Ronac (latter days of Louis XV and Louis XVI) had derived his pseudonym from an anagram of his actual family name, Caron. The son of a modest watchmaker, he followed the family trade but sought his customers among the ladies of the French Court. With the help of a well-contrived marriage he became, by turns, an 'Officer of the King's Pantry', a music master to three royal princesses, and a honory royal secretary.

Pierre Augustin Caron wore a sword and with his own hands placed the King's meat upon the table, as his rank in the Royal pantry required. It was a dignity a French commoner might aspire if he had sufficient influence or the cash to pay for it. It was on par with the post of 'Cravat-Tyer in Ordinary to His Majesty' or 'Captain of the Greyhounds of the Chamber'. The sales of these titles brought the Throne a ready

revenu at no expense save the ingenuity required to invent them.

In an earlier reign Montesquieu had written: 'The King of a France has no gold mines like the King of Spain, his neighbour, but has far greater wealth in the vanity of his subjects, which is more inexhaustible than any mine. He has been known to undertake or continue a war without any ressources but the titles of honor which he had to sell, and, owing to a miracle of human conceit, his troops were paid, his towns fortified and his fleet equipped.'

For the royal secretaryship, which involved no duties whatsoever, the ex-watchmaker pais 85,000 francs. Among other things the post gave him the rank of a petty noble and accordingly he could append to his name that of a fictional geographical fief. He thus became 'de Beaumarchais'. Later, with tongue in cheek, he insisted that hhis claim to nobility, unlike that of more prestigious families, was absolutely beyond question because he held a receipt for the purchase. A parvenue noble with an envy-

Thoms lepeltak weet het! High speelt in better of seville. 20 juni 1999

And Thoms lepeltak weet het! High speelt in better of de ydelheid Nan de man. The clank well that hij bruinbaar. Voor Hans als Politicus was. The Vraaf Ming of de Ambastadeur pedicine is hust de Poutro verse hist het verleden? Zonden deze ophnorhingen de poede mann be-Vorderen?

"Ein Van de dingen, Zeide Don Buichet, die len deufden und his hoofstand Man wel het meeste Voldsening maet schenken is

our nog hij Zijn leven elen foede haam te genieten order de menden, voral hanne

die Manu gedrukt book. Certantes - 1600. Ven berdiende plenin is toch wel dat Auch 20 poed letreburpsch streeter op hoof Mileau Est. they Mein Coff ist ein letre Burper. I kels on ze froot Hertof Ank ook nof planteerd met hour Makurely haar Makurely haar lebeur. a mon avis (français) kan Ank bigklussen door model te zijn voor Self Schwarz hop haar behandelupen! Et We wat anteles. Keef Dincon Trouverse ( No! Et Van high andrike breez met len kuthaliele maige Et hu de Old herh in Breda. Bir zepende Eg slet huwlijk in. De Kerk was tjok vol op por Zaterdy midsey. Hk. H. prince fuliana had s al via de tellegraaf laten weten dat peen s. Le acte de presence paf Daaron heb ile una & S' de hostie Bebeiperd ! Catharina de Prote 1200 5. É éjoit ceus aun Valtaire tocheen verlieux dentes had hij zich ortoe kan zetten om tor Communic te fam. His And woordde (in het fram den) that he breakfasted according to the Custom of the formating is De loubel then als befoleidingstrie / van het book vichy, wat ik heel interessant vand in modet het zoich fred tijdsbeeld pleft to e Greeials