

# “Save Napoleon’s House on St Helena” Results of the Appeal



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# ***“Save Napoleon’s House on St Helena”***

## **Results of the appeal**

1<sup>st</sup> August 2015

After four years of work, the operation "Save Napoleon’s House on St Helena" will be completed within the next few weeks. This achievement will be celebrated on the 15th October by the inauguration - by a High Representative of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs - of the newly restored Generals’ wing, in the presence of representatives of the Fondation Napoléon, the Souvenir Napoléonien, and the Government of St Helena.

This would not have been possible without the generosity of **1,630 donors**, individuals as well as companies, who accepted to contribute to the credits made available for this operation by the French State, the Fondation Napoléon and the Souvenir Napoléonien.

This document is to inform you about all that has been achieved, and explain the sources of the funds that were donated, in total **2.2 million**, in order to ensure that the “Domaines Nationaux” of St Helena, led by Michel Martineau-Dancoisne, are ready for the opening of St Helena airport in June 2016.

### **I. The International appeal**

The appeal raised **1,509,786 €**, in addition to the 700,000€ made available by the French Ministry of Foreign affairs.

The largest donation, from Belgium, was for € 600,000.

**55 companies** and institutions participated in the appeal, contributing a total of **419,806 €**.

these include, principally:

- The company Plastic Omnium	100 000 €
- The Fondation du Patrimoine	100 000 €
- The government of St Helena	80 000 €
- The Fondation Napoléon	50 000 €
- The Souvenir Napoléonien	50 000 €

**1,575 individuals** contributed a total of **1,089,980€**.

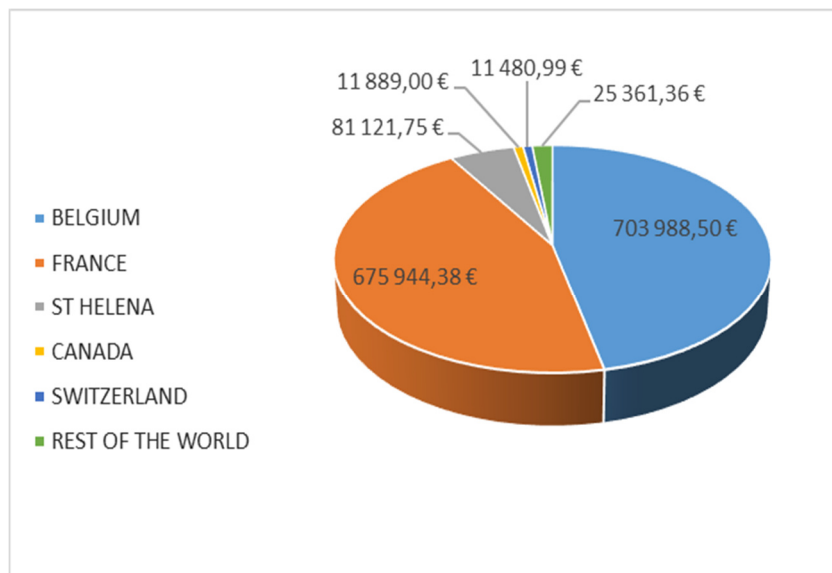
Donations were as follows:

- more than 1,000 €: 97 important donors, total: 1,306,504 €,
- between 500 and 999 €: 75 donors, total: 47,400 €,
- between 300 and 499€: 103 donors, total: 36,505 €,
- between 100 and 299€: 618 donors, total: 86,676 €,
- less than 100 €: 737 donors, total: 32,701 €.

### **Geographical distribution of donations**

Donations came from 28 different countries.

The largest contributors were Belgium, 703 9 88 €, followed by France (€ 675,944), the island of St Helena (€ 81,122), then Canada (€ 11,889) and Switzerland (€ 11,481).



## Control and Audit

The operation "Save Napoleon's House on St Helena" was followed by an *ad hoc* committee under the direction of the Real Estate and Logistics Department of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Board of Directors of the Fondation Napoléon was consulted at each of the meetings concerning the various stages of the project. The accounts were also submitted to the Fondation's board of Directors, and have been validated by the auditors. These accounts have been regularly published on the Fondation's website. For any particular question, donors can contact Mr Thierry Lentz, director of the Fondation Napoléon, email: [lentz@napoleon.org](mailto:lentz@napoleon.org).

## II. The original program: the Generals' Wing

Originally, the work program concerned only the wing inhabited by the Generals, the back of Longwood House which was home to, in particular, the Councillor of State, Las Cases, the Generals Montholon and Gourgaud, the doctor O'Meara, as well as the British orderly assigned to Longwood. This building had already been the object of a restoration in the 1930s.

This wing is important in that it houses the Museum of Longwood, consisting of hundreds of pieces: furniture, objects, drawings, engravings, etc.

As planned, we devoted **€ 1.4 million** to the Generals' wing. The construction site was supervised by Michel Jantzen, chief architect of the French historical monuments commission "Monuments Historiques", and by the Real Estate and Logistics Department of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The work was done by a local company, Johnny Isaac, which respected the specifications and deadlines, despite fluctuations in the pound sterling as well as supply difficulties.

The following work was done:

- Comprehensive restoration of the wing of the Generals: partial reconstruction, protection against bad weather, indoor reorganisation for the reception of visitors to the apartments of Las Cases and Gourgaud;
- Interior decoration of the Generals' wing and reinstalling of the museum, with a new scenography.

## III. The additional restoration program

The balance of the appeal, about **€ 800,000**, made it possible for a very comprehensive program of restoration and consolidation of the structure of the St Helena domain, defined by Michel Dancoisne-Martineau, in close collaboration with the services of the Fondation Napoléon, namely:

### The Emperor's apartments:

- Restoration of the salon where the Emperor died in which the wallpaper, curtains, carpets and mouldings have been restored as they would have been on 5th May, 1821;
- Restoration of the Emperor's bathroom to its state as of 5th May, 1821, including notably identical wallpaper.

### The Commons of Longwood:

- Re-roofing, funded 50/50 by the appeal and by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the condition it was in 1821. This is an original part of the building, housing notably the kitchens of Longwood.



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### The gardens:

- Construction of a shelter for the aviary of Grand-Marshal Bertrand so that it can be restored to the place where it would have been at the time of exile. (The aviary, an exact copy of the one kept at the Musée Bertrand de Châteauroux, was funded by a donation from an individual, separate from the appeal).



### The furniture:

- The restoration in France of 32 historical pieces of furniture, including their transport to France, and back to St Helena;
- The training of seven apprentices at St Helena by a French cabinetmaker enabling them to complete the restoration of 78 other pieces of furniture; this part of the restoration was the object of a grant from the Government of St Helena;
- Establishment at Longwood of a carpentry workshop in the former stables (the Archambault Brothers' Building).



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### Reception of the public and modernisation of the sign-posting:

- New more explanatory and "historic" sign-posting, both at Longwood, as well as at the Briars and at the tomb of the Emperor;
- Re-organisation of the public reception area;
- Creation and production of a bilingual brochure about the Napoleonic places of St Helena (made possible thanks to a grant from the Government of St Helena).

## IV. The exhibition "Napoleon on St Helena"

An exhibition of restored furniture, as well as a great deal of the historic memorabilia from the exile of St Helena will be held at the Musée de l'Armée in Paris (France) from April to July 2016. It is expected that the inauguration will be attended by the Governor of St Helena. Donors to the "Save Napoleon's House on St Helena" appeal will have a privileged access to the exhibition, (conditions of which will be specified later).

## V. A new organisation for the "Domaines Nationaux" of St Helena

The French Foreign Ministry has decided to simplify the organisation of the "Domaines Nationaux" of St Helena, in order to enable a more convenient management and allowing it to benefit directly from the development of tourism in St Helena, after 2016. A franchise has been granted to a non-profit organisation established according to the law of St Helena called "St Helena Napoleonic Heritage Limited". The balance of the appeal - about 30,000 euros - will be made available to that organisation for initial expenses and its initial activities. This infrastructure will be placed under the joint "guardianship" of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Government of St Helena and the Fondation Napoléon. Needless to say, the ownership of the "Domaines Nationaux" of St Helena remains that of France.



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### The Fondation Napoleon.

