

PRESS KIT

BICENTENAIRE

1821
2021

NAPOLÉON SEINE-ET-MARNE

COLLOQUES - RECONSTITUTIONS - EXPOSITIONS...

WWW.NAPOLÉON-EN-SEINEETMARNE.FR



Château
de Fontainebleau





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In the footsteps of the Emperor in Seine-et-Marne

A partnership between the Department of Seine-et-Marne, the Town of Fontainebleau and the Château de Fontainebleau

2021 marks the bicentenary of the death of Napoleon I, which occurred on 5th May 1821 during his exile on the island of Saint Helena. A number of events are being organised in Seine-et-Marne, the history of which is marked by the Napoleonic epic, and the Department of Seine-et-Marne, the Town of Fontainebleau and the Château de Fontainebleau are joining forces to showcase the exceptional programme. A website dedicated to Napoleon I in Seine-et-Marne has also been launched: www.napoleon-en-seineetmarne.fr.

Throughout his reign, and especially from the campaign in north-east France to his farewell to the Imperial Guard in 1814, the Emperor and the Seine-et-Marne Department have been closely linked.

As part of the bicentenary of the death of Napoleon I, a number of events will be held throughout the territory of Seine-et-Marne until the end of the year.

The commemoration will notably give rise to a series of highlights and events organised by the Seine-et-Marne Department, the Town of Fontainebleau and the Château de Fontainebleau, and labelled "2021 The Year of Napoleon" by the Fondation Napoleon.

As part of this, a partnership was created to promote the events linked to the Napoleonic bicentenary in Seine-et-Marne, and to have the general public learn about the history of the Emperor in Seine-et-Marne.

From May onwards, the bicentenary will include exhibitions, conferences, historical reconstructions and guided tours: you can find the whole programme on the new website napoleon-en-seineetmarne.fr, which outlines every event organised in the department on the Napoleonic bicentenary. You will also learn about the main events marking the Emperor's passage through Seine-et-Marne and read a number of anecdotes about the famous historical figure.

Bonus: from 17th April onwards, BFM Paris will be broadcasting a 4-part saga retracing the Emperor's epic in the Seine-et-Marne region: « Les escapades de Thomas en Seine-et-Marne, sur les traces de Napoléon ».

- Episode 1 - Napoleon I, the great hours of Fontainebleau
- Episode 2 - In the intimacy of Napoleon
- Episode 3 - On the battlefield
- Episode 4 - Keeping the Napoleonic legend alive in Seine-et-Marne



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E.G.

Napoléon Ier

Déposé

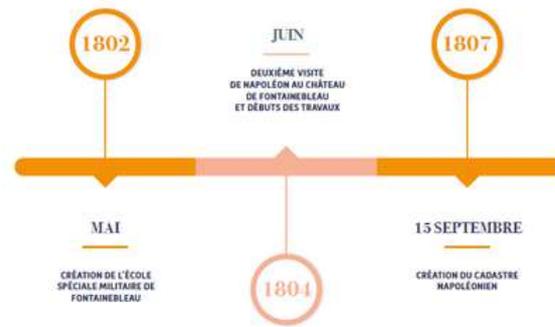
Waterloo, le

AD77

Chère Prof.

Je suis maintenant à
une école allemande. Votre student
Harold A. Shryock,
(Bad) Kösen,
Die Berke'sche Knaben-Anstalt.

Key dates

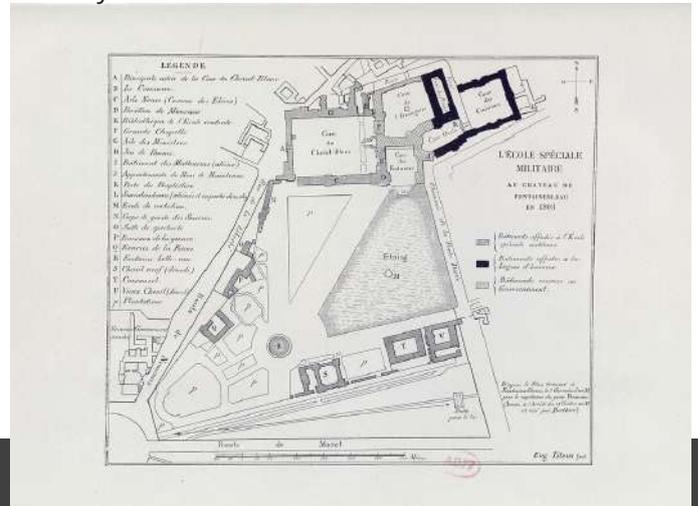


MAY 1802: THE ÉCOLE SPÉCIALE MILITAIRE DE FONTAINEBLEAU (SPECIAL MILITARY SCHOOL OF FONTAINEBLEAU) WAS CREATED

With the Law of 11 Floréal year X (1st May 1802), the First Consul instituted a special military school for 500 pupils in Fontainebleau. The school was set up in the Château de Fontainebleau, in place of the central school.

Education was exclusively military. Pupils were aged between 16 and 20. Over 2,000 second lieutenants were trained in infantry and cavalry.

The premises in Fontainebleau became too small and Napoleon wanted exclusivity in the use of the buildings of the Château de Fontainebleau for the needs of the court. In 1808, the Emperor therefore decided to transfer the special military school to Saint-Cyr.



Map of the École spéciale militaire of the Château de Fontainebleau, 1803, F16.1. ©AD77

JUNE 1812: BEGINNING OF POPE PIUS VII'S CAPTIVITY AT THE CHÂTEAU DE FONTAINEBLEAU

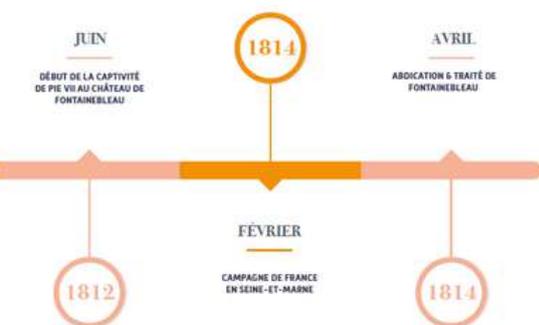
The crisis between Pope Pius VII and Emperor Napoleon I broke out in 1809. In retaliation, the Emperor of the French decided to annex the Papal States and imprison the pontiff in Savona and then in Fontainebleau.

After having been excommunicated by the sovereign pontiff, Napoleon locked Pope Pius VII in the Château de Fontainebleau to force him to sign a new Concordat, annul his excommunication and have the dissolution of his marriage to Josephine officially recognised.

Pope Pius VII arrived at Fontainebleau in June 1812 and was treated as a guest rather than a captive in order to keep up appearances. He would be held captive for 18 months.



The room of Pope Pius VII, Château de Fontainebleau, photograph, 2H9570. ©AD77

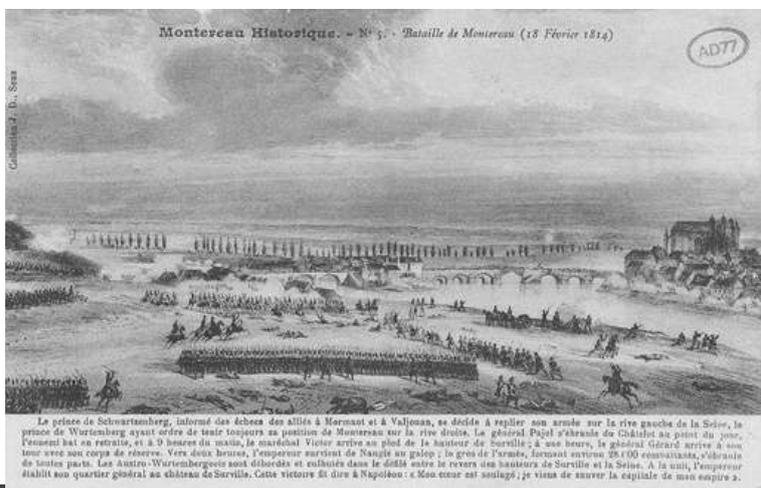


FEBRUARY 1814: CAMPAIGN IN NORTH-EAST FRANCE IN SEINE-ET-MARNE

Between December 1813 and April 1814, the 6th coalition, formed by Great Britain, Russia, Prussia, some German states of the Confederation of the Rhine and Austria, led a campaign in France against the Napoleonic Empire.

In February 1814, fighting took place in Seine-et-Marne, most notably the Battle of Montereau.

On 18th February 1814, French troops crossed the territory between Montereau and Bray, freed Fontainebleau and Moret-sur-Loing, pushing back foreign troops behind the Loing canal. The enemy troops disorganised and tried with great difficulty to retreat across the Montereau bridge.



The battle of Montereau, engraving, 2H5791 ©AD77

Driven out of Seine-et-Marne, defeated and disunited, the coalition armies finally regained the upper hand from 27th February 1814 with the victory in Bar-sur-Aube and then they reached Paris on 30th March 1814.

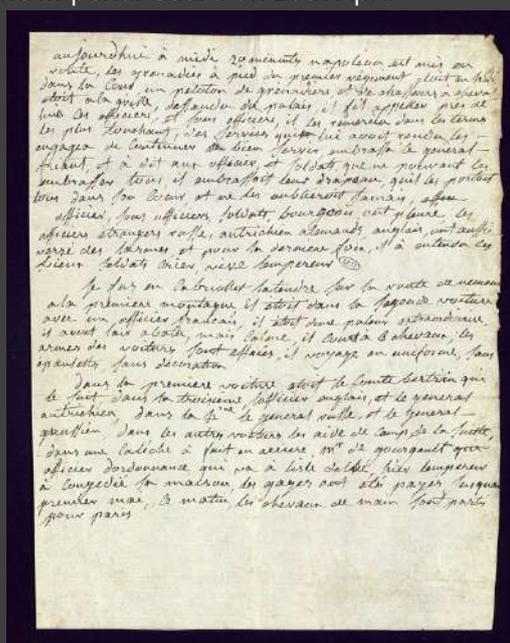
APRIL 1814: ABDICATION AND TREATY OF FONTAINEBLEAU

The coalition armies came out victorious at the end of the decisive "Battle of the Nations" (Leipzig, October 1813) and set off for France on 15th December.

In the Cour du Cheval-Blanc, in front of the monumental staircase of the Château de Fontainebleau, Napoleon Bonaparte bid farewell to the Imperial Guard on 20th April.

Despite a series of victories (battles of Champaubert, Montmirail, Montereau) achieved by Napoleon at the head of an army of young recruits, Paris fell on 31st March 1814 after a day of fighting, while the Emperor was waiting for the Allies in Fontainebleau.

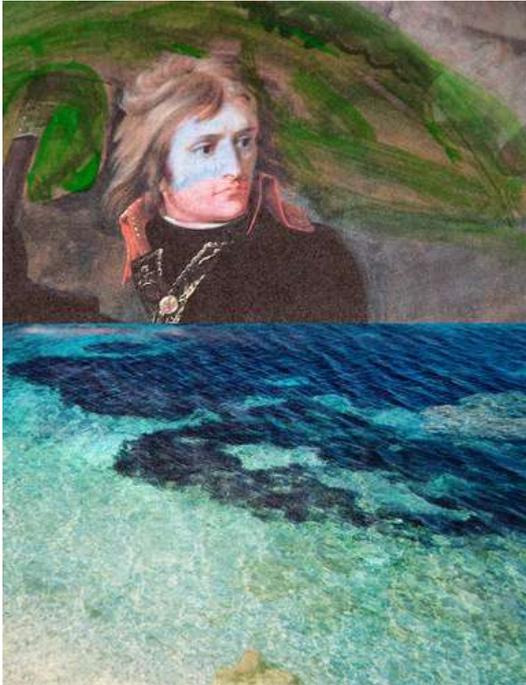
On 3rd April 1814, the Senate declared Napoleon I's fall. On 11th April, Napoleon signed the Treaty of Fontainebleau, which had been concluded on 6th April in Paris between Marshals Ney, Macdonald, General Caulaincourt, his plenipotentiaries, and the ministers of Austria, Russia and Prussia.



Account of the abdication of Napoleon I, J1339 ©AD77

It was ratified on 14th April. In application of this agreement, Napoleon abdicated unconditionally.

Highlights of the programme



file d'Elbe, 2015, 65 x 50

LA VALLÉE DES AIGLES (THE VALLEY OF EAGLES)

EXHIBITION BY JEAN GAUDAIRE-THOR
DEMEURE DU PARC IN FONTAINEBLEAU

FROM 19TH MAY TO 14TH JULY

The Department has given Jean Gaudaire-Thor carte blanche for an artistic approach of the figure of Napoleon. In the heart of the imperial city, just outside the palace gates, the Demeure du Parc will be hosting the works of the painter, sculptor and history enthusiast, all inspired by the Emperor's epic. The intimate, green setting will provide visitors with a haven of peace, ideal for discovering the set of incredibly modern works.

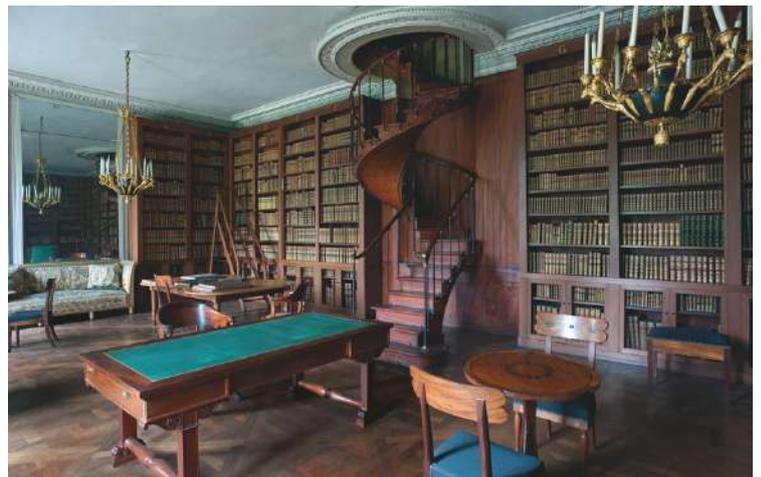
RESTORATION OF THE EMPEROR'S LIBRARY AND REMODELLING OF THE NAPOLEON I MUSEUM

CHÂTEAU DE FONTAINEBLEAU

May

Visitors will be able to appreciate the Emperor's restored library in a guided tour of the Petits Appartements of the Emperor and Empresses Josephine and Marie-Louise.

The Napoleon I Museum will display a set of new works, which have either been acquired or donated. You can also admire remarkable furniture and objets d'art dating from the First Empire, thanks to an unprecedented partnership with the Mobilier national.



© Béatrice LECLUYER-BIBAL

MASTER PROST'S REMARKABLE COLLECTION OF COLD WEAPONS

TOWN OF FONTAINEBLEAU - MUNICIPAL
MEDIA LIBRARY

FROM 6TH TO 26TH MAY

This exhibition pays tribute to Louis Prost, a collector of antique weapons that he bequeathed to the Town of Fontainebleau in 1973. A master of arms like his father, Louis Prost inherited the private collection, unique in France. He kept his passion alive, carefully preserving and completing his extraordinary collection of over two thousand pieces, most of which date back to the First and Second Empires and the Restoration. Beyond the military function, this exhibition will have you discover the artistic spirit behind it.



EXHIBITION UN PALAIS POUR L'EMPEREUR, NAPOLEON À FONTAINEBLEAU (A PALACE FOR THE EMPEROR, NAPOLEON IN FONTAINEBLEAU)

CHÂTEAU DE FONTAINEBLEAU

FROM 14TH SEPTEMBER 2021

TO 4TH JANUARY 2022

The Château de Fontainebleau, with over two hundred pieces, will show a little-known side of the "house of the ages, the true home of kings" and a fundamental era in the history of the Château. During the First Empire (1804-1815), Fontainebleau experienced a sumptuous era, with a new lease of life brought to the palace - which had been left vacant and stripped of its furnishings in the wake of the Revolution - and the glorious life taking place. By having the former house of the kings of France restored at great expense, the Emperor demonstrated how he wished to restore the site to its eminent place among the other imperial residences...

Entrance fee: €15 with the entrance
ticket to the Château

ARTISTIC LIGHT SHOW ON THE CHÂTEAU DU MARTROY FACADE

CHAUCONIN-NEUFMONTIERS

17TH AND 18TH SEPTEMBER - 8PM

The Château du Martroy, which is listed in the Supplementary Inventory of Historical Monuments, was built in the 18th century on the foundations of a 16th-century estate, and was then extended in the 19th century.

It belonged to Viscount Daru, an artillery commander, a descendant of Pierre Daru who, under the First Empire, was Intendant Général of the Grande Armée, a literary man and a member of the Académie Française, Count of the Empire in 1809 and a cousin of Stendhal.

As part of the bicentenary and the European Heritage Days, the Seine-et-Marne Department is projecting a light show on the Château, based on a historical account of the relations between Napoleon and his famous servants, Pierre Daru and Armand de Caulaincourt, of whom the current owners are the descendants.



© Emilie BROUCHON

SCIENTIFIC COLLOQUIUM: LA SEINE-ET-MARNE ET NAPOLEON IER INTIMITÉ, POUVOIRS ET MÉMOIRES (THE SEINE-ET-MARNE AND NAPOLEON I: INTIMACY, POWERS AND MEMORIES)

DEPARTMENT ARCHIVES OF SEINE-ET-MARNE - CHÂTEAU DE FONTAINEBLEAU

OCTOBER

The colloquium will deal with court life, the exercise of power, local authorities and the interaction between the Fontainebleau centre, French political life and international relations. At the heart of the Napoleonic project also lies military commitment, based on conscription and the creation of an officers' school in Fontainebleau. A few major figures stand out in connection with Seine-et-Marne: the Minister of External Relations Caulaincourt, who negotiated the Treaty of Fontainebleau, the Minister of State, Pierre Daru, closely associated with the Château du Martroy and Louis-Alexandre Berthier, organiser of the imperial hunts. Finally, the memory of Napoleon will be evoked through the heritage and places of remembrance.

Free admission by registering at dad@departement77.fr



© Ministère de l'Intérieur - F.GARCIA

NAPOLEON AND MUSIC CHÂTEAU DE FONTAINEBLEAU

FROM 17TH TO 26TH OCTOBER

The autumn residency will touch upon Napoleon's relationship with music and will heavily feature the Emperor's favourite repertoire. They will be performing the works of three composers: Cherubini, Beethoven and Méhul.

HISTORICAL REENACTMENTS OF NAPOLEON I AND MARIE-LOUISE IN FONTAINEBLEAU

CHÂTEAU DE FONTAINEBLEAU

16TH AND 17TH OCTOBER

For a weekend, the Château will open its doors to historical reenactment professionals. In October, Napoleon I, Marie-Louise and their court will make the trip to Fontainebleau: the programme will include scenes from the life of the imperial couple, theatrical interludes, military reviews and ceremonial drills. A total of 300 passionate reenactors, dressed in high quality costumes, will be present inside the palace and in a bivouac set up in the English garden. Over the course of the event, Napoleon I will be remembered as a statesman, a warlord and a promoter of the arts, in the palace he restored, furnished and lived in with his court.

Access with the entrance ticket to the Château - Extra charge for the bivouac, the workshops and tours



© Emilie BROUCHON



Sites not to be missed

THE TOWN AND THE CHÂTEAU DE FONTAINEBLEAU

On the outskirts of Paris, in a green oasis, Fontainebleau is the perfect blend between history and nature. Fontainebleau is a royal and imperial town and it has remarkable attractive assets with its palace, its squares and its Italian-style theatre, to name a few.

The Château de Fontainebleau has been an exceptional witness to almost eight centuries of French history, and bears the mark of the greatest sovereigns, from Saint Louis to Napoleon III. The Municipal Theatre, which is listed in the inventory of Historic Monuments, and the 17th century Saint-Louis church hardly leave anyone indifferent.

Finally, a remarkable forest attracts millions of visitors every year with its rocks and landscapes. From the end of the 19th century, Fontainebleau has become a touristic town attracting romantic writers and painters, as well as a favourite holiday resort for Parisians.

DEPARTMENT ARCHIVES

Engravings, documents, maps... The Seine-et-Marne Department Archives have a very rich collection on the history of Napoleon I in Seine-et-Marne.

In 2021, the Seine-et-Marne Department Archives are taking part in the commemorations of the bicentenary of the death of Napoleon I and are displaying a number of items from the First Empire era.

There are many diverse sources of the Empire in the Department Archives, divided into various collections classified by theme (private archives, iconographic collections, legal texts and so on).

A number of them are about Napoleon and the major events in Seine-et-Marne, such as the campaign in north-east France and the Pope's captivity at the Château de Fontainebleau.

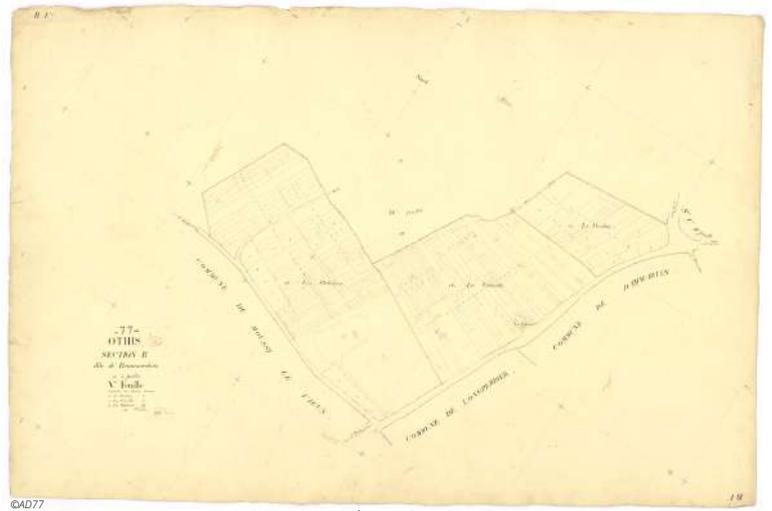


THE CHÂTEAU DE MARTROY

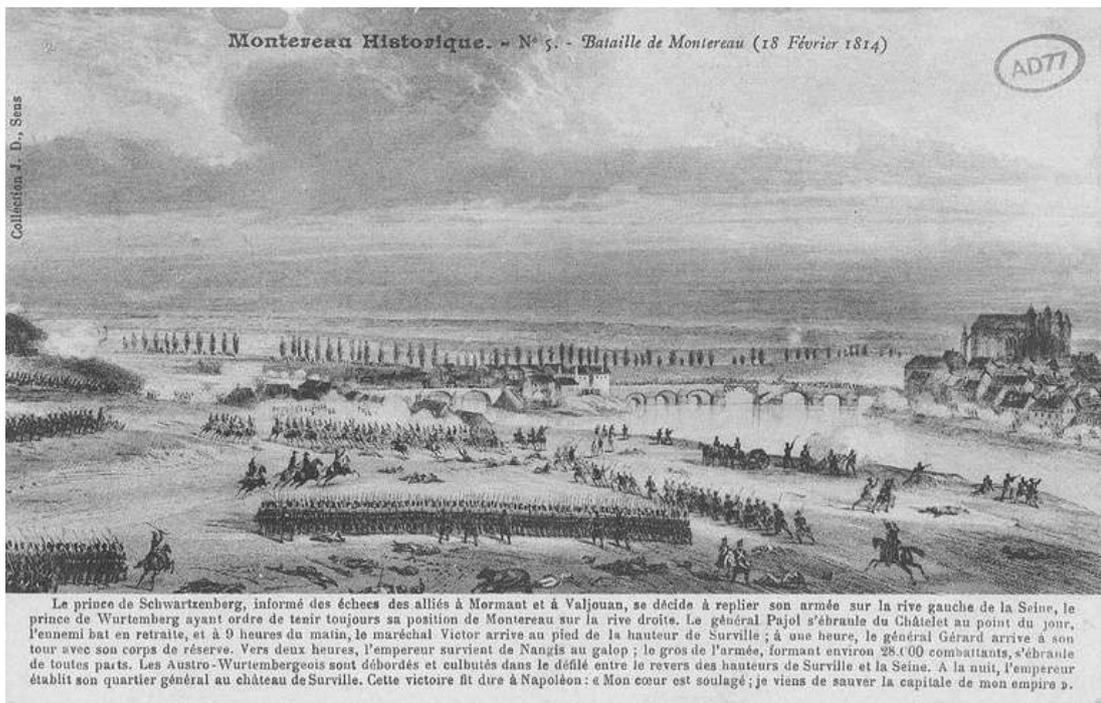
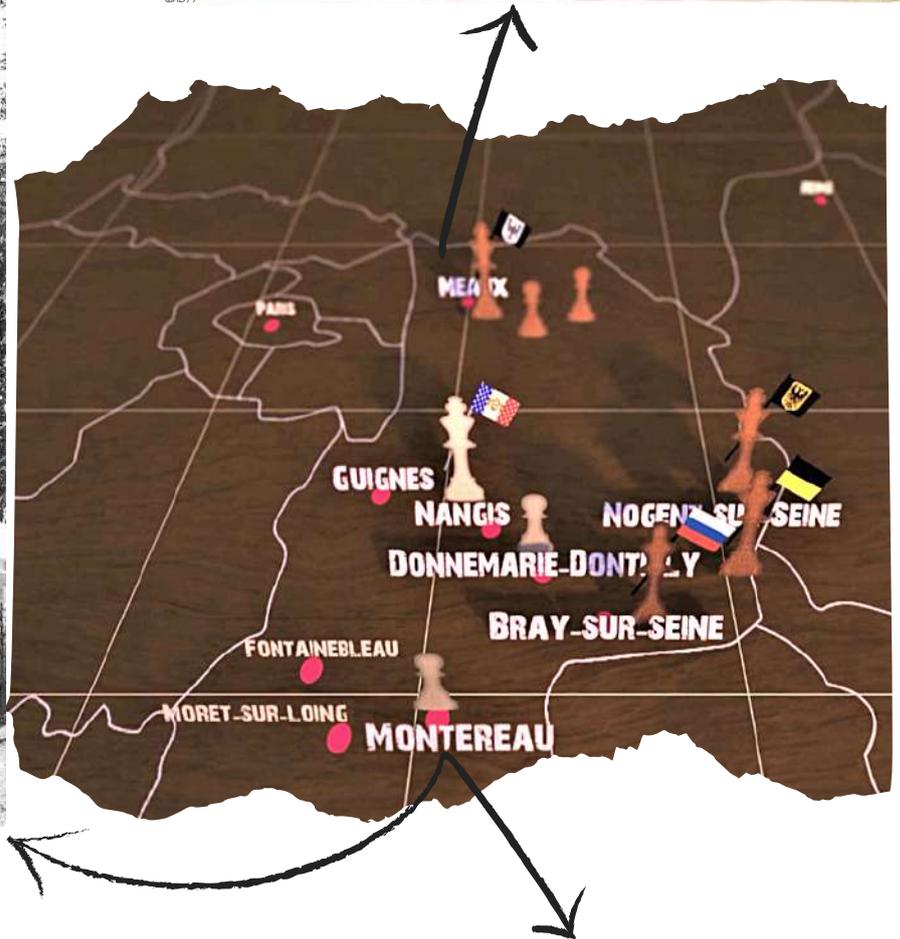
The Château du Martroy was built during the 18th century and extended in the 19th century, and it was the home of a number of prominent figures who rubbed shoulders with Napoleon I during the First Empire.

The Château du Martroy, which is listed in the Supplementary Inventory of Historical Monuments, was built during the Age of Enlightenment on the foundations of a 16th-century estate, and was then extended in the 19th century. It is located in the commune of Chauconin-Neufmontiers, near Meaux in Seine-et-Marne. The current owner is a descendant of many leading figures alongside Napoleon I: Armand de Caulaincourt, Pierre Daru, Louis Nicolas Davout d'Auerstaedt, Jean-Baptiste de Champagny.

AND MANY OTHER SITES...



9. MONTEREAU
Statue de Napoléon C. L. C.



Montereau Historique. - N° 5. - Bataille de Montereau (18 Février 1814)

Collection J. D. Stens

Le prince de Schwartzberg, informé des échecs des alliés à Mormant et à Valjouan, se décide à replier son armée sur la rive gauche de la Seine, le prince de Wurtemberg ayant ordre de tenir toujours sa position de Montereau sur la rive droite. Le général Pajol s'ébranle du Châtelet au point du jour, l'ennemi bat en retraite, et à 9 heures du matin, le maréchal Victor arrive au pied de la hauteur de Surville; à une heure, le général Gérard arrive à son tour avec son corps de réserve. Vers deux heures, l'empereur survient de Nangis au galop; le gros de l'armée, formant environ 28.000 combattants, s'ébranle de toutes parts. Les Austro-Wurtembergeois sont débordés et culbutés dans le défilé entre le revers des hauteurs de Surville et la Seine. A la nuit, l'empereur établit son quartier général au château de Surville. Cette victoire fit dire à Napoléon: « Mon cœur est soulagé; je viens de sauver la capitale de mon empire ».

About the 2021 Napoleon bicentenary

EDUCATIONAL ACTIONS

In addition to the scientific colloquium "The Seine-et-Marne and Napoleon I", to theatrical performances of *Le Souper imprévu* and *Le Chanoine de Milan*, the Department Archives have been involved in developing a teaching package, which can be used by teachers as a resource to teach the history of the First Empire in secondary school.

The package, which is due to go online in September 2021, will include archive documents, which have been kept locally, dedicated to the Empire era and the imperial administration in the departments.

Teachers will also be able to use works from the Napoleon Museum made available by the Château de Fontainebleau.

A joint action of the Department Archives and the Château de Fontainebleau will also organise visits for school groups on the two sites, as part of working days dedicated to the First Empire. Dates and registration details will be announced shortly and uploaded on the website at www.napoleon-en-seineetmarne.fr.

#NAPOLEON



Go to napoleon-en-seineetmarne.fr to view the whole programme, read anecdotes about Napoleon and contents regarding his stay in Seine-et-Marne. You will also learn about the main events marking the Emperor's passage through Seine-et-Marne.

Find out more about the nationwide programme at fondationnapoleon.org

You can also download our tour application "In the footsteps of Napoleon I at Fontainebleau", designed by the Château's educational team in collaboration with French start-up company Little Globe Trotter. Visitors are guided throughout the palace by two virtual heroes. A fun journey which includes cartoon explanations, games, family quizzes and digital postcards (until December 2021).

THE FONDATION NAPOLEON

The purpose of the Fondation Napoleon is to study the eras of the Directory, the Consulate, the First Empire, the Second Republic and the Second Empire, and it aims to be the reference for information, documentation and interaction on these eras. It also contributes to preserving and showcasing the Napoleonic heritage. As part of the bicentenary of the death of Napoleon I, the Fondation Napoleon has brought together the various institutions involved in the bicentenary with the "2021 the Year of Napoleon" label, in which the Seine-et-Marne Department is taking part.



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