

PRESS RELEASE

Community of interests „Madame Royale“ was found

On 30/4/2005 the German community of interests „Interessenkreis Madame Royale“ was found. The union deals with the fate of **Madame Royale** and the **Dark Countess** of Hildburghausen and Eishausen.

Madame Royale was a daughter of **king Louis XVI** and **queen Marie Antoinette of France**. She was born in Versailles on 19th December 1778. During the French Revolution she was imprisoned by the government in the „Temple“ together with her family. Her parents died at the guillotine in 1793 but she came free after three and a half years and went to the Austrian court in 1795.



But if you follow the so-called „**theory of substitution**“ Madame Royale did never arrive in Austria. Her uncle Louis XVIII prepared for Madame Royale – the owner of the Bourbons property – a marriage with her cousin, the Duke of Angoulême. That project was endangered, because Madame Royale was (unwanted) pregnant in the Temple or she had psychological problems and believed she never could take on such an important role.

To realise the lucrative financial and political project Madame Royale was substituted by her half-sister **Ernestine Lambriquet** during the travel from Paris to Vienna. She played the official role of Madame Royale. As the „**Duchess of Angoulême**“ she had a great political importance in France during the restoration beginning in 1814.

The true Madame Royale had to hide herself from the public life. She was supported by the Dutch diplomat Leonardus Cornelius van der Valck. After residences in whole Europe she lived in Hildburghausen and Eishausen (Thuringia) since 1807, unknown from anyone. She died in 1837. Because of her mysterious lifestyle she was called the „**Dark Countess**“.

The **community of interests „Madame Royale“** deals with that topic and tries to find answers for the following questions by scientific, objective research:

1. Was the so-called „Dark Countess“ of Hildburghausen and Eishausen indeed Madame Royale, Marie Therese Charlotte of Bourbon, a daughter of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette of France (theory of substitution)?
2. If yes: Who played the official role of Madame Royale after the substitution? Who was the person the history knows as „Duchess of Angoulême“?
3. If not: Who was the „Dark Countess“?

The community of interests tries to find answers by own research and by the support of activities other researches and institutions. The community benefits the contact between several researchers. The members meet together regularly to evaluate new results of their work.

Members are private researchers, representatives of public institutions and organizations and several interested people.

The community tries to find further engaged members who deals with the topic and want to be a part of the project. The membership is free of charge.

More information about the community and the topic „Madame Royale“ you can find on the internet at the **„German website about the secret of Madame Royale“**. The website is available under www.Madame-Royale.de and www.Dunkelgräfin.de.



The screenshot shows the website 'Madame-Royale.de' with a navigation menu on the left and a 'Literature database' section on the right. The navigation menu includes: NEWS (What's new, Newsletter), MADAME ROYALE (The secret, Chronicle, Picture database, Literature database, Articles), NETWORK (Forum, Guestbook, Links), and COMMUNITY OF INTERESTS (About the community, Internal zone, Contact). The 'Literature database' section displays details for a book by Friedrich Ernst Prinz von Sachsen-Altenburg (1991): 'Das Rätsel der Madame Royale. Marie Thérèse Charlotte von Frankreich. Ein zweihundertjähriges Geheimnis im Licht neuerer Forschungen.' It includes the publisher 'Verlag Frankschwelle - Hildburghausen', a German translation note, and ISBN 3-86180-007-1. The 'Content' section states this is the newest German language book on the topic, based on a 1954 French publication. The 'Text of the publishing house' section provides a historical overview of the Duchess of Angoulême's escape from the Bastille.

On the „German website about the secret of Madame Royale“ you find more information about the topic: news, literature database, picture database, articles and comments, discussion forum...

Contact: info@Madame-Royale.de