



From the desk of Pierre Beaudry



CAGLIOSTRO AND THE NECKLACE AFFAIR



by Pierre Beaudry, June 2006.

One of the most sophisticated and perfidious affairs orchestrated in preparation for the storming of the Bastille of July 14, 1789 was launched by British Intelligence under the leadership of Lord Shelburne and Jeremy Bentham in 1785. That political sting operation became known as the *{Necklace Affair}*. This was a multi-faceted dirty-tricks operation run by British Intelligence and the Martinist Masonic Order of Lyon, which jointly deployed their forces to destabilize France and accelerate the coming into being of the terror of the French Revolution.

The operation had no less than three primary objectives: 1) destroy the alliance between France and Austria to the advantage of England, 2) discredit the King of France, Louis XVI and destroy his Austrian born Queen, Marie-Antoinette, and 3) bankrupt the Rohan and the Soubise- Montbazou - Guemenee families, which represented the three branches of one of the oldest French families of the kingdom, a rival family to the Duke of Orleans, Philippe Egalite, who was the up and coming British choice to become a Jacobin King.

FRANCE IN 1785

In 1785, France had been put under a severe shortage of grain caused by speculators, and most of the provinces had been emptied of their reserves. The generalized scarcity of food was being intended to lead the population to famine riots. These were economic starvation operations run by the City of London speculators, who were setting France up for a terrorist coup d'Etat similar to the Gordon Riots of 1780, in London. Paris had been incapable of providing sufficient food for its population, and the King, Louis XVI, had taken measures, a little too late, calling for the royal household to make sacrifices in a vain attempt to refurbish the royal purse for some badly needed general welfare.

One day, the court jeweler, Boehmer, a financial speculator who knew of the Queen's weakness for diamonds, proposed to Marie-Antoinette the acquisition of a 1,600,000 francs diamond necklace to complete her collection of jewelry. The jeweler went to the Queen and dazzled this glittering, tantalizing, and tentacular gem in front of her eyes so that she would become infatuated with its splendid beauty. Marie-Antoinette refused the tempting offer. In a last attempt to fascinate the Queen with the said necklace, Boehmer threw himself at the Queen's feet, pleading with her, and saying that if she did not buy the jewels, he would become bankrupt and would throw himself in the Seine River. The Queen was offended by this theatrical display, and replied sternly to him:

"{Stand up, Monsieur Boehmer. I do not appreciate such scenes; honest people don't need to plead on their knees. I would be sad if you were to kill yourself, but I would not be responsible for this misfortune. Not only I never asked you for a diamond necklace, but also every time you offered me some new jewels, I told you that I would not add four diamonds to what I already have. I refused this necklace that the King has offered to me, and I thanked him for it. Do not mention this to me any more and don't ever bring this up again [...] Now, leave Monsieur.}"
(Louis Figuier, {*Histoire du Merveilleux dans les temps modernes*}, Paris, Hachette, 1860, p.55)

After this humiliating setback, Boehmer realized that any further attempt at bringing up the subject of the necklace again with the Queen, even by way of an indirect courtly insinuation, would result in costing him his privilege and title as court jeweler. He had to find another way.

PROFILING OF CARDINAL DE ROHAN

The Rohan family was a crucial asset in the political balance between Austria and France. The family descended from ancient dukes of Bretagne, and had a claim to a sovereignty title in France. For instance, the Duke of Rohan, Henry I (1579-1638)

of Bretagne, was the leader of the Calvinist party under Louis XIII. If the Protestants had won the war against the Catholics, Henry I would have become King of France. Later, Louis de Rohan (1635-1674), colonel of the guards of Louis XIV, took part in a conspiracy against the king by organizing a landing of Dutch forces in Normandy. He failed and was decapitated. Then, Prince Louis Rene Edouard de Rohan, Cardinal of Strasbourg (1734-1803), had been the Ambassador of France to Vienna, and was a close ally to the Empress, Marie-Therese. In fact, the first reception that Marie-Antoinette was graced with, when she first came to France occurred in Strasbourg, at the princely house of Cardinal de Rohan. The Rohan family also had three Princesses who had married into the Bourbon family throughout the centuries, which gave the Rohan name an even greater prestige, such that no other family of France had a greater uninterrupted princely bloodline, outside of the Bourbon royal family itself. The Cardinal was also a Prince of the Empire. Furthermore, Mme Rohan - Guemenee became the first governess of Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette's children, before the royal children became governed by the British controlled Polignac family, which turned out to be so destructive for the Queen.

Meanwhile, after having been initiated into the mysteries of the Knights of Saint John and Jerusalem by Pinto, the supreme Knight Commander in the Isle of Malta, a so-called Comte de Cagliostro (whose real name was Joseph Balsamo, born of ordinary folks in Palermo Sicily at about 1743), was deployed to Venice, London, and then Vienna, before being sent to Strasbourg, and from there, to Paris.

After several years of travel, a renowned alchemist and mysticator, the 33-degree freemason Grand Master, known as Count de St. Germain, initiated Cagliostro into the esoteric art of charlatanism, in a castle of Holstein in Germany. Count de St. Germain was an imposter who had made a fortune in Germany by selling an elixir of youth to arrest the progress of aging. Another known scoundrel of that period, Voltaire, claimed that Saint.-Germain was, in reality, a paid agent of William Pitt the Younger.

It was during the early 1770's that St. Germain revealed to his pupil the "great secret", which gave Cagliostro the so-called powers of the "divine mysteries of immortality". St. Germain made the claim that he was at least five hundred years old, and often spoke of Henry VIII and Charles V as if these monarchs had spent delighted moments in his company. Cagliostro was told that he should also delight the good society into having them believe any absurdity he chose to utter. St. Germain told Cagliostro:

"{Know that the great secret of our art is to govern men, and that the only means to succeed is to never tell them the truth. Never conduct yourself according to the rules of common sense; brave reason, and courageously produce the most unbelievable absurdities. Remember that the first resource of nature, of politics, of society, is reproduction; that the chemistry of the mortals is to be immortal, to know the future, while they even ignore the present, to be spiritual while everything they are and which surrounds them is material.}" (Louis Figuier, Op. Cit. p. 99)

Cagliostro was being groomed for the most important mission of his life, which was to be executed against a person of high rank in the French aristocracy. From his teacher St. Germain, he learned that the greatest resource the aristocracy could provide a skillful manipulator was its own vanity, and that there was no greater believer than the credulity of a vain aristocrat who desired to believe in his own delusions. The plan was to take full advantage of the weakness of this aristocrat and rob him blind. After all, thought Cagliostro, why not take advantage of the other, especially when he is so completely willing to be duped.

In accordance with this anti-principle of the Peace of Westphalia, Cagliostro made a profile study of Prince Louis Rene Edward Cardinal de Rohan. He discovered that there was nothing more attractive to the vanity of the Cardinal, who could not be King, than to accede to the position of being apart from all other peers of the kingdom by becoming intimately close to the Queen. His family motto was: "***King I cannot be; prince I do not dare; Rohan I am!***" He was even convinced that only a Rohan could succeed in presenting himself before the Queen without being introduced and without offending her. Thus, Cagliostro knew that the greatest desire of the Cardinal de Rohan, the ultimate peak of his vanity, was to be seen in Versailles as one of the close friends of the Queen of France, Marie-Antoinette.

As a former Ambassador to Vienna, and personal friend to Marie Antoinette's mother, the Empress Marie-Therese, Rohan wished nothing more than to be accepted by the Queen who, personally, had nothing but resentment for him. In his capacity of Royal Chaplain, the Cardinal presided over the royal services, at Versailles, but the Queen was determined to not even give him even a passing look.

THE STING

During the month of May 1785, after the royal jewelers, Bohmer and Bassanges, offered to sell the King their best diamond necklace, evaluated at the handsome sum of 1,600,000 francs, the British assets around the French court wasted no time in circulating the rumor that Marie-Antoinette was highly interested in purchasing the necklace.

Prince Cardinal Louis de Rohan got wind of the story, but let the thought slip through the sieve of his mind until a certain Madame La Motte approached him, during the summer of 1785. Madame La Motte was a phony Countess in the employ of Cagliostro. She claimed to be of the Valois bloodline, which gave her access to the servant's door of the Queen's household in Versailles. She reminded Rohan about the Queen wanting the necklace, and how she was very unhappy because she did not dare upset the King by asking him to pay for such a wonderful object.

Madame La Motte then asked Rohan if he knew of anyone of high rank, who would be discrete and could be trusted enough to do such a great service for the Queen as to front the money for her. "You see," said Madame La Motte, "the Queen

said she was willing to buy it with her own money, but that she could not come up with such a sum all at once, and that she only wished she could count on the discretion of a great friend, who would be kind enough to oblige her until she could pay the money back: a friend that could be trusted enough to receive the necklace on her behalf." (Louis Figuier, Op. Cit., p.57)

The vanity of Cardinal de Rohan had been touched. And since there existed no measure more convincing than to have someone confirm his self-delusion, Rohan immediately replied. " Since the King would not put up the money, I will help the Queen. I shall become the secret buyer of the said necklace."

"The Queen," Madame La Motte told Rohan, "was willing to pay for it with her own money, but in several installments."

Several days after this first meeting with the Cardinal, Madame La Motte came to the Prince again, but this time with a letter from the Queen, which had been carefully crafted by a friend of her husband's, the Sieur Retaux de la Villette, an expert counterfeiter in handwritings, who was also in the employ of Cagliostro. Only too willing to serve her Majesty blindly, Rohan recognized immediately the handwriting of Marie-Antoinette, which stated that she had accepted the good offices of the Cardinal and that she authorized him to buy the necklace secretly in her name.

Prince Rohan, wishing nothing more than to be in the Queen's favor, saw no problem in buying the necklace, however, just to be on the safe side, he called upon Cagliostro for his advice. Cagliostro had already entered into Rohan's favor, a few weeks earlier, by saving the Cardinal's brother from certain death, but made sure that he was not perceived as being a party to the antics of Madame La Motte. If there was a miracle doctor anywhere in Paris, who Rohan could trust with his own life, it was Cagliostro.

Cagliostro immediately refused the proposition of the Cardinal in order to establish a judicial distance from the affair for the future, and forced Rohan into a begging position. Cagliostro responded categorically: "If the Cardinal is sick, let him come and I shall cure him; if he is well, he has no need of me, nor me of him." Although the reply was somewhat brutal, Rohan was not offended by his negative response; to the contrary, he found himself in such a pressing situation that he instantly sent Madame La Motte to plead with Cagliostro. After several pleading sessions, Cagliostro finally gave in and gave Cardinal de Rohan the following oracle.

"{The negotiation undertaken by the prince is deserving of him; it will be totally successful; it will produce the highest favors from the Queen, and will cause the kingdom of France to prosper without compare, under the influence, the talents, and the preponderance of Louis de Rohan.}" (Louis Figuier, Op. Cit., p.60)

The Cardinal could not hope for a better answer from Cagliostro. He was now convinced that there could not be a more beautiful opportunity to reconcile him with the Queen, and to restore her good grace in his favor. On January 30th 1786, the

Cardinal received the necklace and signed the promissory note that Boehmer asked of him.

ON THE DAY OF PURIFICATION

Madame La Motte told the Cardinal that the intention of the Queen was to wear those jewels at the celebration of mass on the day of Purification, but that she would have someone come to her place, in Versailles, for the diamonds. The Cardinal believed her and gave her the necklace for safekeeping. A complicated ceremonial was devised so that the Cardinal could witness the necklace changing hands between Madame La Motte and the chamber valet in the service of the Queen at the Trianon, without himself being seen. The Cardinal witnessed the scene and was in seventh heaven.

On the next day, the Day of Purification, the Cardinal entered the chapel to celebrate mass and was devastated to see that the Queen had come to the chapel without the magnificent set of jewelry. She wore no necklace at all. And to make matters worse, the Queen seemed to ignore the Cardinal more than ever, as she did not even look at him during communion. He was so confused that, during that after-noon, the Cardinal went dashing to the house of Madame La Motte, demanding an explanation of what went wrong. Madame La Motte calmly reassured the Cardinal immediately by saying:

"Monsignor, don't you have in you possession the letter of Marie-Antoinette, which says that she consents in accepting your mediation, and who assures you of her gratefulness? What can you fear with this piece of evidence? The Queen can only change her attitude towards you in a gradual fashion, so as to not awaken suspicion at the court. She has too much finesse to precipitate such a change of attitude towards you. This would create a lot of commotion, and initiate a thousand and one suppositions, one more unfortunate than the other." (Louis Figuier, *Op. Cit.*, p. 62)

The Cardinal was reassured and calmed down, but things had suddenly become more complicated for Madame La Motte. By that time, the necklace was already in London, being sold in pieces by her husband, Comte de La Motte, who had been accompanied out of France by the false chamber valet of the Queen, Retaux de la Villette. However, there came a moment when the Cardinal wished to have a meeting with the Queen because he considered she took too long to change her attitude towards him. To confirm his suspicions, not only the Queen never appeared in public wearing the diamonds, but also her coldness toward him had not changed at all. Meanwhile, Madame La Motte kept reassuring the Cardinal, but could not keep up the scam much longer without the creation of new letters from Marie-Antoinette.

After Villette returned from London, Madame La Motte used his expertise again, and produced a new letter from the Queen, whose handwriting was again recognized by the Cardinal, who was moved to tears by the affection the Queen expressed toward him. However, there was no mention of the first installment of 300,000 francs that the Queen

was to pay for the first payment of the necklace. Madame La Motte explained to the Cardinal that, "The Queen must be embarrassed with this money. This is why she doesn't write about it, She does not want to torment you. However, Monsignor, you would be infinitely agreeable to her if you were to give an advance of those 300,000 francs yourself." (Louis Figuier, Op. Cit. p. 63) But, the Cardinal did not have that sum of money and had already advanced 100,000 francs on Cagliostro's alchemy experiments.

Cagliostro's intention was to slowly break all of the resistance of Rohan and force him to pay for the entire cost of the necklace, piece by piece. The objective, here, was to get both the money from the Cardinal and the money from the proceeds of the necklace. So, Cagliostro needed to come up with some new expediency. He had trained Madame La Motte in balancing fear of displeasing the Queen against the need for Rohan to find the money and keep silent. The potential shame of dragging the name of the Queen into a sordid affair of money was for Rohan the hook that kept his purse open to Cagliostro and his scoundrels. This could only work, however, if the Cardinal were to be exalted to the point that he would be ready to make any sacrifice.

THE MASTER DECEPTION

There was, in Paris, a young woman by the name of Leguay, who was the spitting image of Marie-Antoinette. Cagliostro recruited her and trained her in courtly manners. She was given the name of Baroness d'Oliva and was being prepared to play the role of the Queen. Madame La Motte went to see the Cardinal with a note from the Queen, fabricated in the usual manner, which invited Rohan to a secret rendez-vous in the woods of Versailles at night. "You will be able to see the Queen," said Madame La Motte to the Cardinal, "and she will be able to explain to you why she was not able to write certain things in her notes to you." (Louis Figuier, Op. Cit., p. 65) The Cardinal was ecstatic. He was ready to believe anything as demonstrated by the following scene, which was reported by the biographer of Cagliostro.

"{In the evening of the day and hour of the meeting, M. de Rohan was wearing a blue frock-coat and was at the rendez-vous place indicated. He had been accompanied by the Baron de Planta, a gentleman of his household who was waiting at a distance for the return of Monsignor. [...] Under the pale moonlight, Monsignor recognized the profile of the Queen, in a costume, which was a perfect imitation of a very elegant negligée that Marie-Antoinette wore at the Trianon. M. de Rohan began by mumbling his own justification. He began by justifying his behavior and by explaining the exaltation of his feelings, when suddenly, the false Queen interrupted him and said to him in a low voice, but with precipitation.

'I only have a moment to give you; I am pleased with you; I will soon elevate you to the highest of favors.'

"Then there was the noise of footsteps in the thicket. The so-called Queen seemed frightened. She gave a rose to M. de Rohan, and said to him softly:

'Here comes the Countess of Artois who is looking for me, we must part.'

"M. de Rohan left the thicket immediately in the opposite direction. He joined the Baron of Planta and Mme de La Motte and explained to them the unfortunate situation with total chagrin. He suspected nothing." (Jules de Saint Félix, {*Aventures de Cagliostro*}, 1855, p. 131-133.)

Although, the Cardinal was tormented, he was also totally infatuated by the declaration of his "royal lover." To further aggravate his new state of drunkenness, Madame La Motte dropped by the house of the Cardinal the next morning and handed him a new letter in which Marie-Antoinette expressed her total regrets about the unfortunate interruption of the night before. In his infatuated enthusiasm, the Cardinal had forgotten all about the 300,000 francs and made immediate arrangements to borrow the sum.

THE UNFOLDING OF THE SCAM

A few days later, the jeweler Boehmer was by chance called by Marie-Antoinette to bring her back a repaired ornament. Boehmer gave the Queen a note in which he said: "I congratulate Your Majesty for possessing the most beautiful diamonds known in Europe, and I beg of her not to forget me." After Boehmer had left, the Queen read the note and said to her Dame de Chambre, Madame Campan: "He is crazy." The Queen then sent Madame Campan to the jeweler for an explanation. After Boehmer told her the entire story of his selling the diamond necklace to Cardinal de Rohan, Madame Campan realized that the whole thing had been a scam, and told the jeweler: "{*Monsieur Boehmer, you have been robbed of you diamonds, The Queen knows nothing of this.*}"

A few days later, the King summoned Cardinal de Rohan to his cabinet and subjected him to a systematic interrogation. The King was furious. Cagliostro's biographer related the events in the following manner:

"{Louis XVI suddenly addressed M. de Rohan. It was a veritable interrogation session. The Prince overwhelmed, responded by mumbling. Marie-Antoinette, pale with anger, kept silent, without even looking at the Cardinal. However, the latter, attempting to reach for an extreme means of justification, extracted from his pocket a letter, which he said, was from the Queen and addressed to Madame de La Motte. Marie-Antoinette made a nervous move of indignation. Her eyes were sparkling. The King took the letter, read it rapidly, and giving it back to the Cardinal, he said: 'Sir, this is neither the handwriting of the Queen, neither her signature. How can a prince of the House of Rohan, how can the grand almoner of the crown, believe that the Queen would sign Marie-Antoinette de France? Nobody ignores that queens sign only their Christian name.

"The Cardinal remained silent.

"But, explain to me what this whole intrigue is about," said the King with extreme impatience.

"The cardinal, was leaning against the table; he was getting pale, and could only respond these words:

"Sire, I am too much troubled to be able to explain myself before Your Majesty."

"The King continued with more benevolence:

"Get a hold of yourself, Monsieur le Cardinal. Go to the next room, where you will find what you need to write on. I do not wish to find you guilty."

M. de Rohan went to the other room.}" (Louis Figuier, Op. Cit., p. 68)

The next day, the Cardinal was taken to the Bastille. On the same day, Madame La Motte was arrested and also brought to the Bastille. Retaux de la Villette was also caught, but the Comte de La Motte escaped to England. As for Cagliostro, he was arrested in his alchemy laboratory of rue Saint-Claude, in Paris, and was also thrown into the Bastille. All of the accused were later brought before a commission of the parliament.

THE TRIAL

At the request of King Louis XVI, the Parliament of Paris opened an investigation on what was still an obscure plot contrived by unscrupulous swindlers, and apparently aimed at destroying the character of the Queen of France. The Conde, the Rohan, the Guemenee, the Soubise families, were all present. They were all dressed in black, and were accompanied by no less than forty-nine members of the high clergy, all dressed in red, among whom Cardinal de Rohan, Grand Almoner of the kingdom, stood with dignity and perfect countenance.

The court case was a travesty of justice in which Madame de La Motte got the blunt end of Justice and Cagliostro, who had been the mastermind of the whole operation, was acquitted.

The decision of the parliament was read as follows:

*"{La Motte, contumacious, is condemned to the gallows at perpetuity.
"Madame La Motte will be wiped. She will be marked on the two shoulders with the letter V and incarcerated in the hospital [Salpetriere] at perpetuity.
"Retaux de Villette is banished forever from the kingdom;
"Demoiselle Oliva is acquitted by the court;
"Sir Cagliostro is discharged of accusation;*

"Cardinal de Rohan is discharged of all accusation." (Louis Figuier, Op. Cit., p. 111.)

The plan to destroy Marie-Antoinette had failed, but the negative publicity against her dominated public opinion for several years. Though he had been acquitted, Cagliostro was told to leave Paris within twenty-four hours. He went to assist the Martinists of Lyon by spending three weeks of masonic "rituals" in Passy, where Benjamin Franklin lived. On June 20, 1786, Cagliostro left Boulogne-Sur-Mer for London, where he wrote his *{Letter to the French People}*, a political pamphlet against the Monarchy, against the Ministers and against the Parliament of France. Cagliostro had all of a sudden become very political and seemed to have espoused a revolutionary cause.

FROM VANITY TO ASYMMETRICAL WARFARE

Cagliostro's political diatribe against the French Monarchy represented, in reality, an admission of his terrorist proclivity. His pamphlet included a self-fulfilling prophecy, which announced, three years before the fact, that the Paris Bastille Prison was being planned for destruction. At the end of June 1786, Cagliostro wrote from London: "***The Bastille will be destroyed from top to bottom, and the land on which it was erected will be converted into a promenade.***" (Louis Figuier, Op. Cit., p.119) With this statement, Cagliostro revealed himself completely before the court of justice of history. He was actually confirming that he was, indeed, an agent of British Intelligence, which can also be confirmed in the following manner.

According to British historian, Charles Mackay, Cagliostro began a publicity campaign in earnest against the Queen of France as soon as he got to London. Cagliostro's Paris failure was obviously not well received by his British masters. The first phase of the Bastille project had not gone according to plans and Cagliostro's deployment had to be changed. Mackay reported: "On his arrival in London, he [Cagliostro] made the acquaintance of the notorious Lord George Gordon, who espoused his cause warmly, and inserted a letter in the public papers, animadverting upon the conduct of the Queen of France in the affair of the necklace, and asserting that she was really the guilty party. For this letter, Lord George was exposed to a prosecution at the instance of the French ambassador, found guilty of libel, and sentenced to fine and a long imprisonment." (Charles Mackay, *{Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds}* original edition, London, Richard Bentley, 1841, Wells, Vermont, L.C. Page & Company, 1969, p. 254.)

As a result of this new scandal, Cagliostro was forced to retire from his career as a charlatan, and was sent back to France as a terrorist and mob controller in preparation for the revolution. According to Father Gregoire and Joseph d'Orleans, Cagliostro founded a Jacobin type of Masonic Lodge in Paris under the initials L.P.D., which stood for *{Lilia Pedibus Destrue}*, (Destroy the lilies under your feet). The lilies were the symbolic flowers of the Bourbon dynasty.

In 1788, an associate of Cagliostro from Lyon, Knight of Malta freemason Cazotte, also made a prophecy during a dinner at the table of the Duke of Nivernais. He predicted that no less than four members of the Academy of Sciences sitting at the dinner table would be dead within six years. Cazotte had identified the allies of Benjamin Franklin, Marquis de Condorcet and Felix Vicq-d'Azyr, who were both suicided in prison. He also announced that Dr. Nicolai Roucher and Jean Sylvain Bailly would die under the guillotine, and they did.

When one looks for [*Qui Bono*] and discovers that both Cagliostro and Cazotte were leading masons associated with the Martinist freemasons of Lyon, and were associated with British Intelligence operatives, like Lord George Gordon, it becomes easy to put the pieces together and establish that such self-fulfilling prophecies as the Fall of the Bastille and the prediction of political assassinations of key French leaders were nothing but British-Freemasonic operations run out of London.

That masonic collaboration between Gordon and Cagliostro would have been classified as a mere coincidence had Lord George Gordon not been the British Intelligence operative who launched the infamous London riots of June 1780, which came to be known as the "Gordon Riots."

On June 7th of that year, Gordon led a mob to storm the strongest prison in England, the Newgate London Prison, which was completely burnt and demolished within a few hours. The same scenario was to be repeated on July 14, 1789 at the Paris Bastille prison, prepared by a similar British Intelligence operation with the collaboration of the Duke of Orleans, Philippe Egalite, the Martinists of Lyon led by Cagliostro and Joseph de Maistre, and with the help of two Swiss-British agents, French Finance Minister Jacques Necker and Military Commander Baron Bensenval. Both terrorist projects had, indeed, been prepared by Lord Shelburne and Jeremy Bentham to serve as models for modern Synarchist-run {*purgative violence*}, which are today known as terrorist asymmetrical warfare.

The irony of Gordon's earlier terrorist trial lies in the fact that his lawyer got him a quick acquittal after stating to the court that he had been guilty "of nothing more than hare-brained and criminal folly in heading an unlawful assembly." However, according to historian Richard Morris, this "criminal folly" did result in the loss of quite a few lives. "Of the 135 arrested and tried for taking part in the [Gordon] riots, 59 were sentenced to death and 21 duly executed. Among the assorted ruffians who paid the extreme penalty was the public executioner, Edward Dennis, the wretched hangman of infamous memory in Barnaby Rudge, who participated in the burning." (Richard B. Morris, {*The Peacemakers*}, Harper & Row, Publishers, New York, 1965, p. 83.) The Executioner Dennis, however, may have played a role model for Joseph de Maistre's executioner during the French revolution.

After the fall of the Bastille, Cagliostro made his fatal mistake. His terrorist deployment in France had succeeded and instead of going back to safety in England, he went to Italy. He dared to propagate his freemasonic doctrine in the anti-masonic capital

of the world. After the founding of his Egyptian Lodge, in Rome, Cagliostro was arrested by the pontifical police on September 27, 1789, and was tried for his crimes perpetrated under free-masonic cover. His trial lasted eighteen months, at the end of which, he was condemned to death under the January 14, 1739 Anti-Masonic Bulle of Pope Clement VII. But a more lenient Pope Benoit XIV commuted his sentence to life imprisonment. Cagliostro died a few years later in his jail cell.

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