

“Poussin’s seasons” video transcription

We see a long hall with a high ceiling and visible wooden beams. Just below the roof, there is a row of windows covered with grating. There are viewing stands along one side of the hall; two rows of elegantly dressed court members watch the game. The pitch is split down the middle by a net at waist height. Two players face each other on either side with long hair and moustaches. They have rolled up the sleeves of their white shirts and each hold a wooden racket—slightly smaller than a tennis racket.

[Narrator]

The "jeu de paume" was the French ancestor of tennis. King Louis XIV liked to challenge his court nobles to a game.

The game begins and the crowd watches eagerly.

[Narrator]

One day, he played a fierce match against the Duke of Richelieu. Richelieu owned a very large collection of paintings. He agreed to play the king for it.

One of the players scores a point, with which he wins the game.

[Narrator]

The king scored the decisive point...and won the game!

The Duke of Richelieu loses gracefully and the crowd cheers. We see a selection of beautiful paintings.

[Narrator]

The Duke of Richelieu handed 25 paintings over to the royal collections; they included masterpieces by Nicolas Poussin:

The four pieces by Nicolas Poussin are shown side by side.

[Narrator]

the "Seasons"—four paintings representing spring, summer, fall, and winter, and illustrating stories from the Bible. Now they're in the Louvre—not far from another museum called the "Jeu de Paume"!