

# ADOPT A SCULPTURE OF THE FIRST EMPIRE GALLERY



CHÂTEAU DE VERSAILLES

# BRING THE FIRST EMPIRE GALLERY BACK TO LIFE

Designed by Jules Hardouin-Mansart in 1679, the First Empire gallery is one of the palace's four main 'Stone Galleries.' It is located on the ground floor of the South Wing, next to the rooms dedicated to Napoleon's conquests.

The collection itself was created by Louis-Philippe in 1834 as part of the fit-out for the Historic Galleries. It includes over 80 sculptures depicting famous military triumphs and political figures from the French Revolution, the Consulate era and the First Empire. The works are primarily commissions made by Napoleon I during the First Empire, and are supplemented by casts to create a chronological and themed gallery experience.

Since the fall of the July monarchy in 1848, a number of works have been moved to other rooms, placed in storage or housed at other museums. These successive developments – particularly the construction of the Salle du Congrès auditorium in 1875, which modified the gallery's layout – made it harder to continue with the concept originally envisaged by Louis-Philippe. Today, only a third of the sculptures from the 1839 inventory are still on display in this space. Faithfully rebuilding the 1837 collection is thus proving to be a challenge – a challenge this campaign is endeavouring to tackle.

Become a patron for this first phase  
of the restoration campaign:  
**Adopt one of the eleven sculptures  
in the First Empire gallery.**

# EXPLORE THE STATUES OF THE FIRST EMPIRE GALLERY



**MV 1578**

marble, H. : 208 ; L. : 82 ;  
Pr. : 57,5 cm

## **Adam-Philippe, Comte de Custine general of the Revolution (1742-1793)**

This statue, initially created by Jean-Guillaume Moitte and completed by Jean-Baptiste Stouf between 1806 and 1808, was presented at the Salon of 1810, before being exhibited at the Louvre in the Henri IV room. It arrived at Versailles in 1834 under the reign of Louis-Philippe, and was placed in the Lower Stone Gallery.

A member of the nobility, the Comte de Custine was involved in the American War of Independence before being elected to the Estates General of 1789 as a representative of the nobility, and subsequently joining the Revolution. Appointed general-in-chief of the Armée du Nord ('Army of the North') in 1793, he suffered several military setbacks, prompting him to be accused of treason and sentenced to death by the Revolutionary Tribunal.

## **Alexander, Baron von Humboldt (1769-1859)**



**MV 65754**

marble, H. : 210 ; L. : 84 ;  
Pr. : 72 cm

Commissioned in 1859 and created by Augustin Alexandre Dumont in 1870, this sculpture was exhibited at the Salon of 1878, before eventually being kept at the artist's studio until 17 April 1884, when it was brought to Versailles.

A German explorer, geographer and naturalist, Baron Alexander von Humboldt was one of the most brilliant minds of his time. He was a member of the French Academy of Sciences and president of the Société de Géographie in Paris, and revolutionised meteorology by developing a mapping method that would be used globally. A pioneer in understanding the main ocean currents, he notably identified their role in temperature redistribution. He is considered by some to be the last great polymath.

## Victor-Emmanuel Leclerc general, husband of Pauline Bonaparte (1772-1802)



**MV 1593**

marble, H. : 211 ; L. : 118 ;  
Pr. : 72 cm

Created by Louis-Marie Dupaty in 1812, this statue, which was exhibited at the Salon of 1812, was subsequently held at the Louvre until 1834, before arriving at Versailles, where it has been displayed in the Lower Stone Gallery since 1995.

Born to a middle-class family, Charles-Victoire-Emmanuel Leclerc was a French general during the Revolution, and the brother-in-law of Napoleon Bonaparte by virtue of his marriage to Pauline. He was renowned for his courage and wisdom, particularly during the Coup of 18 Brumaire, which marked the end of the French Revolution. His career came to a premature end when, at the age of 30, he died of yellow fever during an expedition in Saint-Domingue (modern-day Haiti).

## Jean-Charles Pichegru general of the Revolution (1761-1804)



**MV 1595**

marble, H. : 213 ; L. : 80 ;  
Pr. : 74,5 cm

Commissioned at the end of the First Empire and created by Pierre Cartellier between 1814 and 1815, this statue arrived at Versailles in 1834 and has been housed in the Lower Stone Gallery ever since.

A member of the Third Estate, Jean-Charles Pichegru quickly rose up the rankings of the Revolutionary Army, becoming first a général de brigade in 1793, then a général de division, leading the Armée du Haut-Rhin ('Army of the Upper Rhine'). He was hailed a 'Sauveur de la Patrie' ('Saviour of the Nation') in 1795 and successively commanded the Armies of the Rhine, North and Sambre-et-Meuse.

A close ally of the Prince de Condé, he was elected to the Council of Five Hundred in 1797, before Napoleon Bonaparte ultimately accused him of treason. Following his involvement in a plot against the emperor, he was sent to prison and died in 1804.

## Antoine Louis Charles, Comte de Lasalle General of the Empire (1775-1809)



**MV 1619**

plaster H. : 219 ; L. : 79 ;  
Pr. : 73 cm

This statue, created in 1812 by Augustin-Charles-Marie Taunay, is the preparatory model of the statue commissioned by Napoleon I to decorate the Pont de la Concorde in Paris. This plaster cast arrived at Versailles on 29 May 1834, and has been exhibited in the Lower Gallery since 1995.

A member of the nobility, the Comte de Lasalle began his career in the royal army before making a name for himself during the Revolution, particularly in the Italian and Egyptian Campaigns, with his boldness and tactical mind. Once appointed general of the cavalry brigade, he enjoyed a series of victories over the Prussians. He fell in combat at the age of 34 during the Battle of Wagram.

Napoleon would describe him as 'an officer of the highest merit, and one of our best generals of the cavalry brigade.' Recognised as one of the most brilliant cavalry generals of his time, he has been interred at Les Invalides since 1891.

## Louis Bonaparte Grand Constable of France (1778-1846)



**MV 1529**

marble, H. : 198 ; L. : 77 ;  
Pr. : 57 cm

Commissioned by Napoleon I in 1806, this statue was created by Pierre Cartellier in 1810 and exhibited at the Salon of 1810. It arrived at Versailles in 1834.

The brother of Napoleon I and father of Napoleon III, Louis Bonaparte was heavily influenced by his famous brother, nine years his senior, from a very young age. In 1806, the emperor appointed him King of Holland – a title he held until his abdication in 1810.

Louis Bonaparte is depicted here in his ceremonial attire as Grand Constable of France.

# EXPLORE THE BUSTS OF THE FIRST EMPIRE GALLERY

## Jacques Eliott Bonaparte's aide-de-camp (? - 1796)



**MV 525**  
plaster casting, 1835,  
H. : 81 ; L. : 64 ;  
Pr. : 36 cm

Commissioned by Louis-Philippe in 1835 for the Palace's Historic Galleries, this bust was cast by Jacquet that same year, based on an original bust by R.-G. Dardel, exhibited in the Salle des Maréchaux (Room of the Marshalls) at the Tuileries Palace.

Jacques Eliott was one of Napoleon Bonaparte's aides-de-camp during the latter's time as a general. The aides-de-camp were known for being 'Bonaparte's eyes, ears and swords.' And they did indeed play a crucial role; 'without them, troop actions in battle or the movements of entire armies would lose all sense of order.' Many perished during these missions, and Jacques Eliott was one of them.

A little-known figure, he embodies all of these distinguished officers.

## François-Séverin Marceau général de division (1769-1796)



**MV 526**  
plaster casting, 1835,  
H. : 64 ; L. : 40,8 ;  
Pr. : 32 cm

Commissioned by Louis-Philippe in 1835 for the Palace's Historic Galleries and cast by Jacquet based on an original bust by J.-E. Dumont, this bust was once exhibited in the Salle des Maréchaux (Room of the Marshalls) at the Tuileries Palace.

Appointed a *général de division* at just 24 years of age, François-Séverin Marceau made a name for himself during the Wars of the Vendée and Rhine. Fatally wounded during the French troops' retreat, he was awarded military honours by the Austrian enemy, who returned his remains to the French. A general of the Revolutionary Wars who rose up from the lower-middle class and died prematurely in combat, he is remembered as a hero of the young, brave generation of 1793.

## François Croizier squadron chief (1758-1799)



**MV 530**  
plaster casting, 1839  
H. : 78 ; L. : 64 ;  
Pr. : 34 cm

Commissioned by Louis-Philippe in 1839 for the Palace's Historic Galleries, this bust was cast by Jacquet in April 1838, based on an original bust by P. Petitot.

François Croizier was General Bonaparte's aide-de-camp for nine years. He was appointed squadron chief on the battlefield, before being killed by the Arabs near Cairo during a reconnaissance mission on 21 October 1798.

Bonaparte named a fort in Cairo after him to honour his memory. And, in 1803, he commissioned a bust of Croizier, which was placed in the Salle des Maréchaux (Room of the Marshalls) at the Tuileries Palace for the duration of the Empire.

## Louis-René-Madeleine Le Vassor comte de la Touche-Tréville Amiral (1745-1804)



**MV 1615**  
marble,  
H. : 73 ; L. : 53,5 ;  
Pr. : 31 cm

Commissioned by the Maison de l'Empereur ('the Emperor's Household') in 1806 for the Salle des Maréchaux (Room of the Marshalls) at the Tuileries Palace, and created by Charles-Alexandre Renaud, this bust of the Comte de la Touche-Tréville was housed at the Château de Fontainebleau, where it remained until 1830, before being moved to Versailles on 7 January 1836.

Elected to the Estates General of 1789 as a representative of the nobility, and imprisoned under the Reign of Terror for his noble background, Le Vassor regained his rank and command at the start of the Consulate period. In 1801, he led the fleet tasked with invading England. Prior to his death, he became the commander-in-chief of the Mediterranean Armed Forces.

## Jean-Louis Ebenézer Reynier general (1771-1814)



**MV 5514**

marble,

H. : 67,5 ; L. : 52 ;

Pr. : 24 cm

Created by an unknown sculptor, this bust arrived at Versailles as a donation by the Comtesse Reynier in 1899.

Having been appointed général de brigade in 1795 during the Revolution, Jean-Louis Ebenézer Reynier became a général de division the following year. He was also one of the founders of the Masonic 'Ordre des Sophisiens' ('Order of the Sophisians') in 1801. In 1806, he was awarded the rank of Grand Officier de la Légion d'Honneur, before becoming the Naval and War Minister of the Kingdom of Naples. He died a few days after being released by the Prussians. A Comte de l'Empire ('Count of the Empire'), this dignitary is interred at the Pantheon, where his name has been engraved – an honour owed to his military career.



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*As this campaign is centred on an effort to restore the original historic condition envisaged by Louis-Philippe, some busts and statues may be moved around the gallery or into publicly accessible storerooms as new scientific research emerges.*





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- 🇫🇷 **If you are a company or foundation paying all or part of your taxes in France:** you will enjoy a tax benefit of 60 % of your donation, up to a limit of 0.5 % of your turnover, with the possibility of carrying forward any excess over the next five fiscal years.
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### From the EU and the United Kingdom

- 🇫🇷 **If you are a company, foundation, or private donor residing in Germany, Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland or the United Kingdom:** you can support the Palace of Versailles while benefiting from the tax incentives under your country's legislation, via the Transnational Giving Europe network.

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### Outside the EU and the U.S.

- 🇫🇷 **If you are a company, foundation or individual from another country** (outside the U.S. and the European Union), please contact the patronage office at the following address: [mecenat@chateauversailles.fr](mailto:mecenat@chateauversailles.fr)



# JOIN IN THE RESTORATION OF THE SCULPTURES IN THE FIRST EMPIRE GALLERY

## ADOPT A STATUE

The cost for adopting a statue in the First Empire gallery is  
**€ 12,000.**

After the french tax reduction, this adoption will end up costing you **€ 4,080** if you are a private individual, and **€ 4,800** if you are a company.

## ADOPT A BUST

The cost for adopting a bust in the First Empire gallery is  
**€ 5,000.**

After the french tax reduction, this adoption will end up costing you **€ 1,700** if you are a private individual, and **€ 2,000** if you are a company.

## CHOOSE YOUR STATUE OR BUST



CONTACT THE PATRONAGE SERVICE  
FOR MORE INFORMATION

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