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The 2016 Annual Report of the International Napoleonic Society

Dear Friends and Fellows of the INS,



INS President J. David Markham

2015 was a very interesting year for the INS, with some good news and some bad news. But first let me tell you some very good news! I am pleased to announce:

The Fourteenth International Napoleonic Congress will be in Dublin, Ireland, 11-17 July 2016. It is entitled *Shades of 1916: Ireland in Revolutionary and Napoleonic Europe* and will be held at the Stephen's Green Hibernian Club, which is a world-class

venue in the heart of Dublin. Further details will be forthcoming soon, but you should make plans now to attend and perhaps present a paper proposal. Unlike previous congresses, this one will extend



into Saturday to allow for a trip to Waterford.

Our friend Derek Byrne, president of the Napoleon Society of Ireland, is doing a great job of planning the congress and you will not want to miss it!

The next two congresses are planned for St Helena (2017) and Oslo, Norway (2018). We will be pleased to entertain suggestions for future congresses.

In February, Edna and I attended the annual meeting of the Consortium on the Revolutionary Era at High Point University in North Carolina. As always, we were able to recruit people to present papers at future congresses and to submit papers for our journal. At the annual Masséna Dinner I presented the INS Legion of Merit award to Prince Victor Masséna. I also presented a posthumous Legion of Merit to Jack Sigler, who sadly passed away last year. I presented it to his widow, Ruth Godfrey-Sigler.

March 27-29, we attended in a history symposium at the Waterloo Regional Museum in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada. I gave a presentation entitled *Prelude and PostScript: Napoleon Before and After Waterloo*. I then participated in a panel discussion with Lieutenant-General Jonathon Riley on Waterloo and its aftermath. The program was well attended and there were many questions. Later, there was a period costume ball that was great fun! As always, I was able to promote the INS to a group of excellent historians. You can see photographs on the INS website under 'News.'

On June 20th, I attended the New York Military Affairs Symposium at the Hudson Park Library in Greenwich Village, Manhattan, New York City. I spoke on *Prelude to Disaster: Napoleon Before Waterloo*. After a 45-minute lecture I took questions for an additional 90 minutes! My talk was well received and I was able to promote the INS and add a Fellow from that organization. New York City has some very active history groups and I hope that the INS will continue to forge ties with them.



On the Smithsonian set

On Friday, May 1st, I was honored to be on a Smithsonian Channel program, *Napoleon's Waterloo*. I was the primary historian on the program. In an era when some once-great history networks have taken to doing reality shows and the like, the Smithsonian Channel continues to produce very high quality shows, and this one was no exception.

The highlight of any year for the INS is, of course, our annual International Napoleonic Congress, and 2015 was no exception. Indeed, it was very special as we commemorated the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo. While many of us would have preferred a different outcome, it was great for us to meet in Brussels, Belgium and talk about various aspects of the battle as well as other topics. This congress, our 13th, was entitled *Endings and Beginnings: The World in 1815*. As usual, we attracted scholars from around the world. I gave the first talk, *Decisions Good and Bad: Napoleon Before Waterloo*. Later, Edna gave a presentation *Lay of the Land: Napoleonic Terrain Analysis Using Google Earth*. In all, there were 21 papers presented. And in an INS first, we featured two panel discussions, which proved to be very popular. As usual, I presented several participants with the INS Eagle, making them a Fellow of the INS. A highlight of the congress was, naturally, the Thursday tour of the battlefield and surrounding areas. Alasdair White led us, and it is very difficult to imagine a better guide! And I give many thanks to Bill Chew and Marina van der Auwera for all their invaluable help.

From Brussels we went to Paris where on the 18th of July I gave a dinner lecture on the 1812 campaign to a group of 30 cyclists who were going to recreate Napoleon's march to Moscow.

It had already been a full Napoleonic year, but there was more to come. On 27-30 August, the annual conference of the Napoleonic Historical Society was held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. I am President Emeritus of that group and there are strong ties between the NHS and the INS. As Edna and I live in downtown Toronto, we were able to host several receptions at our condo to allow participants to see my major Napoleonic collection. I had the honor to present the Keynote Address, *Delays and Indecision: Napoleon's Last Days in France*. I also presented a 'Blitz' session on an eagle in my collection that has ties to Napoleon and to James Bond! At the formal dinner, I was pleased to present out-going NHS president (and long-time friend) Cobe Grabenhorst the INS Medal of Honor in recognition of his many years of working hard to promote Napoleon and help run the NHS.



Presidents Grabenhorst and Markham

As you can see, 2015 was a very busy Napoleonic year for your president and many others around the world.



Rowayda Guirguis

However, there are other developments within the INS as well. In September I learned that the Weider office in Montreal was closing. As a result, our long-time INS Secretary, Rowayda Guirguis, can no longer serve in that capacity. I have worked with Rowayda since I became president and she has been invaluable to me and to the INS. I, and all in the INS, will miss her and wish her well. The good news is that she has volunteered to continue to maintain the INS website and will still help maintain communication with our French-speaking FINS. And I want to

assure all of our French-speaking Fellows that, while my French is not good and most communication has always been in English, we will make every effort to see that all FINS feel an important part of the INS.

I also want to assure all Fellows that the funding for the INS will continue and we will continue to be active far into the future! For this, of course, we thank our founder and first president, Ben Weider.

Partially as a result of this development, but also in a move to become more relevant to changes in the modern world, we are making some other changes.

As you know, the INS journal is quite late this year. That is primarily due to various circumstances, all of which we are working to resolve. Our Editor-in-Chief, Wayne Hanley, has been doing an outstanding job, and the delays were due circumstances around the production at this end, complicated by the situation in Montreal. After consultation with Wayne and some other scholars, we have decided to make the journal a digital journal. We will email it to all our FINS who have emails, as well as post it on the website. The advantage to this is twofold. First, of course, it saves the money to print and ship the journal. More importantly, it allows for a much wider distribution at no additional costs. So, for example, we will make the journal available to all members of the Napoleonic Historical Society. We will post it on theirs and other websites. In the long term, this will greatly increase the impact of the INS throughout the world, as well as increase the promotion of Napoleonic history.

As some of you may know, we have been having problems with our mass-email system. As a result, sometimes people did not receive an email sent by the INS. I am pleased to say that Edna has worked very hard and now the problem is solved. Our new email address is:

inspresident@icloud.com

Please direct all future INS emails to that address. And please add it to your contacts so that all emails will reach you. Please note that email will be virtually the exclusive way that we communicate with FINS, so please be certain to let us know if your email changes. And, as we may occasionally mail documents, please be certain that we have your current mailing address as well.

I have some new activities planned for the future. I want us to translate some useful documents into English and distribute them worldwide. If there is interest, we may have some short, regional conferences to reach out to FINS who cannot go to the congresses. I want to increase ties with some groups, like the NHS and the *Fondation Napoléon*, and reach out to other groups, especially in places where we have not been as active as I would like. For example, I would love to hold a congress in London or somewhere else appropriate in conjunction with one or more groups in the UK. Further afield, we may consider Australia and other less traditional venues if there is interest. And I plan to attend more conferences to promote the INS and Napoleon. And very importantly, the INS is now giving some student scholarships to attend our congresses.

I will also be very pleased to hear of any suggestions from you.

While annual reports like this tend to concentrate on the activities of the president and major events like the congress, the INS is about far more than that. Our Fellows are well-respected scholars and educators. Each year there are many books published by our Fellows. Indeed, we will soon announce the winners of last year's literary award. If you publish a book, I urge you to submit it for consideration, or at the very least let us know about it so that we can put it on our website. Other Fellows give special lectures, attend major conferences and receive awards. Please let us know of such activities so that we can share your success with our colleagues. For that is the fundamental purpose of the INS: to allow scholars and others to share information and then promote knowledge of this era.

Finally, on a personal note, I want to mention that I reached a milestone on 26 December 2015, as I had my 70th birthday. This means I will have to begin to consider retirement—perhaps in 20 years!! In the meantime, I assure you that I will continue to work hard to make the INS the preeminent academic international Napoleonic organization and to promote all things Napoleonic throughout the world.

I thank you all for your patience and for your continued support.

Vive l'Empereur!

David