



**Press Communiqué, 2 December, 2011**

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**FONDATION NAPOLEON  
HISTORY PRIZES AND RESEARCH GRANTS 2011**

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

**FIRST EMPIRE PRIZE 2011**

**Michel Dancoisne-Martineau, *Chroniques de Sainte-Hélène Atlantique sud*, Perrin**

In October 1815, Napoleon and his companions, accompanied by a British garrison charged with guarding him, landed on a remote and rocky island in the middle of the South Atlantic. The quiet history of this tiny colony was to be changed forever by this unexpected arrival. With the history of Napoleon Bonaparte on St Helena already well-known, Michel Dancoisne-Martineau approaches it from a different angle, and takes a look at the lives of those who were caught up in the episode. In addition to Hudson Lowe, the reader is introduced to the decidedly odd Reverend Boys, Solomon "the Jew", the feisty Betsy Balcombe, Cipriani the major-domo, the slaves working on the island, the East India Company's Chinese natives, and the prostitutes hanging around the prison; in short a microcosm worthy of Balzac's *Comédie humaine*. The fifty-four short histories compiled here, based on the (never-before-used) archives in Jamestown, give the historian the chance of catching something they very rarely get, namely: what it was like there at the time.

**SECOND EMPIRE PRIZE 2011**

**Nicolas Chaudun, *L'été en enfer, Napoléon III dans la débâcle*, Actes Sud**

August 1870, the imperial army is defeated, the regime collapses, France is invaded. The sudden collapse of the Second Empire shook the whole of Europe and ushered in one hundred years of unstable decline for France. Much has been written about this "debacle", this "annus horribilis". However, in all these writings, there is nothing about Napoleon III, except the eternal refrain of a sovereign wandering the battlefield in search of a death to save him from dishonour. The futility of a leader dispossessed of power, then stripped of military command, could justify this lack of attention. The impeccable reserve which his companions in misfortune imposed upon themselves is even more understandable. And yet for an author, Napoleon III is the perfectly embodiment of a hero of classical tragedy. There is the premonition of disaster, but also its acceptance, there is the physical suffering that he endured and the cruelty of his relationship with the empress; there is a dramatic tension right from the beginning of the crisis.

**PRIZE FOR A BOOK IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN FRENCH 2011**

**Alison McQueen, *Empress Eugénie and the Arts. Politics and Visual Culture in the Nineteenth Century*, Ashgate**

Reconstructing Empress Eugénie's position as a private collector and a public patron of a broad range of media, this study is the first to examine Eugénie (1826–1920), whose patronage of the arts has been overlooked even by her many biographers. The empress's patronage and collecting is considered within the context of her political roles in the development of France's institutions and international relations. *Empress Eugénie and the Arts: Politics and Visual Culture in the Nineteenth Century* also



examines representations of the empress, and the artistic transformation of a Hispanic woman into a leading figure in French politics. From her self-definition as empress through her collections, to her later days in exile in England, art was integral to Eugénie's social and political position.

## RESEARCH GRANTS 2011

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

- Romain Buclon, *Espace créé, espace vécu. Le rôle de Milan capitale dans les stratégies de représentation du pouvoir napoléonien (1796-1814)*.  
PhD thesis jointly supervised by Professors Gilles Bertrand and Luigi Mascilli Migliorini, Université Grenoble 2 and Istituto universitario orientale di Napoli
- Pierre Horn, *L'adhésion au régime napoléonien dans les départements nord-orientaux du Ier Empire (1810-1813) – étude de l'Esprit public dans la Moselle, les Forêts, l'Ourthe et la Roër*.  
PhD thesis jointly supervised by Professors Jacques-Olivier Boudon, Paris IV-Sorbonne and Gabriele B. Clemens, Universität des Saarlandes
- Joshua Meeks, *The Empire and the construction of the State: Corsica in the 1790s*.  
PhD thesis supervised by Professor Dr Rafe Blaufarb, Florida State University
- Olivier Varlan, *Armand-Louis de Caulaincourt, duc de Vicence (1773-1827) : étude d'une carrière diplomatique sous le Premier Empire, de la cour de Napoléon au ministère des Relations extérieures*.  
PhD thesis supervised by Professor Jacques-Olivier Boudon, Paris IV-Sorbonne

### Second Empire

- Hanan Hasheim, *Satire des règles du Savoir-vivre sous le Second Empire, approche sociopolitique de la comédie chez Emile Augier, Alexandre Dumas fils et Victorien Sardou*.  
PhD thesis supervised by Geneviève Jolly, UFR des Arts, Université de Strasbourg

### First – Second Empire

- Mélanie Salitot, *Les Didots, amateurs de livres illustrés à Paris (1754-1855)*.  
PhD thesis supervised by Professor Marianne Grivel, Paris IV-Sorbonne
- Wassili Joseph, *François Rude (1784-1855), sculpteur romantique*.  
PhD thesis supervised by Professor Barthélémy Jobert, Paris IV-Sorbonne

### Further information

Details concerning the jury, previous winners, and application instructions can be found on the [napoleon.org](http://www.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)