



**Press Communiqué, 5 November, 2007**

---

**FONDATION NAPOLEON  
HISTORY PRIZES AND RESEARCH GRANTS 2007**

The annual **Fondation Napoléon History Prizes 2007** for books on the two French empires were this year awarded to:

**FONDATION NAPOLEON GRAND PRIX AND FIRST EMPIRE PRIZE 2007**

**Pierre Branda, *Le prix de la gloire, Napoléon et l'argent*, Editions Fayard**

With his greatcoat and his hat, Napoleon passes for a simple man, not in the least influenced by “filthy lucre”. And yet, money was the emperor’s constant companion. To forget this is to forget that the French Revolution, to which Napoleon owed everything, was the direct consequence of a financial crisis which the Ancien Régime was unable to solve. To forget this is to forget that the devaluation of paper money was one of the principal factors for the Directory’s discredit, which itself favoured the arrival of a man able to re-establish order. To forget this is to forget that the military expeditions planned or led by Bonaparte (Italy or Santo Domingo) were organised for economic reasons or failed for serious lack of funds (Egypt). Such amnesia however would also unjustly minimise the consular regime’s contribution to the re-establishment of national finances. It would be to forget the extraordinary feat performed by Napoleon of financing fifteen years of war without bankrupting the state, when twenty years earlier French assistance in the American war of Independence, on a relatively modest military level, had brought a thousand-year-old French monarchy to its knees.

**PRIZE FOR A BOOK IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN FRENCH 2007**

**Thomas Munch-Petersen, *Defying Napoleon*, Sutton Publishing**

In the later summer of 1807 a new era of British international politics dawned with the aggressive bombing of Copenhagen by British forces. This book by Thomas Munch-Petersen, senior lecturer in Scandinavian History at University College London, UK, is one of the first ever monographs in English on the subject. It deals in detail with the Anglo-Danish diplomatic wranglings which preceded the show of force, Danish relations with France and finally the bombardment itself. The book is based on extensive original research in British and mainly Scandinavian archives and offers new evidence and interpretations. Most of all, it tells the story of Napoleon Bonaparte’s “ferocious will”, Alexander I’s “devious and nebulous ambitions” and George Canning’s “determination” at the time of this famously unprovoked aggression against a neutral state and the terror bombardment of a civilian population.

**SPECIAL JURY PRIZE 2007**

Bernard and Danielle QUINTIN, for their lives’ work:

- *Dictionnaire des colonels de Napoléon* (1996, Editions SPM),
- *Dictionnaire des capitaines de vaisseaux de Napoléon* (2003, Editions SPM)



- *Austerlitz, 2 décembre 1805 : dictionnaire biographique des soldats de Napoléon tombés au champ d'honneur* (2004, Archives et Cultures Editions)
- *Dictionnaire des soldats français morts à la bataille d'Eylau* (2006, Archives et Cultures Editions)

## RESEARCH GRANTS 2007

Every year, grants are awarded to students beginning PhDs on First or Second Empire subjects. This year the following research projects were supported:

### First Empire

- Eman Vovsi: *The forgotten Napoleonic code: the Code Militaire*, supervised by Rabe Blaufarb, Florida State University, Tallahassee (Florida)
- Cyril Lecosse: *Jean-Baptiste Isabey (1767-1855): the artist and his times*, supervised by Professor Philippe Bordes, Université Lyon II
- Eléonore Pahlavi: *Britain and French Emigration: joint projects for a restoration of the monarchy in France (1793-1814)*, supervised by Professor Jacques-Olivier Boudon, Paris IV Sorbonne
- Bernd Pappé: *Jean-Baptiste Jacques Augustin*, supervised by Professeur Pascal Griener, Université de Neuchâtel (Suisse)
- Jean-Philippe Rey: *A municipality during the First Empire: Lyon, 1805-1815*, supervised by Professor Bruno Benoît, Université Lyon II
- Leïla Saada: *The First Consul's participation in the preparatory work for the Code Civil*, supervised by Professor Alain Desrayaud, Université Paris XII

### Second Empire

- Marie-Emilie Vaxelaire: *Mellerio/Meller, the history of a Parisian jewellers in the 19th century*, supervised by Professeur Bruno Foucart, Paris IV – Sorbonne

### Further information

Details concerning the jury, previous winners, and application instructions can be found on the *napoleon.org* site at the following links:

- History prizes: [http://www.napoleon.org/en/fondation/history\\_grands\\_prix/index.asp](http://www.napoleon.org/en/fondation/history_grands_prix/index.asp)
- Research grants: [http://www.napoleon.org/en/fondation/research\\_grants/index.asp](http://www.napoleon.org/en/fondation/research_grants/index.asp)