

House of Bonaparte:

An Inventory of the Collection at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Title:	House of Bonaparte Collection
Dates:	1785-1879, undated
Extent:	1 document box, 1 custom box, 1 oversize box (4.23 linear feet), 2 oversize folders (osf)
Abstract:	A gathering of manuscripts related to the House of Bonaparte. Includes a manuscript and a letter written by Napoleon I, Emperor of the French, as well as several decrees and orders signed by him, some with his annotations.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-54103
Language:	French, English, Italian
Access:	Open for research

Administrative Information

Processed by:	Joan Sibley and Michael Ramsey, 2011; Richard Workman, 2017 Note: This finding aid replicates and replaces information previously available only in a card catalog. Please see the explanatory note at the end of this finding aid for information regarding the arrangement of the manuscripts as well as the abbreviations commonly used in descriptions.
Repository:	The University of Texas at Austin, Harry Ransom Center

Scope and Contents

This collection was previously cataloged under the title Napoleon I, Emperor of the French Collection, 1785-1813, undated. Additional manuscripts related to the French emperors Napoleon I and Napoleon III and their families have been gathered together expanding the scope of the original collection, now titled the House of Bonaparte Collection, 1785-1879, undated.

The collection consists primarily of letters and official documents, all in French unless noted otherwise. The collection is arranged alphabetically by author. It includes a manuscript and a letter written by Napoleon I as well as several decrees and orders signed by him, some with his annotations. Other correspondents include the Empress Josephine; Queen Hortense; Empress Eugénie; Antoine-Marie Chamans, comte de La Valette; and Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord, prince de Bénévent.

Related Material

Extensive additional manuscript materials related to Napoleon I and the Bonaparte family are in several extra-illustrated volumes in the Stark Library at the Ransom Center; see the finding aid for Manuscripts in the Stark Books Collection. Additional related material is located among the Marthe Bibesco Papers and the Carlton Lake Collection of French Manuscripts. Napoleonic memorabilia is also present in the John Diederick Holm Collection.

A number of objects associated with Napoleon I, including a lock of his hair and a death mask, are in the Ransom Center's Personal Effects Collections.

Letters and Documents:

- Bonaparte, Napoléon-Joseph-Charles-Paul, Prince, 1822-1891. Two signed handwritten letters to Foucher, Victor, 16 May and 4 September 1858. **Container** 1.1
- Boucheporn, Claude-François Bertrand de. Signed handwritten document, 1 page, pay order to Trésorier de la Caisse Civile for benefit of Maria Letizia Ramolino Bonaparte, 30 July 1785. **Container** 1.2
- Bugeaud, Thomas Robert, duc d'Isly, 1784-1849. Signed handwritten letter to Mesnière, Dr., 18 May no year. **Container** 1.3
- Carte, Benoit. Petition to Napoleon Bonaparte. Signed handwritten document with handwritten note signed by Napoleon written on it, 1 page, 24 Floréal an 9 (=14 May 1801). **Container** osf 1
- Fouché, Joseph, duc d'Otrante, 1759-1820. Signed handwritten letter to unidentified minister of the United States, 21 Brumaire an 13 (=12 November 1804). **Container** 1.4
- France. Administration de la Guerre. Bureau des Etapes et Equipages. Report concerning the equipment of the army in Spain, signed handwritten document with handwritten note by Napoleon written on it, 3 pages, 16 July 1813 (Napoleon's note dated 22 July 1813). **Container** 1.5
- Gourgaud, Gaspard, Baron, 1783-1852:
- Signed handwritten letter seeking employment for M. Sazerac to Rambuteau, Claude Philibert Barthelot, comte de, undated. **Container** 1.6
- Handwritten signed document, 1 page pasted on card stock, regarding workshops for the construction of artillery carriages, 11 October 1831.
- La Valette, Antoine-Marie Chamans, comte de, 1769-1830. Handwritten signed letter to Citizen Perregaux requesting the sum of 4500 francs, 18 Floréal an 9 (=8 May 1801). **Container** 1.7
- Lettres de l'Impératrice Joséphine, 1809-1829. Fifteen documents tipped on leaves in an album bound in green morocco, 44 leaves, album undated. Documents are accompanied by typed English translations. Binding signed (stamped on front doublure) Chambolle-Duru. From the Stark Collection, formerly designated as MS X-9. Contents:
- Beauharnais, Eugène de, 1781-1824. Handwritten signed letter to Cochelet, 18 December 1816.

Hortense, Queen, consort of Louis Bonaparte, King of Holland, 1783-1837.
Five handwritten signed letters to La Valette, Antoine-Marie Chamans, comte de, 24 June 1821, 6 April 1824, 25 November 1825, 28 September 1827, 13 October 1829.

Josephine, Empress, consort of Napoleon I, Emperor of the French, 1763-1814:

Five handwritten signed letters to La Valette, Antoine-Marie Chamans, comte de, 10 March, 27 August, 7 November, all no year; two undated. **Container** 1.8

Four handwritten and printed documents, bills from four Paris merchants, 6 September, 15 October, 21 October, and December, all 1809.

Louis Bonaparte, King of Holland, 1778-1846. Signed handwritten document addressed to the Ministre de la Guerre, 1 page, 10 Brumaire an 10 (=1 November 1801). **Container** 1.9

A Memento of the four Napoleons comprising original letters and documents of historical interest.... Six manuscript documents tipped on leaves in an album bound in blue morocco and embellished with semi-precious stones and with four portrait miniatures on ivory inset inside the upper cover, 22 leaves, album undated. Documents and letters are accompanied by historical notes in English and English translations, written in a calligraphic hand and illuminated. Cosway binding, signed (stamped on front turn-in): S&S; also signed (stamped on front doublure): Illuminated and bound by Sangorski & Sutcliffe London. From the Stark Collection. Contents:

Container 3.1

Bonaparte, François Charles Joseph, Herzog von Reichstadt, 1811-1832.
Handwritten manuscript, Italian language exercise, translations into Italian of letters by the King of Prussia and Voltaire, 3 pages, circa 1831.

Dortu, Marie Pierre Louis. Petition to Napoleon I by a wounded French officer, handwritten signed document with Napoleon's initialed endorsement, 1 page, 28 April 1810.

Eugénie, Empress, consort of Napoleon III, Emperor of the French, 1826-1920:

Handwritten letter, signed for Eugénie by the Duc de Bassano to Chevrier, Comtesse de, July 1879. **Container** 3.1

Handwritten signed note to unidentified recipient, 1879.

Louis Napoléon, Prince Imperial of the French, 1856-1879. Handwritten signed letter to Frotat, Mlle., 7 September 1870.

Napoleon III, Emperor of the French, 1808-1873. Handwritten signed document, decree commuting sentences against the Gardes Nationales, 2 pages, 2 December 1852.

Milhaud, Jean-Baptiste, 1766-1833. Handwritten letter to Rhül, Philippe Jacques, requesting reinforcements, signed by Milhaud and 5 others, 1 Vendémiaire an 2 (=22 October 1793). **Container** 1.10

Napoleon I, Emperor of the French, 1769-1821:

Signed handwritten document, 2 pages, order to various of the Emperor's generals, in the form of a letter addressed to "mon cousin." Written in an unidentified hand with handwritten revisions by Napoleon and signed by him, 30 August 1813. From the Stark Collection. **Container** 1.11

Handwritten letter, signed L'Empereur, to unidentified Ministre d'Etat, undated. Removed from Stark 7110. **Container** 1.12

Decree conferring the dignity of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor on Sebastien Michel Baur, handwritten document on vellum, signed by Napoleon and Cambacérès, with the imperial seal attached, 1 leaf, 27 September 1810. **Container** 1.13

Decree conferring the dignity of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor on Camille Frédéric Gaulieu, handwritten document on vellum, signed by Napoleon and Cambacérès, with the imperial seal attached, 1 leaf, 5 August 1812. From the Parsons Collection. **Container** 2.1

Marriage contract between Princesse Stephanie de Tascher and Prosper Louis, Duc d'Arenberg, handwritten document, signed by Napoleon, Josephine, the bride and bridegroom, and members of both families, 15 pages, 30 January 1808. **Container** 1.14

Order directing Count Sulkowski to set out for Rastadt, signed handwritten document, 1 page, 22 Brumaire an 6 (=12 November 1797). **Container** osf 1

Trade license for a French ship, signed handwritten document, 1 page, 1 January 1813. Initialed by Napoleon and signed by five other officials.

Savary, Anne-Jean-Marie-René, duc de Rovigo, 1774-1833. Handwritten signed letter concerning an insurrection among customs employees, to Sussy, Jean-Baptiste Collin, comte de, Ministre du Commerce, 21 May 1813. **Container** 1.15

Talleyrand-Périgord, Charles Maurice de, prince de Bénévent, 1754-1838:

Handwritten letter in unknown hand, signed by Talleyrand, regarding the death of his brother-in-law, General LeClerc, to Livingston, Robert R., 19 Nivôse an 11 (=9 January 1803). **Container** 1.16

Handwritten letter in unknown hand, signed by Talleyrand, concerning John Higginson, to Skipworth, Fulwar, 4 August 1806.

Warden, William. Handwritten diary in English of his voyage as ship's surgeon on the H.M.S. Northumberland when conveying Napoleon to St. Helena, incomplete, written on printed medical forms, 27 pages, 15-27 August 1815. From the Parsons Collection.

Container
osf 2

Explanatory Note Concerning Manuscript Collections Cataloged in the Card Catalog

Prior to 1990 when archival cataloging procedures were adopted at the Ransom Center, all manuscript collections were described in a card catalog.

Organization of Collections:

- Manuscripts for each author collection were organized into four categories:
- **Works:** manuscripts by the author, arranged alphabetically by title;
- **Letters:** the author's outgoing correspondence, arranged alphabetically by recipient name;
- **Recipient:** the author's incoming correspondence, arranged alphabetically by the author of the letter; and
- **Miscellaneous:** all other manuscripts and correspondence, arranged alphabetically by creator.

Materials that did not fit into these categories, such as art, photographs, books, and near-print materials such as newspaper clippings, were dispersed to other Ransom Center collections for cataloging and storage.

Abbreviations Used in Descriptions:

The symbols below were used in combinations. For example **ALS** means autograph letter signed; **Tccms** means typed carbon copy manuscript, etc.

- **A** = autograph (i.e., handwritten)
- **T** = typed
- **S** = signed
- **I** = initialed
- **Ms** = manuscript
- **Mss** = manuscripts
- **L** = letter
- **FL** = form letter
- **N** = note
- **D** = document
- **C** = card
- **PC** = post card
- **cc** = carbon copy
- **p** = page
- **pp** = pages
- **l** = leaf
- **ll** = leaves
- **nd** = no date
- **inc d** = incomplete date