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Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Introduction Policing a Poem -- A Conundrum -- A Communication Network -- Ideological Danger? -- Court Politics -- Crime and Punishment -- A Missing Dimension -- The Larger Context -- Poetry and Politics -- Song -- Music -- Chansonniers -- Reception -- A Diagnosis -- Public Opinion -- Conclusion -- The Songs and Poems Distributed by the Fourteen -- Texts of "Qu'une batarde de catin" -- Poetry and the Fall of Maurepas -- The Trail of the Fourteen -- The Popularity of Tunes -- An Electronic Cabaret: Paris Street Songs, 1748–1750 Sung by Hélène Delavault -- Notes -- Index

Darnton has ably mined the available evidence surrounding the 1749 investigation and string of arrests for sedition known as the "Affair of the Fourteen" and produced a remarkable analysis of a subversive Parisian public discourse that openly attacked the king, his mistress, new taxes, and an unpopular peace treaty. Darnton lucidly reconstructs a world where information traveled through poems and songs set to familiar melodies; he reminds us that our world of instant communication, tweets, and 24-hour news cycles is not as distinctive as we may believe. With rich end matter that includes the lyrics of poems and songs as well as a link to a superb recording of some of the songs by cabaret artist Helene Delavault, this interdisciplinary piece is highly recommended for serious students across the humanities as well as readers with an interest in 18th-century French culture and politics.

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