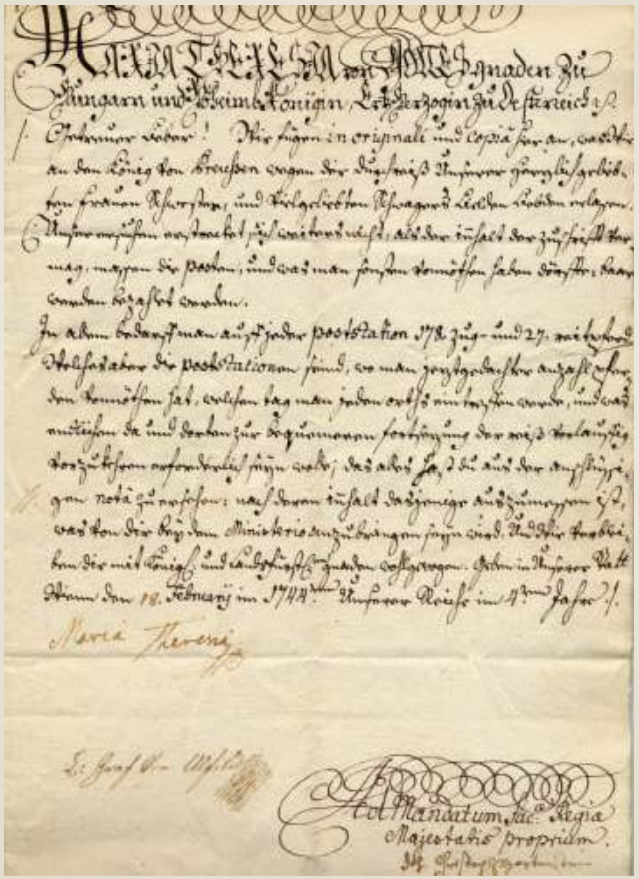
Re-Membering Marie Antoinette

How do you get at history?

- What constitutes the historical truth of a moment?
- How do you understand both a period and a person? How do they shape each other?

1. Letters



2. Biographies

- Stephen Zweig's *Marie Antoinette: Portrait of an Average Woman*
- Antonia Fraser's *Marie Antoinette: The Journey*

3. Films

- *Marie Antoinette* , 1938, directed by W.S. van Dyke, starring Norma Shearer
- *Marie Antoinette,* 2006, directed by Sophia Coppola, starring Kirsten Dunst

Norma Shearer

Kirsten Dunst

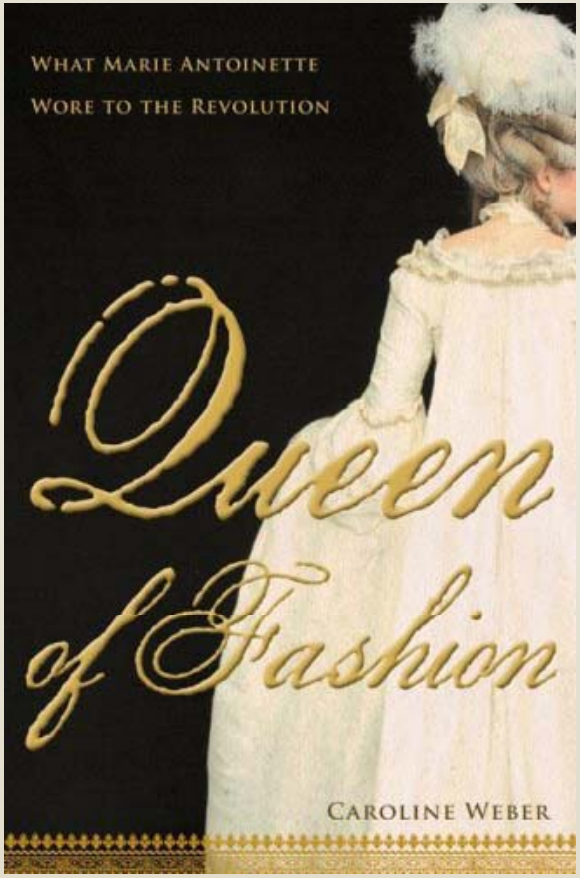
4. Contemporary Representations

- portraits
- pamphlets
- pornography

Portraits- Vigee LeBrun

Pamphlets and Pornography

Queen of Fashion, by Caroline Weber



Conclusion?

Reenacting the Past

- **Cast or participants: 19 characters in all**
  1. Marie-Antoinette, the accused
  2. Count Axel von Fersen, a Swedish nobleman
  3. Jacques-René Hébert, a journalist and representative
  4. Olympe de Gouges, a playwright and pamphleteer
  5. Louis-Antoine Saint-Just, a representative and member of the Committee of National Security
  6. Antoine- Quetin Fouquier-Tinville, the public prosecutor
  7. Antoine Simon, the jailor of the dauphin
  8. A fishwife
  9. A sans-culotte
  10. Armand-Martial Herman, the president of the Assemblée and the judge
  11. A lawyer
  12. A National Guardsman and later a juror
  13. Jean-Silvain Bailly, a political prisoner and *ci-devant* mayor of Paris
  14. A journeyman printer and later a juror
  15. A wine merchant and later a juror
  16. A playwright and later a juror
  17. A tutor and later a juror
  18. Camille Desmoulins, a representative, journalist and celebrity
  19. Germaine de Staël, a writer and political hostess

Reenacting the Past

- 1. The Salon, concluding with the Arrest
- 2. The Trial
  - a. Interrogatoire
    b. Consultation with Lawyer and Acte d'Accusation
    c. Trial
    d. Jury Deliberations
    e. Sentence