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**The Importance of Being Catholic: Religion and Court Life in Early Modern France and Spain**

Dr Reinhardt compared the composition, functions and history of the French and Spanish royal chapels in the seventeenth century and the different forms of religious attendance by the King in the two countries. In Spain the King was more visible and attended mass in more different churches and monasteries than the King of France. Louis XIV and his successors did not interact with the religious institutions of Paris in the way the King of Spain did with those of Madrid. Louis XV stopped touching for the King's Evil. The Spanish Royal Chapel included chaplains from Castile, Aragon, Naples, Sicily and Milan. From 1584 the patriarch of the Indies was always Grand Almoner. The Royal Chapel was in the centre of the Escorial; at Versailles it was to the right of the State Apartments. In both courts the king's daily procession to mass was given maximum visibility. In Spain the Chapel was 'the very heart of the court itself'. The king's procession to mass included foreign diplomats. In contrast, the decoration of Versailles referred to classical antiquity rather than to the bible. In France, until 1830, there were frequent conflicts of jurisdiction between the Archbishop of Paris and the Grand Aumonier. Curt Noel pointed out that in Spain after 1300 there were no coronations and no regalia.