

TARGET ACHIEVED (AND MORE) FOR THE INTERNATIONAL APPEAL TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE EMPEROR'S TOMB AND THE NAPOLEONIC MONUMENTS AT LES INVALIDES

In view of the bicentenary of the death of Napoleon I, on 5 May 2021, the Musée de l'Armée and the Fondation Napoléon joined forces to launch an international appeal to restore the places at the Invalides dedicated not only to the memory of the Emperor Napoleon but also to that of his brothers Joseph and Jerome, the former King of Naples and then of Spain, and the latter King of Westphalia and later governor of Les Invalides. **2,310 donors generously answered the call and in difficult circumstances helped raise €836,960 (over and above the target of €800,000).**

This is a historic monument that receives more than 1.2 million visitors a year, and the wear and tear caused by this, not to mention the fact that the places in question had not been restored for more than a century, made this operation urgently necessary.

The appeal was launched on 5 May 2019, and now, almost two years after the event, the Musée de l'Armée and the Fondation Napoléon, co-organiser and patron, are pleased to announce that the appeal target was reached (and surpassed) on 31 January 2021, **with a grand total of €836,960.** This success was made possible thanks **to the support of nearly 2,310 donors** from France and around the world, individuals and companies, including the Fondation Roc-Eclerc, the CIC, the Souvenir Napoléonien, the Académie des Beaux-Arts and Veolia. The Musée de l'Armée and the Fondation Napoléon warmly thank donors for their commitment and support.



© Paris, musée de l'Armée / Caroline Rose

This exceptional effort and result will make it possible to finance more of the restoration work than previously planned, all additional donations being also directed towards the restorations planned as part of this appeal.

This twenty-month fund-raising project was marked by several highlights. The restoration work to restore lustre to these Napoleonic monuments began in December 2019. **The tomb, the crypt and the twelve "Victoires" have been restored** to their full splendour and prestige as a result of the restored gilding and meticulous cleaning of the stones and marbles. Other equally spectacular results have been achieved in **the renovation of the Chapelle Saint-Jérôme**, begun in May 2020.

The Museum has also undertaken **the restoration of six exceptional paintings** on the theme of the return of the Emperor's Mortal Remains.

The Musée de l'Armée and the Fondation Napoléon are delighted to have been able to mobilise the savoir-faire and expertise of **so many heritage professionals** for this major

François Trichot, Allegorical painting of the return of Napoleon's Mortal Remains, 15 December 1840 © Lombard/Arcares



restoration project, especially given the difficult context of 2020.

The “Napoleon season” organised at Les Invalides will be an opportunity for the general public to discover this emblematic heritage now completely restored. Furthermore, throughout 2021, there will be many events commemorating the 200th anniversary of the death of the Emperor, including: a major exhibition, a contemporary art trail centred on the legacy of Napoleon created by more than thirty living artists, and a series of concerts and talks and conferences, all designed to provide the perfect opportunity to discover or rediscover this major figure in French history.



©Paris, musée de l'Armée/Anne-Sylvaine Marre-Noël

With the support of



PRACTICAL DETAILS

Musée de l'Armée
Hôtel national des Invalides
129, rue de Grenelle 75 007 Paris
musee-armee.fr



PRESS CONTACT

Agence Alambret Communication
Margaux Graire
margaux@alambret.com
+33 (0)1 48 87 70 77 - +33 (0)6 27 42 53 72

MUSÉE DE L'ARMÉE

The Musée de l'Armée, with an average of over 1.2 million visitors during these last 5 years, is one of Paris's most visited museums. The visiting public is invited to discover the Hôtel des Invalides and its famous Dome, which houses the tomb of Napoleon I, and to travel through the history of France via its collections. The Museum was created in 1905, and it has one of the world's finest military history collections, with some 500,000 pieces, from the Bronze Age to the 21st century. Guided tours and educational workshops, temporary exhibitions, conferences and seminars, film screenings, shows, concerts and events are held throughout the year.