



## CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES

Answers to the “Guess the era of the Court ladies’ hairstyles” game

Curly, crimped, piled on top of the head, knotted at the neck, hidden under wigs... Hair has been worn in all sorts of ways down through history!



The portraits above illustrate some of the hairstyles worn in the different eras and are shown here in chronological order. Here is more information on the styles themselves and the subjects represented.

- Anne of Austria, Queen of France (1601-1666)



As in the case of the styles of dress people wore, it was often the queens who set the tone in terms of hairstyles. In the 1640s, the coils that are known today, in France, as “English” curls, fell to the shoulders, with the rest of the hair gathered into a chignon on top of the head and kept in place by a plait wrapped around it.

*Anne of Austria, Queen of France, and her children, by an unknown painter of the 17<sup>th</sup> century*

- Jeanne Antoinette Poisson, Marquise de Pompadour (1721-1764)



Hairstyles had such an interesting journey as they changed with the fashion! While dresses became more voluminous and got wider, hairstyles, on the other hand, became more low-key.

In this portrait, Jeanne Antoinette Poisson, Madame de Pompadour, is wearing the short hairstyle that was popular during the Regency and then under the reign of Louis XV. The hair is cut short and curled with a small iron to form a small chignon. The marquise gave her name to this style, which inspired the rockers of the 1950s, like Elvis and James Dean.

*Jeanne Antoinette Poisson, Marquise de Pompadour (1721-1764) by the artist Jean-Marc Nattier*

- Marie-Thérèse-Louise de Savoie-Carignan, Princess of Lamballe

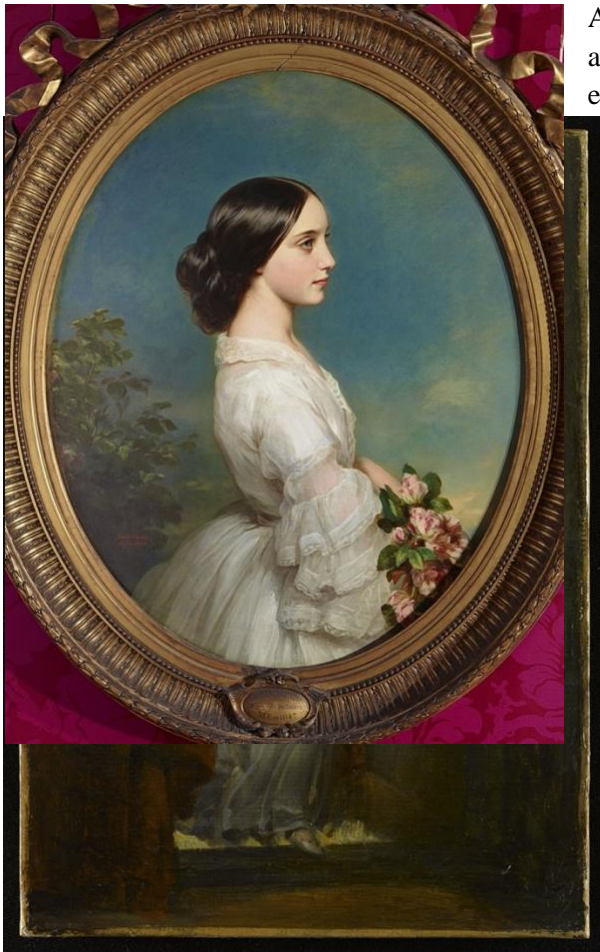


Marie-Antoinette is famous for her daring hairstyles, which grew ever higher and more competitive in terms of accessories and details.

In this painting, her friend, the Princess of Lamballe, wears this type of complex hairstyle. A cushion covered in horsehair is placed on the head to elevate the hairstyle. The whole thing can then be accessorised with curls, loops, waves or even structures inspired by buildings or the sea, as well as garlands of flowers, as can be seen in this portrait.

*Marie-Thérèse-Louise de Savoie-Carignan, Princess of Lamballe, by the artist Joseph Ducreux*

- Jeanne-Marie-Thérèse Cabarrus, Madame Tallien, Princess of Caraman-Chimay (1770-1835)



After the Revolution, fashions changed once again and short, curly hair – inspired by the busts of Roman emperors – were all the rage for both men and women.

This style was started by Mme Tallien, shown here in this portrait, who, during the Reign of Terror, cut off her hair, lock by lock, so that she could pass notes to her husband through the bars of her prison window. Upon her release, she had her short hair tidied up and, inspired by classical antiquity, she started the “Titus” style.

*Jeanne-Marie-Thérèse Cabarrus, Madame Tallien, Princess of Caraman-Chimay by François Gérard*

- Hortense de Beauharnais, Queen of Holland (1783-1837)

Under the empire and pressure from the emperor, long hair came back into fashion. To obtain the required volume, the hair was curled before being gathered into a chignon high on top of the head.



Strands or locks of hair, as illustrated in this portrait of the emperor’s step-daughter, were arranged like a tiara across the forehead. As women had had their hair cut under the Directory, they were sometimes forced to wear wigs, known as “cache-folies”, to hide the damage.

*Hortense de Beauharnais, Queen of Holland, known as Queen Hortense, by François Gérard*

- Carmen Aguado, Duchess of Montmorency (1847-1880)

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the trend was for banded hairstyles, which required a lot of hair. Women therefore called on “posticheurs” (hairpiece-makers) to boost the thickness of their hair. In this portrait, Carmen Aguado is wearing a simple hairstyle, featuring a neat centre parting and descending into a

heavy chignon at the neck. More complicated arrangements were possible, featuring smooth mounds, or waves topped with large, rolled plaits.

*Carmen Aguado, Duchess of Montmorency, by Franz-Xaver Winterhalter*