

- Okay, thank you very much Judi, and thank you for all your help. Right, now obviously, both William, Patrick, and I are all teaching from completely different angles, this particularly important century in our series on the Jews of France. And let me say that when I'm talking about Louis XIV, because obviously, most of the time I teach Jewish history. The Jews do not figure in this at all, except, in 1648, the French take Alsace, which means they now have, the French, a Jewish population. But there's going to be a lot more about that next week. Because the backdrop, of course, to Louis XIV, and he is the longest reigning monarch in European history. He reigned 72 years and 100 days. His reign was so long that his son and his grandson predeceased him. And he was succeeded by his great grandson who became Louis XV. Now, what is important about this century, of course, it's the century of absolute monarchy. The end of a century of wars, think about it, it was the 30 years war. It was a century of complete insecurity in Europe. It was the rise of Protestantism. It was a century of almost anarchy. And at the end of that century, you now have Louis XIV on the throne of France. And from a young age, with his tutor Mazarin, and more about him later, he is going to be brought up as the absolute monarch. And when Mazarin tutored him, he said this. "As God's representative on earth, the king is entitled to unquestioning obedience." Now, I'm sure that with Patrick and William, you've covered the extraordinary centrality of Versailles. It was Louis XIV who created the court at Versailles. And during his reign, the Estates General, the French Parliament, never met. Versailles, which is about 15 Ks outside of Paris, that incredible, beautiful town that he built. The palace, I'm sure most of you have been there. You've marvelled at the art, the architecture, the lavishness. And of course, I'm sure Patrick waxed eloquent on the banquets. There was opera, there was ballet, there was music, and there was incredible hedonism. And it was one of the ways that Louis controlled his nobles. Because all the nobles had to be at court, and they were there to serve the king. He believed in the centrality of the French monarchy, he was the state, he was God's divinity on earth. And nobles actually jostled for the privilege of dressing him, of watching him dress, of watching him go to the toilet. And of course, the other side of Versailles, if you think about the great beauty, it must have stank. Because there was very little washing. Those huge headdresses the women wore, quite often nits, birds actually nested in them. So against the beauty, there is something dark and decadent. And something else I want to say, which is really going to take us into next week, when I begin to look at the European Enlightenment.

So we are talking about the century of despotic monarchy in France, and also in the Hapsburg lands. We're talking about the century of absolute power. But, very interesting, think about it. It predates the beginnings of important scientific discoveries. Like, for example,

Isaac Newton. Isaac Newton absolutely overturned the natural order with his law of gravity in motion, which actually takes away the notion of spiritual force behind the world. And not only that, you have characters like John Locke in England, after the incredible political turmoil of the Parliamentary Revolution. What happens in England, is that, and all the upswings in the 15th and 16th century, Locke comes up with a new policy, with a new theory of life. You've got to remember that it's the great movements in European history, the renaissance, the rebirth of the learning of Greece and Rome. The previous invention of the printing press. The age of discovery, and gradually, the development of mercantilism, now in order to create the modern state, you need education. So I'm sure you all see how it's going to clash. You have on the throne of France, and on the throne of the Hapsburg empires, men who believe they rule by divine right. But you've also got the seed bed of the Enlightenment, which is, remember, it's the age of reason. It's the age of deism. The Enlightenment is going to want to break the power of the church. It wants to break the power of the monarchy. And this is all going to come to a head not long after the death of Louis's great grandson, Louis XV. And of course, it's going to lead to the French Revolution. Which of course, already you've had the American Revolution, so we're living in an incredibly exciting time. And something else I want to say, before I get onto the bones of today's presentation where I'm going to concentrate on women, is that I was doing a bit of research on historical faction and fiction. On the character of Richelieu alone, who was the main minister to Louis' father, Louis XIII, there are 94 different depictions of him in film. If you think of Louis XIV, Louis the XIII, and XIV, and his court. Think about Alexandre Dumas. Think about The Man in the Iron Mask, think about The Three Musketeers. Think about that dreadful miniseries, Versailles. And ironically, and I said this to you, when I looked at Diane de Poitiers. What I find absolutely fascinating, is that ironically, the majority of these individuals, their lives, if taken seriously and studied properly, are actually more interesting than the lives as they are depicted in these soaps.

Now, of course, there's another important philosopher, who dies in 1650, 12 years after Louis XIV is born, and that's Descartes. Now, Descartes, of course, is going to be very much the forerunner of the Enlightenment. And to give you a notion of what it was like to work in a French court, or what it was like to work in Catholic Europe, he actually, at the advice of religious characters, 'cause he obtained his education in a monastic school. He went to Holland, which at that time was an oasis of liberalism. Think the Jews of Holland, it's a fascinating period. And of course, he then works on mathematics and science and philosophy. It took him beyond the realm of the Inquisition. Galileo, never forget, he's also working, around this period, subject to the Inquisition because the Catholic church is putting the brakes on. So you have absolute monarchy, the power of the Catholic church. And Descartes actually finished up in Sweden with a

very interesting ruler, Queen Christina, more about her later on. So, the point is, he is absolutely going to become king at a century when the seed bed of new revolutionary ideas are there. And he tries to hold it back by seduction. By seducing the nobility, his old enemy, by seducing the lower nobility, and actually making France into the most powerful state in Europe. And at this incredibly lavish court. Of course, women are going to play an important part.

Now, this is very much the theme of today's presentation and Thursday. The role of women. And when I discussed Diane de Poitiers, I already mentioned the fact that it was very, very difficult for women, unless, against Salic law, they inherited a throne. It was very difficult for women to rule in their own right. And if you think of the rights of women, well, when you talk about anybody's rights at this particular stage in history, of course, only the king, and to an extent, in France, the nobility had rights. And if they were displeased, they could imprison without trial in something known as lettres de cachet, where you could actually imprison someone, without a trial, for as long as you wanted. And of course, the role of women, women had absolutely no rights, even queens and princesses. And, of course, mistresses, they had to rule through the goodwill of men. And that meant, in many ways, particularly at the court of Louis XIV, they had to use the art of seduction. They had to be beautiful, they had to be charming, and everything was done through the men. And ironically, it's going to be the Enlightenment that is really going to liberate a very small number of women. And of course, as a response to this, there are women artists appearing in France, but, mainly the role of women is one that is very, very difficult. So let's turn to the first female I want to deal with, and that is Queen Anne of Austria. She is the mother of Louis XIV. She is a very important figure in history, and herself is often the subject of many of these programmes, as I'm going to call them. She was a Spanish princess. Don't forget that the Hapsburgs ruled both Spain and the low countries, and also were in charge of much of the wealth of the new world. She was going to be the very neglected queen of Louis XIII. She's also the inspiration of the subplot of Dumas' Three Musketeers. She was born in September 1601. She was the eldest daughter of Philip III of Spain. To put you into English history, he is the son of Philip II. Who of course launched the armada against the heretical Elizabeth. This is also the century of the great split between Catholicism and Protestantism. And as I discussed when I talked about Diane de Poitiers, there were a strong Huguenot Protestant minority in France. Age 14, by proxy, she's married to Louis XIII. Now that same day, Louis's sister Elizabeth married Anne's brother Philip. This is the cementing of alliances between the powerful Hapsburgs and the French monarchy. So brother and sister marry brother and sister. To really cement, these people are pawns in the game. It's to cement the alliances between the most important Catholic powers in the world. And of course, the marriage was formalised with huge pomp at Bordeaux Cathedral. And she was 14 years old. And that night, Louis XIII's mother, the formidable Marie

de' Medici.

Now let me just stop there and put her into history for you. Marie de' Medici was the second wife of Henry of Navarre. Those of you who were with me when I talked about Diane de Poitiers, you will remember that Henry II and Catherine de' Medici produced sons, finally, all of whom died very young. The throne then passed to Henry of Navarre, who was a Protestant, and married to their daughter Margot, La Reine Margot, a very good French film. Now, he divorced Margot, and he married Marie de' Medici. Henry of Navarre, within the realms of absolutism, he was one of the best kings France ever had. He was the king who converted to Catholicism. He said Paris was worth a Mass. Many of these kings were not particularly religious, they just went along with it because that was the world they lived in. And it was also Henry said that every peasant should have the right to have a chicken in his pot on a Sunday. So he was a king who cared about the people. He and Marie de' Medici, they produce Louis XIII. And what had happened, Marie de' Medici, she's worried about the opposition from the powerful nobility, so she forced the young couple to consummate their marriage. And of course, these consummations, they were watched by the court. And it so frightened Louis, who was probably a homosexual. It so frightened Louis, that he didn't touch her again for three years. Now, Marie de' Medici, who is an incredibly formidable woman, from the House of Medici, of course, that extraordinary family who had started out as traders and bankers. Who ironically had been very good to the Jews, because they got them, they understood the Jews. And it was actually the Medicis who had established the Port of Livorno, which becomes an open city. So even at this time, as far as the Jews are concerned, there's Holland, there's Livorno, but the bulk of them are living in Poland, and they're not important in this story at all. Although they're going to be interesting in the French Revolution.

Now, the Dowager Queen had acted as his regent since the assassination of her husband, Henry IV was actually assassinated by a mad, fanatical Catholic, who suffered a terrible death, the hanging, the drawing, and the quartering. And when the young king came of age, his very powerful mother refused to relinquish power. So I'm talking about Louis XIII, let's have a look at Louis XIII. Louis XIII. Again, as I've already told you, he was probably a homosexual. He was a very, very weak man. And he finally managed to oust his mother in 1617. And he puts his trust in various favourites. A group of male favourites is going to dominate him throughout his life. And it was Louis who arranged for his favourites to marry Marie de Rohan, who was one of the great heiresses of France. And Marie is placed in his wife's, Anne. Remember, he's married to Anne of Austria. She's placed in Anne's household, becomes her friend. And ironically, it's going to be Marie who wants to facilitate a good relationship between Louis and Anne, why? Because it's terribly important that they have children. But by 1622, Marie de' Medici's back in favour. And she's on the Royal Council, And she insists on taking precedence over Anne. And when his

favourite, Louns, dies, there's no buffer. And Marie coerced her son Louis to recommend her confidante, the very interesting de Richelieu, for the Royal Council. Marie's confidant was this extraordinary individual, Cardinal Richelieu, who gets such a terrible press in all the historical faction and fiction about that period. Alexandre Dumas makes him into the terrible villain. In fact, he was an extraordinarily able churchman. He'd had a Jesuit training. He becomes the Foreign Secretary and Cardinal and Chief Minister to Louis XIII. And he held this position until his death in 1642. Though Marie brings him to court, he does in the end engage in a very bitter of dispute with her. But Richelieu himself, and I think this is important. They're involved in politics, but they are creatures of the late Renaissance. Think about the court of Louis XIV. Well, the court of Louis XIII, Richelieu was a man who was very interested in the arts, and he was very interested in learning.

Now this is one of the paradoxes of this period. They need learning, they need educated people. But they also need to repress the majority. So he was the man who becomes the head of the College of the Sorbonne. He is the man who creates the French Academy, that incredible institution that was responsible for French letters, and of course the people who are part of the French account to be alone known as the Immortals. And it's a very important play about Richelieu by Bulwer-Lytton, the Englishman, and a friend of Disraeli. He said that incredible phrase, "The pen is mightier than the sword." And another little anecdote on Richelieu. he invented the table knife. He was, as I said, he was an extraordinary character. But he dies early in the reign of Louis XIII. So. Richelieu's place in court. And unfortunately, he had a huge distrust of the queen, Anne of Austria. It led to problems. But finally, because the king realises he needs an heir, and Anne desperately needs an heir, why, because otherwise she could be repudiated. Margot, the daughter of Catherine de Medici, was repudiated because she didn't produce children. This is the role of women. And don't forget, 70 years earlier, over the Channel, in England, Henry VII. Henry VII repudiated Catherine, at huge cost to himself, because of course, she was politically very powerful. And when Anne Boleyn could not give him a child, a son, because that's all that mattered, basically he had her executed, cut the rest of it out of your heads, it was about succession. And it was believed that women were the ones responsible for producing the children, for producing the male children. So if a man couldn't have sons, it's got to be the fault of the woman. So Anne finally becomes pregnant, but then she gets involved in a very silly game with her lady in waiting, Marie de Rohan. And she runs the whole of the Great Hall in the Louvre, and she falls and miscarries. So that is very much a tragedy, Louis is absolutely furious, because he has no interest in her physically, but he needs an heir. And it's at this stage, and this is where we come to a very interesting part of the story. Two Englishmen come to court. Charles the Prince of Wales. Charles is the son of James I of England. To slot you into history, and I promise you that when the website is

up, I'm going to put up charts of all the kings and queens of England, France, of Europe, because it's incredible how they're all interrelated. To slot you into English history, of course, Elizabeth had died childless. She was married to England, the Virgin Queen, in inverted commas. So the throne went to her nephew, James I of Scotland, who ironically was the son of Mary Queen of Scots, you're all with me now. And James had been brought up as a Protestant. Who could rule in England, he is a Protestant. His son Charles comes to France to court a wife. And he is smitten by Louis XIII's sister, Henrietta Maria, later the mother of Charles II. So, Buckingham also becomes smitten. He becomes smitten with Anne of Austria. He is the confidant, the great confidant of Charles I, a very important nobleman. Can we go back, please, to that picture of Anne of Austria, if you don't mind, because this is Anne of Austria. So now the Duke of Buckingham, George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, one of the most important nobles in England. He's a courtier, he's a statesman, he's a patron of the arts. Probably the lover of James I, by the way. And he decides that he falls madly in love with Anna of Austria. And he wants a relationship with her. So, he actually confides, he has a great infatuation for Anne of Austria. And I think you can see from that portrait, she was a very beautiful woman. And he confides his infatuation to Lord Holland, the English ambassador, and to Marie's new lovers.

So, Marie de Rohan, I'm talking about now, who of course is her lady in waiting, so you've got a real little den of gossip here. And they encourage a flirtation. And, of course, when Charles formally approaches Louis XIII for Henrietta Maria's hand, Buckingham is involved in the negotiations. And it's going to happen. And the custom dictates that the female relatives of a royal bride, Henrietta Maria, accompany her to the border. So Buckingham, of course, is in the party, so Buckingham is with Anne of Austria as she is in the train with her sister-in-law, taking her to the borders of France, where she will take ship for England. And the Duke actually makes a move on her at Amiens. There's a large party, and this is very carefully documented in many sources. Evidently they went for a walk, a whole group of people. And Buckingham managed to persuade Anne of Austria to go off on her own with him. And evidently, we don't know what happened, but evidently she cried out. Did he attempt to assault her, we will never know. When friends found her, he had gone. But he returned to Amiens because of the terrible weather. He comes into the queen's bedchamber and declares his love. Of course she throws him out, this is an open secret, there are maids everywhere. Buckingham tried every ruse to get back to Paris. And we know that they exchanged notes. In fact, one of the great gossips of the court, we know so much because many of the ladies and lords kept memoirs. And this is what Madame de Motteville wrote. "If a respectable woman could love a man other than her husband, it would've been Buckingham." Look, he was gorgeous to look at. He's later going to be assassinated in Portsmouth by a fanatical Catholic. As I said, he was a patron of the arts, he

must have been a great charmer. And basically, it is a real problem. Now, the king is absolutely furious, even if he doesn't want her himself, she is the queen of France. And in fact, in *The Three Musketeers*, her lover is D'Artagnan, those of you who love these historical romances. And he also dismissed all her ladies in waiting, which of course are the great nobles, who he believed colluded. And Louis from then on really did believe that she plotted against him. And also, what was interesting, all her hatred went against Cardinal Richelieu, not against her husband, because she believed it was Richelieu and not Louis who kept her out of things, but in fact it was Louis. So, she's childless, she's living in fear of repudiation. Particularly after Louis and Richelieu's policy turns against Spain, and against the Hapsburg stronghold in Europe. Remember, she is a Hapsburg, she's very lonely, she's an easy target. And by 1637 there's a crisis. Her husband Louis goes to war against her homeland, and she'd very indiscreetly written to her brother Ferdinand. These letters are detected, they refer to the political situation. They're found by Richelieu's spies, he has an incredible spy network. And the queen actually faced a charge of treason. Louis, though, he decides not to repudiate her, she's a very important princess, remember? But what he gets from her is a full written confession. So, she admits that she's written these letters to her brother. He curtails all her freedoms. He basically takes away all her favourite maids, the ones that are there after the ones that have been dismissed because of the Buckingham controversy. He has a terrible relationship with her. But miraculously, Anne became pregnant. Now. I suppose this is one of the big ifs and buts of history. Because she has many miscarriages, but finally, in September '38, and remember this is after a long, she married him in 1615 and now it's September, 1638, she finally gives birth to a son, the future Louis XIV.

So, shall we go on with the rest of our pictures please, if you don't mind, Judi? There you see Cardinal Mazarin, let's keep it at him for a while. Now, evidently, now this gives you a notion of what Louis XIII was like. And remember, he is the son of the extraordinary Henry of Navarre. His conception evidently occurred on a very stormy night, when the king had visited one of his, I'm not going to call her a mistress, Louise de Lafayette, who was his favourite and who was in a convent. And he was very, very pious, Louis. And as I said, most of the evidence is that he was actually homosexual. So he goes in for incredibly tortuous, very chaste relationships with beautiful women, many of whom are in convents. So evidently she persuaded the king to go and spend the night with the queen. And so Louis XIV was conceived. It saved Anne. And then she had another son, Philippe of Anjou, later Philip I of Anjou, Duke of Anjou. And that meant that she would not be repudiated. She was very careful now, to avoid intrigue. And she developed a cordial relationship with Cardinal Richelieu. She wanted no excuse to lose her sons. Because if she's repudiated, she will have no relationship with her sons. Louis realises his health is failing, and he was forced to consider Anne's position. He still believed that

she was an agent of the Hapsburgs, and that she would not uphold the interests of France. So although he appoints her regent, but his brother Gaston of Orleans, is made Lieutenant General. And neither of them has real power. All real power is going to be referred to the Regency Council, which is dominated by Richelieu.

The king finally dies in May 1643. And evidently, according to court gossip from the various missives that are written, he and Anne displayed a certain amount of affection during his last days. But during his illness, she does prove herself to be a wily politician. Remember, she's had a lot of years having to manage this incredibly difficult court. The fact that she was childless for so long, the fact that she couldn't entrance her husband, the fact that she was accused of treason. Which she actually admitted to, if it's treason to write to your brother. So she did prepare the groundwork for the restraints of the regency to be overturned. And with the king's death, she used the Paris Parliament of the lesser nobility to take full regency powers. And what she wanted more than anything else, was to prepare the regency for her son. Her son was a very, very young boy when his father died. And so, with the power of the nobility, and with the precariousness of her own position, she's going to use every wile at her disposal to manage affairs. No. And she's going to bring in, as her main minister, after the death of Richelieu, Cardinal Mazarin, and he's going to, in many ways be the main ruler of France. Totally loyal to the Queen, and her lover. He had started as a diplomat for Cardinal Richelieu, and he came to Paris, he was an Italian. He'd come to Paris in 1642. And as I said, after Richelieu's death, he takes his place as head of government for Anne of Austria. He's a brilliant strategist. He's going to be responsible for the military victories of France in the 30 Years' War, that terrible war, 1618 to 1648, that tore Europe apart, and he is responsible for paving the way for France to become the major European power. He's also going to help her battle against the uprising of the nobles against the power of the queen. It's interesting. That's one of the reasons Louis the XIV is going, and he learnt, Mazarin becomes his tutor. He understood. He'd learnt from the insecure years of his mother, He understood he had to take total power away from the nobility. And he's going to conduct France through the Fronde and the lesser Fronde, which William has talked to you about. The uprising of the senior nobility against the Regency, and the second Fronde, which meant he had to protect the queen and her sons against the lesser nobles. And to do that, he actually took Louis and Philippe out of France for a while. He's also going to be instrumental in the marriage of Louis XIV with Maria Theresa, to avoid long and costly wars between France and the Hapsburgs. And one of his main principles, and it's a very important principle, he was a very thoughtful man. Again, he is a figure of the Renaissance, he loves art, he loves music, he loves literature. He brings Italian opera into France.

So alongside this despotic rule, you have, if you like, a flowering,



an incredible flowering of culture. And it's fascinating, and I think maybe it's one of the ways we can answer the question, because, what always comes up, particularly when I'm teaching modern history, and we're talking about the evil of Nazism, and many people just can't get their heads around that many of those most monsters, like for example, Heidrich, he adored Schubert. You see, in a way, music is neutral, art is neutral. I'm now quoting my mentor, I suppose, Anita Lasker-Wallfisch, she said, "Remember, music is neutral." Richelieu believed in total despotism. And he was going to keep his queen, who was also his lover, and her sons safe. But that didn't stop him being an incredible patron of the arts, and enriching, if you like, the world that we live in today. Because who does not adore the art of the Louvre, the art of France, the architecture of France, the music. Back in the time of Catherine de Medici, remember, she introduced the ballet. It also kept the lesser and the greater nobility down. Give them the bread and circuses. This is the period. So, he founded the Bibliotheque Mazarine, which was the first public library in France. And it was his brilliant policies that led to Alsace becoming French in 1648. And as I mentioned right at the beginning, France, again, then, had a Jewish population, of Yiddish-speaking German Jews. Also, they did have a small population in Bordeaux, who were ex-conversos, they were called the Portuguese. And they were allowed into Bordeaux, why? Because they were traders, they were merchants, and they were useful in a century of mercantilism. This is when Louis XIV finally marries Maria Theresa. This is a letter that Cardinal Mazarin, and remember, he is tutor to Louis XIV. "Remember what I have the honour to tell you: God established kings to watch over the wellbeing, safety, and peace of their subjects, and not to sacrifice this for personal passions. You must remember your responsibilities to God." So this is the ruler of France, for Louis, telling Louis how he must behave, because by this time, and I'll come back to it at the end of the presentation, Louis has fallen madly in love with one of Cardinal Mazarin's five beautiful nieces. And yet, he doesn't want to marry Maria Theresa, he's to do it for the reasons of state. And her uncle. Let me read that again to you, because this is the core, and it's going to become the core of Louis's policy. "Remember that I have the honour to tell you: God established kings," this is the divine right of kings, God's anointed on earth, to watch the wellbeing, safety, and peace of their subjects. "And not to sacrifice this for personal passions. "You must remember your responsibilities to God." And in fact, when the Spanish did finally approach Anne of Austria, his mistress, believing she would grant them diplomatic favours, they were disappointed. Because she had been Queen of France for 25 years. And although she didn't know much of statecraft, she learnt quickly, she was wily, that's how women had to rule. She had first Richelieu, and then of course she had Mazarin. And in fact, when Richelieu introduced Mazarin to Anne of Austria, he is rumoured to have said "You will like him, madame, he looks like Buckingham." And all the evidence shows that he was the love of Anne's life. Contemporaries, certainly, believed that they had a passionate affair. And years later, when he

temporarily went into exile, they wrote the most impassioned letters to each other. And of course, Anne was very grateful to him, because he kept her children safe. And don't forget, back in 1642, Richelieu had advised Louis to take them from her, and now he was Anne's minister, so Anne does a reconciliation with Richelieu, and on his death, she is his main mistress. And frankly, up until his death in 1661, he and Anne kept France safe for the young Louis XIV, as I said, they sort the Fronde, they sort the Minor Fronde. And, by making a marriage between Louis XIV and Anne and Maria Theresa, who actually, of course, was Anne's niece, it ended 24 years of war.

So, I think we have to say that Anne of Austria had a very, very colourful life, but although she is the sister of a king and the wife of a king and the mother of the king, it was only in the period of the regency that she had power of her own. This was the role of women in that society. But I think we could say that it's Anne and Richelieu, and Mazarin, because Louis XIII was really a very ineffectual king, that kept France on a path that Louis XIV would completely enrich. And keep the monarchy safe, really, right up until the revolution. Or certainly, no, I'm going to go as far as say until the death of Louis XV, you can say that after the death of Louis XV, the great grandson of Louis XIV. Remember what he said (speaks French), of course. His weak grandson, Louis XVI Tragically, a very gentle but very benighted character. He couldn't keep power. So, Anne, let's say she kept France safe, she lived quite a long life, she died of breast cancer five years after her lover, Cardinal Mazarin. So can we now turn to Maria Theresa of Spain? Now, that's Maria Theresa, but can we go back and have a look at, that is Queen Elizabeth of France. She marries Philip IV of Spain.

Let's have a look at Philip IV. There you see, that's Philip IV, the grandson of Philip II. Do you see that Hapsburg jaw? Which is actually going to, in the end, stop his descendants, being able to eat properly, to masticate, look at that Hapsburg jaw. In fact, those of you who go to Vienna. Of course, the art gallery in Vienna, the Kunsthistorisches, is one of the great art galleries of the world. Remember, the Hapsburgs rule Spain, they rule the Low Countries and much of the new world. So you can just imagine the art, and I remember looking at the paintings of the later Hapsburgs. And it was a tour, and one of the students was in fact an oral surgeon, and he walked around all the pictures of the Hapsburgs, and he said, "My goodness. "In this century, "I could have saved them so much pain and horror." But you see the inbreeding that's happening. Look, first cousins, double first cousins marrying. And then let us have a look at Maria Theresa. She is, there you see, Maria Theresa, who comes from that incredibly close union. She is the daughter of Philip IV and Elizabeth of France, they are double first cousins. And Elizabeth of France, who of course was the love of Philip IV, you'll know a lot about him from opera. She died when Maria Theresa was only six years old. She was brought up in the hothouse of Madrid, the Escorial Palace, that

incredibly fanatical Catholic background. She had an intense religious education. And she is a pawn to deal peace between France and Spain. All this intermarriage, and yet they've got to finally stop the war between France and Spain. And she is the pawn in the game. She is going to marry her double first cousin, Louis XIV. So, Louis XIII, remember, is brother to Maria Theresa's mother, and Philip IV is brother to Louis XIV's mother Anne of Austria. You can't get much closer than that, there is papal dispensation, but it doesn't do much for the gene pool. So, there was incredible negotiations. The Spanish needed to ensure that Maria Theresa and her heirs would have no claim to the Spanish throne, as Spain didn't have Salic law, so, Spain will do a deal, but Maria Theresa cannot claim the throne of Spain. If you go back, in history. A period that we covered when I talked about Edward II. Edward II, of course, was married to Isabella of France. And when all her brothers died childless, she claimed the throne of France for her son, Edward III. And it led to the Hundred Years' War. So the Spanish have to make quite sure that Maria Theresa has no claim to the throne. Now, so the cousins marry. She comes to the exotic court of Louis XIV. And evidently he was quite faithful in the first year of his marriage. And he commanded the Grand Maritiel, the queen and himself quote: "Should never be set apart no matter how small the house in which they might be living."

Now, she was very close to Anne of Austria. Unfortunately, remember, she's not just her mother-in-law, she's her very close relative. She's her niece, double niece. So she has no interest in literature and politics. She wasn't much interested in the glories of Versailles. She spent most of her time playing cards, gambling. But she did produce an heir in 1661. When she first saw Versailles, it was only a small hunting lodge. And the building doesn't actually begin until 1664. And it commences, actually, with the pleasures of the enchanted palace, which is a week-long festivity to honour the queen and the queen mother, but I'm going to talk about that more on Thursday because it's actually to showcase Louis' infidelities. Maria Theresa had no choice but to tolerate them. And, in fact, I'm going to talk about that again next week. And she is mentioned in several memoirs of Louis's mistress. She was a very accommodating woman, as long as he left her alone, she'd produce the heir. And they had quite a few children together, but only one survived to adulthood, and he never reigned, as I said, Louis XIV reigned such a long life, that in fact it was her great grandson who became king. But what I do want to talk about is Louis XIV's first love, who predates Maria Theresa, because she is a fascinating character, can we have a look at the Mancini girls, please? Cardinal Mancini, now, okay. This is the Mancini sisters, the nieces of Cardinal Mancini. So. They were born in Rome, the daughters of Baron Lorenzo Mancini. He was an Italian aristocrat. He was also an astrologer and a necromancer. Think back to Catherine de' Medici, astrology, and the science of the stars. Also trying to make gold from base metal. Don't forget, Elizabeth I also had her necromancer. After his death, his wife brought her five daughters to France. Remember,

they are beautiful sisters. They are the nieces of Mazarin. There are five of them. And let's have a look at all of them. That's Marie Mancini, she is the one who is going to capture the heart of Louis XIV. But they don't have an affair. In fact, he does fall madly in love with her. But it's her uncle who refuses to allow the marriage to happen, because he wants the arranged marriage with Maria Theresa. But, in fact, when she's married off, her husband is reported to have said on the wedding night, "I didn't expect a virgin." So, let's have a look at some of the other sisters. That's Hortense Mancini. She was evidently the great beauty of the family. She was married to a French Nobleman, Armand Charles de La Porte. And he was very abusive. She finally fled to London and became one of the mistresses of Charles II. Let's go on. Let's have a look. There you see Charles II. Of course, he was the son of Henrietta Maria, the sister of Louis XIII, so, you see how all incestuous it all is. Let's have a look at some of those other beauties. That's Olympia Mancini. She married Eugene Maurice of Savoy. And she becomes a very important figure at court. She was a close friend of Louis XIV, was she also one of his mistresses? He had many of them. But she became involved in the notorious affair of the poisons, which discredited her. And as a result, can we see a picture of her son? It meant that Eugene of Savoy, her son, lost favour of the court. So he gave his services to the Hapsburgs, where he becomes one of their most important generals. So, look, basically, the Mancini sisters were kind of indicative of the kind of court that Louis XIV was going to have. These five beautiful sisters, all of them married into the French aristocracy. And as I said, they all lived very, very colourful lives. Really, the first year of the reign, Marie was sent away, but the first year of the reign of Louis XIV, they were the dominant figures. They were beautiful, they were rich, they were related to Mazarin, they were incredibly popular. They loved the arts, music, Italian opera, et cetera.

So the court is all set up to become the court I'm going to talk about next week, when I'm going to have fun, on Thursday, because we spend enough time on the dark side. Just to finish with Marie Mancini. She lived a long life, as I said, she was banished by her uncle, to marry Lorenzo Colonna. And I've found the quote, on their wedding night he remarked: "I am surprised to find innocence "amongst the lovers of kings." But after the birth of their third child, she fled to Rome with her sister Hortense, who's also in abusive relationship. And both women penned their own memoir, she told her own story. She never returned to Italy until after her husband's death. And she spent her time travelling Europe, they were extraordinary adventurers She died in Pisa age 75, three months before Louis XIV. Evidently her mother said "This one will always be trouble." And this is what she said about her. "There are convents everywhere. "And if it should please Heaven to inspire such pious impulses in me, it will be as easy to follow them to Paris as in Rome." That's how she replied to her mother. She was one of the most flattered women, all the Mancini girls were, they were painted. You should read up about them, they are very

interesting. So, the tale of the women of Louis XIV, his mother, his wife, and his first mistress. Or not his mistress, they didn't have physical relations. Let's have a look at the questions. As I said, I thought, because soon we will be delving into the French Revolution, Napoleon, and very important issues of Jewish identity, that I thought, let's have a little bit of fun. So, shall we have a look at questions?

## Q & A and Comments

Avril's telling us it's snowing, it's gloomy in Pikesville. Rita's saying she's glad to be alive.

This is from Marion, "Louis XIV took a bath three times in his life, at his birth, his wedding, and after he was dead." Yes, the hygiene at these courts, Marion, were absolutely appalling. But the women would've stunk as well, and if you think of the incredible robes, they weren't washed. Disease was rife, you know, there was no loos at Versailles, you know? There were a few chamber pots. And don't forget, also, the banquets that were, you know, 16 courses, you weren't allowed to relieve yourself, you'd have to go behind the curtains, you couldn't sit at table.

Michelle says, "Just as well he had absolute power as an aphrodisiac." I'm being told how to pronounce things. I think I've already explained to the group, I have a slight dyspraxia, which makes it very difficult for me to pronounce French, don't laugh, or German, don't laugh, it's actually a disability.

Yes, James was James IV of Scotland, James I of England, yes, of course. He was king of Scotland. Elizabeth was childless, he was the son of Mary, Queen of Scots. Who had been previously married, don't forget, to Catherine de' Medici's son.

Q: How were all the wars of royal courts financed?

A: Ah, it's the taxation, mainly from the nobility. They had to pay the king to be at court. The Jews are going to come into it soon. In England, they were going to, once they come back to England, who do you think financed the Duke of Marlborough's wars?

Thank you, Rita.

Q: Who was the lover of Anne of Austria?

A: Well, the Duke of Buckingham, maybe. Certainly Mazarin.

Yes, Joan, lovely to hear from you Joan. "The Jews of Alsace had their own form of Yiddish, which combined French into the usual mix. I have

the dictionary that was written years ago "by Mr. Zidi." That's fantastic, Joan. When we come on to Alsace, I hope you'll contribute. That's going to be the week after next, because, the Alsatian Jews are going to find themselves in France. Google the word's largest search entity, and an answer will be provided, right?

Q: Do you mean Marie Antoinette rather than Maria Theresa?

A: No. Marie Antoinette married Louis XVI, Marie. Okay?

Q: Did the Habsburg jaw affect only men?

A: No. Have a look at the portraits.

Q: Could you please repeat and spell the art...

A: It's Kunsthistorisches. You cannot, historisches, I hope I pronounced it properly. It is the main art gallery of Vienna. You must go, and please go to Freud's house, it's been done up. And go and have a look at the Opera House. Vienna is, for the tour, I mean, I know a lot of you, those of you who are online, who are Jewish. I know a lot of you have trouble with Vienna. But if you can put that aside, it is an extraordinary place. And go and eat sachertorte, not at the Cafe Sacher, but at the Cafe Demel. Or the Cafe Schwarzenberg.

Thank you Karen, thank you for helping me. "The life of Philip and Elizabeth beautifully portrayed in Verdi's opera Don Carlos. The horrors of the inquisition and the auto fe are a chilling reminder of the time." Very important, Barbara, but the opera is not true to reality. But of course, the horror of the Inquisition is. Don't forget, it got Galileo. That is why Descartes fled. They had no choices, look, the church, the absolute power of the king, but the absolute power of the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church kept onto power all the way through. Look, the Inquisition was a device set up with the sanction of the Pope, to weed out heresy. There is no power in Europe as strong as that of the Catholic Church. It's fascinating. And even today, it still has an extraordinary amount of power.

Margaret, "What a bunch of unattractive men those poor women ended up with." Well, Margaret, yes, I suppose. The role of women. And don't forget those beautiful women who became the mistresses of Louis XIV, and Louis XV. They had, if you wanted power, it was very difficult for a woman to take power in her own right, unless you happen to be the daughter of a king, in a country that allowed women to rule. Don't forget that in England, up until the nearly the end of the 19th century, the Women's Property Act. If you were the heiress and you married, your property went to your husband. And terrible stories, how if a man wanted to repudiate a woman, he could have a couple of doctors declare her insane and took over her estate and have her incarcerated, the role of women in society is another area of study

and it's very interesting.

And this is Karen, again talking about the hygiene of the time. Even amongst the nobility it was abominable. It's fascinating, because the Jews had such a bad press as the pariahs. And yet cleanliness was so much part of Judaism, the ritual washing of the hands, the Mikvah, for example.

Q: These poor women who got shunted around, did they all speak French? How did their partners communicate?

A: Now, it's in Louis XIV's reign that the Patois is abolished, there were lots of different dialects in France. It was important to consolidate. And of course, the queens would've been taught the language, of course they would.

Thank you, Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna, thanks Ed.

Q: With this incredibly poor hygiene, how did so many of these people like the Mancini sisters live so long?

A: I would imagine the Italians have a little more hygiene, they got away from the court, remember? And also, they must have had very strong genes.

This is from Esther, "I wish I could remember when I read that the nobles defecated so often in the hall of mirrors that the servants had to keep sweeping the floor." Anyway, no. Yes, it's true, it's true I'm afraid, if Patrick hasn't done it already, he'll be talking about this, the actual court of Versailles. I mean, it was so magnificent, but it must have stunk. Look, and the diseases, and that so few children made it to adulthood. Look, of Louis and Marie and Maria Theresa's children, only one made it to adulthood.

Marian tells us, "Mitterand named his illegitimate daughter Mazarine after Mazarin."

Q: Were there any illegitimate children?"

A: Oh yes, of Louis XIV's, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes. In fact, his favourite mistress, Madam de Montespan, had at least seven illegitimate children, who were tutored by Madam de Maintenon, who became Louis's last important mistress and his wife. But I'll be talking about them on Thursday, oh yes. Louis sired so many illegitimate children. Across the Channel, Charles II sired no legitimate children, but many, many, many illegitimate children, in England, it's Fitzroy.

Rosemary says, "I always call Vienna a chocolate box city." I think that's it, Judi.

- [Judi] Yes, thank you, Trudy.

- Alright, I hope we've had a bit of fun today, if I can call this fun. I think in a gloomy day, I thought I'd try and take you back to intrigue and to Versailles And there is that terrible series Versailles on Netflix, if you want to wallow. Or if you want to wallow, look at any of Alexandre Dumas, but remember, it's not history. And in fact, if there's any film people online, let me really reemphasize, the real stories would make much better tales than the phoney stories. Anyway, God bless everyone, and Judi, thanks as ever. Bye.