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Marie-Antoinette

The Transformation of Image

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The "Austrian": traitor and martyr, beloved princess and reviled queen.

From idealized princess to "villainous" queen, foreign traitor to martyr, teenage heroine to bigoted mother, woman of culture to fashion icon, the image of Queen Marie-Antoinette, by turns beloved and reviled, has never stopped evolving over the centuries. This work explores the many ways in whish she has been seen, showing how passions have often run high where our relationship with the queen is concerned: giving rise to cults and tributes or, on the contrary, violent attacks. Today, Queen Marie-Antoinette is experiencing an astonishing revival; put simply, she embodies a young woman of her time -- and ours.