



PLEASE JOIN THE UK FRIENDS OF VERSAILLES FOR:

‘Versailles and the English, from Charles II to Marie Antoinette’

A talk with Dr. Philip Mansel

THURSDAY 20TH APRIL

SIX O’CLOCK

OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE CLUB

71-77 PALL MALL, LONDON, SW1Y 5HD

(BY KIND PERMISSION OF MR MARTIN GRANT)

COCKTAILS & CANAPES

TO ATTEND PLEASE EMAIL: UKFRIENDS@AMISDEVERSAILLES.COM

Philip Mansel, the author of ‘King of the World: the life of Louis XIV’ (2019), will discuss how the English were among the earliest and most enthusiastic admirers and imitators of Louis XIV’s palace. English travel writers called Versailles the most magnificent palace and its Park the best in the world. Lord Chesterfield considered an hour at Versailles better spent than three hours in a study with the best books. After 1783, the Prince of Wales imitated Versailles in his redecoration of Carlton House. English visitors to Versailles, from the Duke of Devonshire to diplomats and officers, were frequent guests of Marie Antoinette’s favourite the Duchesse de Polignac. Francophilia was as English as Francophobia.