

## HISTORY AND MISSIONS OF THE FONDATION NAPOLEON

---

### THE ENTREPRENEUR MARTIAL LAPEYRE'S BEQUEST



© Fondation Napoléon –  
P. Maurin-Berthier

Gifted entrepreneur, history enthusiast, Napoleon fan and keen collector, **Martial Lapeyre (1904-1984)** brought about the creation of the Fondation Napoléon.

As a member of the Association du Souvenir Napoléonien, Martial Lapeyre desired to help that association and so he donated his town mansion (82, rue de Monceau, 75008 Paris) in order to provide a place for a head office for association, a library, and also a place from which to run the association's different activities.

He subsequently decided to make his will in favour of the Souvenir Napoléonien.

The then president of the Souvenir, the Baron Gourgaud, oversaw the four-year project to bring to completion Martial Lapeyre's will, in conformity with the law and the administrative and political requirements of the French state. The latter imposed the principle of the creation of a **Fondation Napoléon, reconnue d'utilité publique (registered charity) by a decree of 12 November, 1987**, with board of trustees comprising representatives of the interior and culture ministries, representatives of the Association du Souvenir Napoléonien and qualified co-opted persons. Funded by the interest on the capital left by Martial Lapeyre (of which the Fondation de France is a kind of holding property), The Foundation also received the prestigious collection of its sponsor and is charged with the responsibility of making the First and Second Empires better known.

### THE MISSIONS OF THE FONDATION NAPOLEON

As a place of research and vector for information concerning the First and Second Empires, the Fondation Napoléon both encourages and supports many different projects all with the same primary aims, namely, a deeper **understanding of the two periods** and the preservation and highlighting of the **Napoleonic heritage**.

Addressing all audiences (from the man in the street to the university academic, passing via the enthusiast) the Fondation Napoléon operates in many different spheres.

- the enrichment of the ***Bibliothèque M. Lapeyre***, a library open to the public.
- development of a documentation centre on the internet with two sites:
  - an entirely bilingual French/English **general public web site, *napoleon.org***,
  - a Napoleonic primary source web site, ***napoleonica.org***;
- **publication of the *Correspondance générale de Napoléon Ier*** with the publishers Editions Fayard, and **history books** (on the First Empire: *la bibliothèque Napoléon*, with Nouveau Monde Editions) ;
- the award each of year of four **History prizes** and six **Research Grants**



- **patronage** of institutions and the great Napoleonic sites, such as museums like the Louvre, Malmaison, Compiègne, Fontainebleau, and also Farnborough Abbey and the French domains on St Helena;

- **exhibition of the Collection M. Lapeyre - Fondation Napoléon** both in France and abroad: Fondation FAAP (Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2003), Musée Jacquemart-André (Paris, 2004-2005), Museo del Vidrio (Monterrey, Mexico, 2006) ;

- support and financing of Napoleonic activities of all sorts, notably those of the Association du **Souvenir Napoléonien**, French Napoleonic history society with several thousand members.

Further information: <http://www.napoleon.org/en/fondation/index.asp>