



AN INTERNATIONAL APPEAL

**SAVE**

**NAPOLEON I'S RESIDENCE**

**ON**

**ST HELENA**



in partnership with



**DOMAINES FRANÇAIS**  
**À**  
**SAINTE-HÉLÈNE**

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*Date: 30 June, 2010*

*Le Conservateur des domaines*  
*Consul honoraire de France*

**Subject: Save Napoleon's House on St Helena**

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Though the French domains on St Helena may be extremely isolated and lost in the middle of the South Atlantic, they have not been forgotten. For more than one hundred and fifty years now, France has maintained its presence on the island in commemoration of Napoleon's infamous exile there. Indeed, the preservation of that remembrance of Napoleon's last years was not easy: even when Napoleon lived there the house was nothing special, and the subsequent measures taken to preserve it were not viewed in the long-term. However, the world was to catch hold of the Napoleonic legend and perpetuate a vision of the emperor which would brave the winds and the waves and carry the remembrance of the emperor to its four corners.

The French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs has entrusted me with the task of preserving these domains. It provides me with the means to see to the upkeep of the building, its grounds and its woods on a daily basis. Ever since the death of the Napoleon, the emperor's "House at Longwood" has had a chequered history, passing from residence to stable before finally ending up a realm of memory visited by thousands each year; and there are those for whom the island of St Helena itself is synonymous with Napoleon.

The history of the house is very much at a turning point, and it is up to us to preserve the building for future generations, so as to anchor Longwood further in its place within world heritage. We must seize this opportunity. In the planning stages of this project, every possible scenario has been envisaged, from demolition (only a hypothesis, I must add!) to varying degrees of restoration. My choice has come down to preservation and consolidation taking closely into account respect for the house's environment and restorational logic. In this I have been solidly backed by the Fondation Napoléon, an institution which for the past ten years has generously supported research into, and restoration of, the house fabric. The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs is well aware of the exceptional historical importance of the French domains on St Helena and entirely shares our enthusiasm for the restoration project. As a result of this common accord, a long-term preservation scheme has been drawn up by Michel Jantzen, head architect for the French government's institution for historical monuments.

Longwood House is pregnant with the history, and that history is the world's heritage. Its future is in your hands. By taking part in this restoration project, you will be helping to write a beautiful page in the history of world heritage.

Please give generously,

## **French domains on St Helena**

The French estates on St Helena comprise three separate sites: Longwood House, the Valley of the Tomb (where the Napoleon's mortal remains lay buried between 1821 and 1840) and the Briars pavilion (where Napoleon stayed during the first few weeks of his captivity). Longwood and the Valley of the Tomb were purchased by Napoleon III in 1858, and the Briars pavilion was donated to France in 1970 by descendants of the Balcombe family.

The properties are managed by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The day-to-day management of the sites and the collections on display is supervised by Michel Dancoisne-Martineau, honorary consul and curator of the properties. Despite the island's geographical isolation, the properties receive on average 15,000 visitors per year.

## **Longwood House**

Napoleon I's residence between December 1815 and his death on the 5<sup>th</sup> May, 1821 is situated on the Longwood plain, one of the most exposed and weather-beaten areas on St Helena.

The residence is divided into three principal adjoining parts: to the north are Napoleon's apartments, where the French emperor lived and died; at the heart of the building are the servants' quarters, which give out onto a small interior courtyard; and to the south is the block known as the "Generals Wing", where Generals Gourgaud and Montholon, Dr O'Meara, Las Cases and the British orderly stayed during Napoleon's exile.

A section of the servants' quarters and the Generals Wing is given over to the precious collection of prints, furniture and objects dating from the period, which has been painstakingly assembled over the years by successive curators.

## **The need for restoration**

This particular section of the house is in a perilous condition. Structural alterations, the replacement of dilapidated roof coverings ill-suited to the local weather conditions, and a general reorganisation of the layout are all necessary so as better to meet the needs of the visiting public whilst at the same time respecting the history of the house. Restoration work – and even the reconstruction of an entire section of the load-bearing structure – has become essential.

## The project

Following an inspection carried out onsite by a chief architect from the French national heritage institution, *Monuments historiques*, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs has put together a project outlining the restoration and partial reconstruction of the Generals Wing. The provisional budget required to complete the planned works, which will save and preserve this vitally important heritage site, has been estimated at €1.5 million. The ministry believes that fifty percent of the funding for this project should come from private sources. The task of raising these funds through public donations has thus been entrusted to the Fondation Napoléon. The Souvenir Napoléonien, a French society dedicated to Napoleonic history, has decided to offer its support for this project. To this end, a large number of local committees have been formed to solicit the public for donations.

## How to make a donation to save Napoleon's residence on St Helena

If you are fiscally resident in France, please use the form (downloadable at the following address [http://www.napoleon.org/fr/fondation/devenir\\_partenaire/SteHelene\\_formulaireA4.pdf](http://www.napoleon.org/fr/fondation/devenir_partenaire/SteHelene_formulaireA4.pdf)) for your donation (in French). The Fondation Napoléon will issue you with a receipt, and this receipt should be included in your income tax declaration.

If you do not (or cannot) benefit from tax relief or other donation benefits in the USA or the European countries specified below, please send your donations to the Fondation Napoléon (148, blvd Haussmann, 75008 Paris, France) via bank transfer using the following details:

Bank: Société Générale

Account name: Fondation Napoléon - Opération Sainte-Hélène - 148 Bd Haussmann - 75008 Paris

Address: PARIS PRIVATE BANKING (03000)

Account number: 30003 03000 00050319214 20

IBAN: FR76 3000 3030 0000 0503 1921 420

BIC: SOGEFRPP

Those resident for tax purposes in the USA, the UK, Eire, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Italy may benefit from certain fiscal advantages from their donation. To this end, the Friends of the Fondation de France in the USA and the different European Foundations mentioned here below have been enabled in their respective countries to receive donations on behalf of the Fondation Napoléon and to issue (where appropriate) tax deduction receipts. Please however do not forget also to send us an email ([operation-sainte-helene@napoleon.org](mailto:operation-sainte-helene@napoleon.org)) informing us of your donation.

All donors will receive a souvenir diploma. "Gold" donors (over €1,500) will receive a certificate and a commemorative medal whilst "Platinum" donors (over €10,000) will receive a special certificate signed by the Prince Napoléon and a special large commemorative medal, both to be presented to "Platinum" donors at a ceremony held at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris. The names of "Platinum" donors will be inscribed on a special plaque to be placed in Longwood House.

## **USA**

If you reside in the United States, you can make your donation through Friends of Fondation de France (FFDF). FFDF is a public charity exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations to FFDF are tax deductible to the full extent permitted by U.S. law, subject to any limitations that might apply to you. Please note that FFDF withholds 5% on all donations to support its administrative expenses.

FFDF can accept donations via check, wire transfer or online. Gifts of stock are also welcome. For further information, please visit FFDF's website at <http://www.friendsoffdf.org> or contact Molly Hickok at +1 212-812-4362 or [mhickok@ghspm.com](mailto:mhickok@ghspm.com).

A copy of FFDF's annual report filed with the New York State's Attorney General Office can be obtained by writing to FFDF at 6 West 48<sup>th</sup> Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10036 or to the NYS Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.

Please however do not forget also to send us an email ([operation-sainte-helene@napoleon.org](mailto:operation-sainte-helene@napoleon.org)) informing us of your donation.

## **United Kingdom**

Donors fiscally resident in the UK are invited to contact Keith Jefferies, Trans National Giving Europe (TGE) administrator at the Charities Aid Foundation, to ask for an international gift form and a gift aid declaration form, tel. +44 3000 123 380 or email [tge@cafonline.org](mailto:tge@cafonline.org), address Charities Aid Foundation, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA, UK.

The minimum donation accepted is £250.

Please however do not forget also to send us an email ([operation-sainte-helene@napoleon.org](mailto:operation-sainte-helene@napoleon.org)) informing us of your donation.

## **Eire**

Donors fiscally resident in Eire are invited to contact Niall O'Sullivan, Trans National Giving Europe (TGE) administrator, tel. +353-1-874 7354, email [tge@foundation.ie](mailto:tge@foundation.ie), regarding donation formalities and tax benefits.

Please however do not forget also to send us an email ([operation-sainte-helene@napoleon.org](mailto:operation-sainte-helene@napoleon.org)) informing us of your donation.

## **Belgium**

Donors fiscally resident in Belgium may make tax-deductible donations (minimum €30) via bank transfer to the Fondation Roi Baudouin:

Account number: 000-0000004-04

Bank: Banque de la poste

Address: Rue des colonies (P28) - 1000 Bruxelles

IBAN: BE10 0000 0000 0404

BIC: BPOTBEB1

Obligatory title for the bank transfer: TGE - FONDATION NAPOLEON -France.

Please however do not forget also to send us an email ([operation-sainte-helene@napoleon.org](mailto:operation-sainte-helene@napoleon.org)) informing us of your donation.

For further information, please contact our correspondent at the Fondation Roi Baudouin, Ludwig Forrest, tel. +32 2 511 18 40.

## **Germany**

Für in Deutschland steuerlich registrierte Spender besteht die Möglichkeit, steuerlich absetzbare Spenden per Banküberweisung an Maecenata International e.V. "FONDATION NAPOLEON - France" zu tätigen.

Empfänger: Maecenata International e.V. "FONDATION NAPOLEON -France"

Anschrift: Herzogstraße 60 - 80803 München

IBAN: DE58700303000133853500

BIC: REUCDEMMXXX

Bank: Bankhaus Reuschel & Co, 80285 München.

NB: Deutsche Spender werden darum gebeten, auf der Banküberweisung ihre Anschrift anzugeben, damit Maecenata International in der Lage ist, Ihnen die Steuerabzugsbescheinigung zuzuschicken.

Nähere Informationen bei unserer Korrespondentin beim "Maecenata International", Veronika Hofmann, +49 89 284452 oder email: [mint@maecenata-management.de](mailto:mint@maecenata-management.de).

Please however do not forget also to send us an email ([operation-sainte-helene@napoleon.org](mailto:operation-sainte-helene@napoleon.org)) informing us of your donation.

## **Netherlands**

Donateurs die fiscaal in Nederland zijn gevestigd worden verzocht contact op te nemen met Theo van Oosten van het "Oranje Fonds", telefoon 030 65 64 524 of e-mail : [Oosten@oranjefonds.nl](mailto:Oosten@oranjefonds.nl) inzake belastingfaciliteiten.

Donors fiscally resident in the Netherlands are invited to contact Theo Van Oosten of the "Oranje Fonds", tel. +31 30 65 64 524, email, [Oosten@oranjefonds.nl](mailto:Oosten@oranjefonds.nl)) regarding donation formalities and tax benefits.

Please however do not forget also to send us an email ([operation-sainte-helene@napoleon.org](mailto:operation-sainte-helene@napoleon.org)) informing us of your donation.

## **Switzerland**

Les donateurs doivent prendre contact auprès de Mr Maël Steiner de la Swiss Philanthropy Foundation, au 00 41 22 732 55 54 ou par courriel.

Informations bancaires pour faire un don : [ici](#) (document pdf en anglais).

Please however do not forget also to send us an email ([operation-sainte-helene@napoleon.org](mailto:operation-sainte-helene@napoleon.org)) informing us of your donation.

## **Italia**

I donatori residenti in Italia sono pregati di mettersi in contatto con Camilla Speriani, Associazione VITA Giving Europe Onlus, tel. +39 02 552298333, e-mail [tge@vitagiving.org](mailto:tge@vitagiving.org), per quanto riguarda le formalità di donazione e gli eventuali vantaggi fiscali.

Please however do not forget also to send us an email ([operation-sainte-helene@napoleon.org](mailto:operation-sainte-helene@napoleon.org)) informing us of your donation.

The list of donors can be viewed on the sites <http://www.napoleon.org> and <http://www.souvenirnapoleonien.org>.

**International appeal to save Napoleon I's residence on St Helena,  
organised by the Fondation Napoléon and the Souvenir Napoléonien**

Honorary patron: HHH the **Prince Napoléon**

The steering committee is presided over by

**Professor Jean Tulard**, member of the Institut de France

assisted by

**Victor-André Masséna, Prince d'Essling**,

President of the Fondation Napoléon

and by

**Christian Fileaux**,

President of the Souvenir Napoléonien

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[hicks@napoleon.org](mailto:hicks@napoleon.org)

A list of the members of the steering committee can be found on the following sites

<http://www.napoleon.org> and <http://www.souvenirnapoleonien.org>.

## **Contacts**

Fondation Napoléon, St Helena Appeal

148, Boulevard Haussmann, 75008 Paris, France

The appeal closes at the end of January 2012.



## **Confidentiality**

The Fondation Napoléon does not communicate any personal information to third parties. Postal and email addresses are required simply in the case where we need to get in touch with donors (e.g., for tax receipts).

You have the right of access, modification and deletion of personal details appearing on the site in compliance with the EU directive 95/46/CE concerning the harmonisation of EU data protection acts. Please write to Peter Hicks, either by post to Fondation Napoléon, St Helena Appeal, 148 boulevard Haussmann, 75008 Paris, France or by email to [hicks@napoleon.org](mailto:hicks@napoleon.org).