COMPLIMENTARY GIFT · CRIMINAL ARCHIVES DOSSIER & 5 FREE AUDIO CHRONICLES

The Secret Registry Dossier: La Reynie, François Picaud, the 20 Legendary Prisons of Europe & Thirteen at Table

The authentic historical documents behind our novels and evening chronicles: the true chronology of François Picaud (1807–1815, the real Count of Monte Cristo drawn from the archives of Jacques Peuchet), the inner workings of the Chambre Ardente (1679), the Atlas of the 20 Legendary Prisons of Europe, and the 54 Vignettes of the Greffe (1775–1795).

I. The Five Historical Pillars of the Cabinet des Affaires

Reference / Collection	Historical Setting	Archival Documents & Chronicles	Direct Access
The François Picaud Inquest (The Real Monte Cristo)	Nîmes, Fort Fenestrelle, Milan, Paris (1807–1815)	The true account of the shoemaker François Picaud—denounced out of malice by Loupian, Solari, and Chaubard; cast for seven years into the fortress of Fenestrelle alongside Father Torri; heir to the Milanese treasure; and returned in disguise under the guise of the Abbé Baldini.	Read the 10-Episode Digest →
The 20 Legendary Prisons of Europe	Paris, London, Venice, Milan, Vienna (14th–19th c.)	The Bastille, the Conciergerie, the Grand Châtelet, La Force, Bicêtre, Sainte-Pélagie, Fenestrelle, the Venetian Piombi, the Tower of London, Newgate, the Spielberg: 20 complete evening narratives.	Explore the 20 Prisons →
The 54 Vignettes of the Greffe (1775–1795)	The Parlement of Paris, the Châtelet & the Revolutionary Tribunal	Fifty-four authentic judicial miniatures captured from life: ribbon-decked swindlers, back-alley alchemists, counterfeit heirs, and final missives before the scaffold.	Read the 54 Vignettes →
The Secret Police Archives (34 vols.)	Paris, 1667–1789 · Nicolas de La Reynie, Sartine & Lenoir	The Chambre Ardente, the Affair of the Poisons, the Court of Miracles, and the intimate commonplace book of Paris's first Lieutenant General of Police.	Discover the Collection →
Thirteen at Table — The Hemlock Circle (21 vols.)	New York (Delmonico's) & Paris, late 19th century	The exiled magistrate Évariste de Varville gathers twelve guests for a grand *souper à la russe*, wherein each course of *haute gastronomie* lays bare an unpunished crime.	View the 21 Volumes →

II. Synoptic Chronology of the François Picaud Affair (1807–1815)

- **February 1807 (Paris, Place Sainte-Opportune):** A mere five days before his nuptials to the wealthy Marguerite Vigouroux, the shoemaker François Picaud of Nîmes is denounced out of spite at Mathieu Loupian's tavern by Loupian, Antoine Solari, and Chaubard as an English royalist agent.
- **1807–1814 (Fort Fenestrelle, Piedmont):** Seven years of absolute secrecy within the Alpine stronghold. Picaud ministers in secret to his cellmate, the Milanese prelate Father Torri, who upon his death bequeaths to him a treasure concealed in Milan and diamonds from Amsterdam.
- **April 1814 – February 1815 (Milan & Paris):** Liberated upon the fall of Napoleon, Picaud secures his inheritance in Milan and returns to Paris cloaked in the cassock of the Abbé Baldini, then under the alias of Joseph Lucher. Chaubard is struck down by a dagger on the Pont des Arts; Solari is poisoned in Périgueux; Loupian's house is brought to ruin and consumed by flames, before Antoine Allut discloses the dreadful truth to the Prefect of Police in 1828.

III. Immediate Listening: Your 5 Free Audio Chronicles (MP3)

To complement this dossier, the Listening Salon of La Veillée Studio stands wide open: listen without delay to our 5 celebrated criminal cases read aloud in your language (DRM-free High-Definition MP3) and explore the 1,003 records of the Cabinet des Affaires.