

Press Communiqué, 17 May 2022

Free online access to the General Correspondence of Napoleon on the Napoleonica® les archives website (www.napoleonica.org)

As of 17 May 2022, the Napoleonica® les archives website (www.napoleonica.org) will be offering free access to the first volume of the *Correspondance générale de Napoléon Bonaparte*. The fourteen other volumes will be online before the end of 2023, representing a total of 4 500 letters. This operation is part of the Fondation's first "semantic web" experiment characterised by a powerful search engine and, eventually, interoperability between different services, including those outside the Fondation Napoléon.

This first volume is devoted to the young Bonaparte's years of apprenticeship (1784-1797) and it was published on paper in early 2004. Many letters discovered since the publication of the book volume have been added to this corpus, which now contains **2,647 annotated letters**.

► **Napoleon's Correspondence: a marathon academic enterprise**

The ambitious project to publish the massive general correspondence of Napoleon Bonaparte was launched by the Fondation Napoléon in 2002, in collaboration with Fayard Editions, and it came to a close in 2016 with the "paper" publication of volume 15. As originally planned, this project is now being extended by making the correspondence available free of charge on a website specialising in the publication of archival documents.

► **Napoleonica® les archives: digital power in research and heritage**

The website napoleonica.org makes original archive documents relating to the First and Second Empire available on the web, usually in the context of partnerships between the Fondation Napoléon, and institutions or individuals who hold the archives and documents. The site is bilingual French-English and it is aimed at researchers and the general public. Consultation of the site and the printing and downloading of documents are entirely free. The integrated search engine allows full-text searches, both within each of the individual collections and also across all of the individual collections.

All volumes of the Correspondence will be available online by the end of 2023.



► **Nearly 25 years of Internet experience**

The Fondation Napoléon has been present on the internet since the mid-1990s. As for its recent activity, it put its institutional website (*fondationnapoleon.org*) online in 2015, the fourth version of its general history site (*napoleon.org*) in 2016, a new database of its collection (*napoleon.arteia.com/artworks*) in 2017, its libraries portal (*bibliotheque-martial-lapeyre.napoleon.org*) in 2018, and the new version of its archive site (*napoleonica.org*) in 2020.

► **Timeline:**

- **2004-2015:** publication of the *Correspondance générale de Napoléon Bonaparte*: 15 volumes, **40 500 annotated letters**
- **2020:** complete overhaul of the **Napoleonica® les archives website** launched in 2000
- **2022:** the first volume of the **Correspondence** put online at www.napoleonica.org
- **2023:** the **entire Correspondence** will be available online at www.napoleonica.org

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