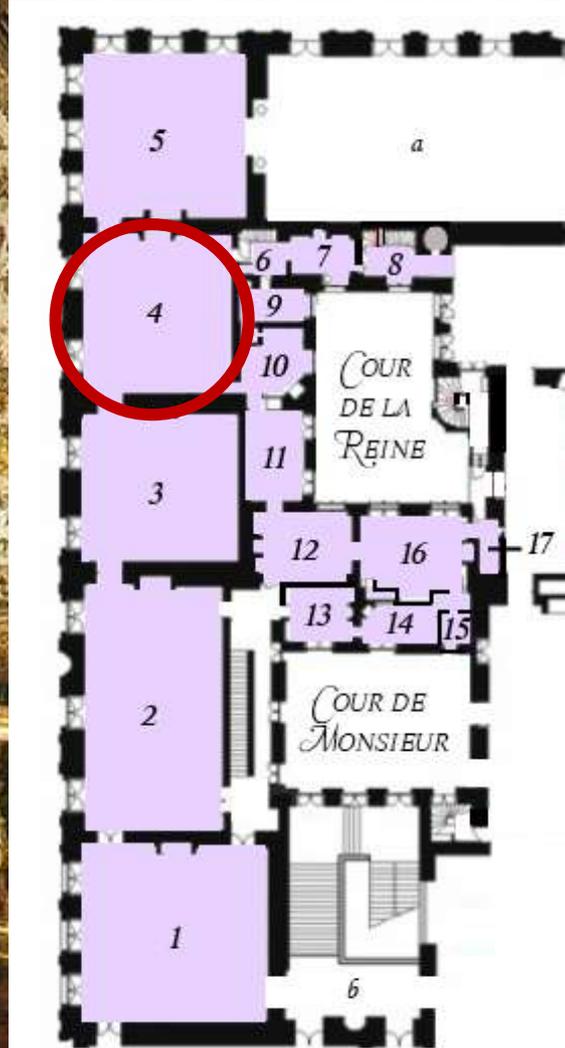
Rose Bertin: the favorite dressmaker



Leonard: the favorite hairdresser



The need to create a private space



The "King's passage" (1775)



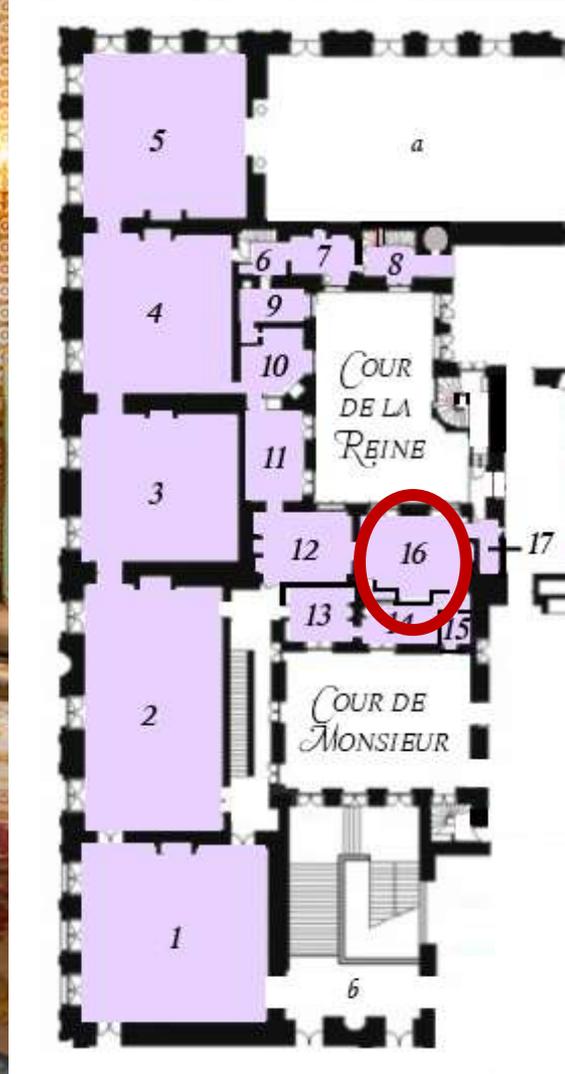
Marie-Antoinette's private apartments at Versailles: secret passages & inner rooms hidden from the public

A clandestine geography to protect the Queen's intimacy









The *Petit Trianon*: “By Order of the Queen!”
Marie-Antoinette’s property





Harmony & elegance – Nothing ostentatious



The Queen's hamlet



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)

Marie-Antoinette and her children



É M I L E, OU DE L'ÉDUCATION.

Par J. J. ROUSSEAU,
Citoyen de Genève.

Sapientibus agrotamus malis : ipsaque nos in reſtita
natura genitos, ſi emendari velimus, juvat.
Sen : de irâ. L. II. c. 17.

TOME PREMIER.



A LA HAYE,
Chez JEAN NÉAUME, Libraire:

M. DCC. LXII.

Avec Privilège de Noffeign. les Etats de Hollande
& de Weſtſiſe.

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



Maria-Theresa & Joseph II: Marie-Antoinette to influence France's foreign policy and favor Austria's interests

Marie-Antoinette: an hostage and a guarantee



Little taste for political interventions but Maria-Theresa's constant guilt trip

Repeated interventions to secure pensions & positions at Court for her friends



Yolande de Polignac appointed governess of the royal children (1782)

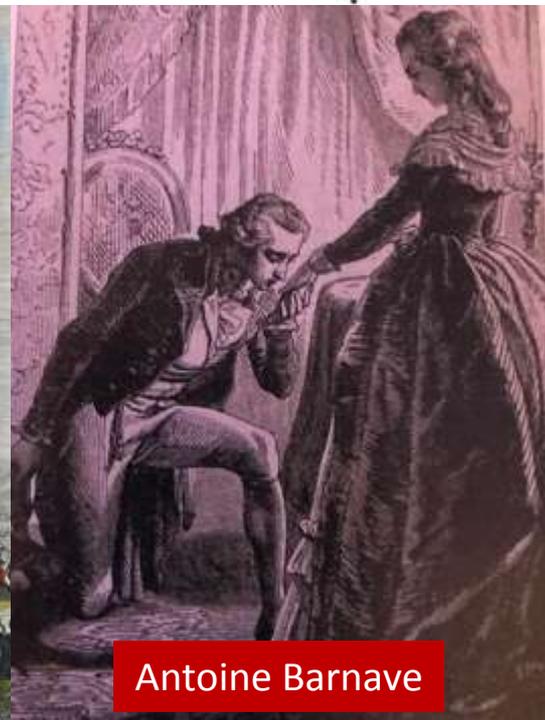
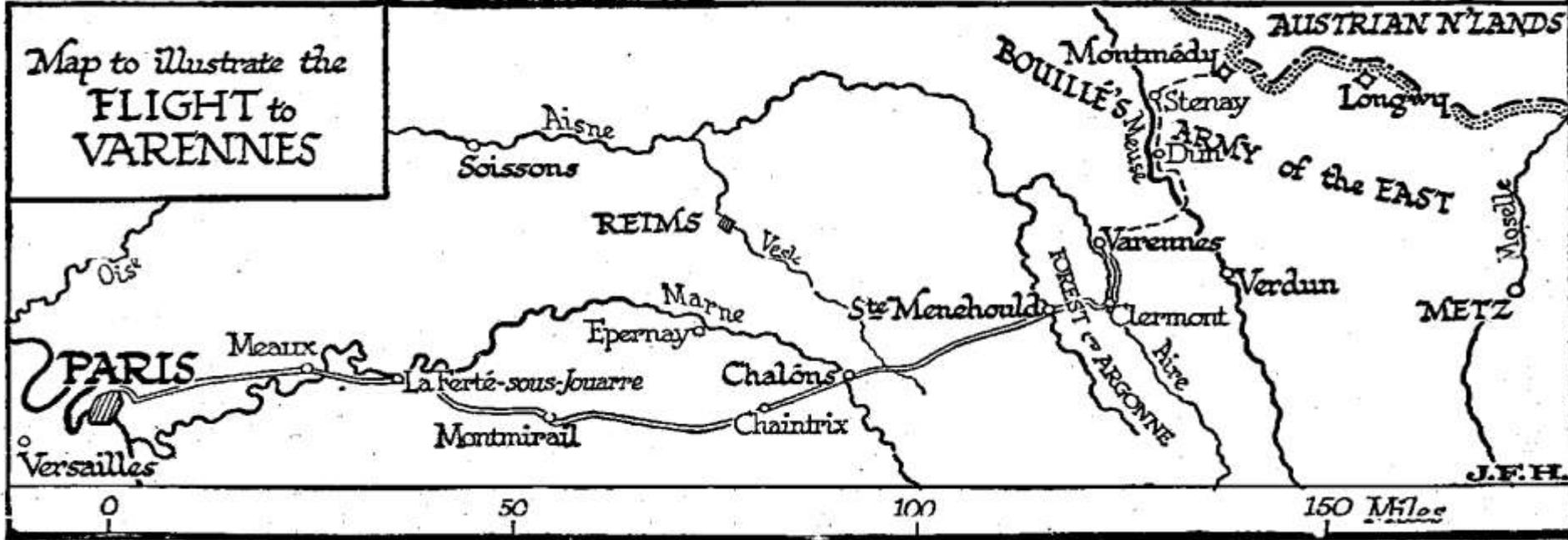
"The King has only one man at his side and that is his wife" (Mirabeau)



"She is great, noble and unfortunate; but I shall save her" (July 1790)

The Queen's double game





Antoine Barnave

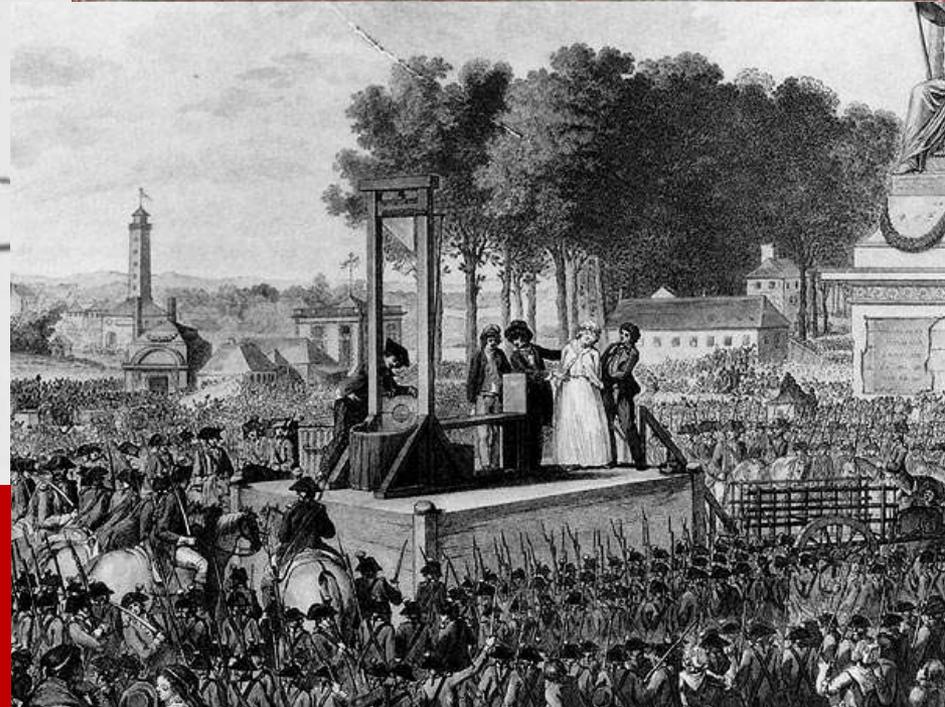
Marie-Antoinette's trial (14-15 October 1793)



16 October 1793: a very public death



ce 16 octobre à 4 h $\frac{1}{2}$ du matin
mon Dieu! ayez pitié de moi!
mes yeux n'ont plus de larmes
pour pleurer pour vous mes pauvres
enfants; adieu, adieu!
Marie Antoinette



“With her hands tied behind her back she sits as challengingly upright on the wooden seat of the tumbril as if she were seated upon a throne”
(Stefan Zweig)