

HONNEUR ET PATRIE

SUPPORTING  
THE GRAND CHANCERY  
OF THE LEGION OF HONOR

## THE GRAND CHANCERY WORKING IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

TO MAINTAIN ITS HERITAGE SITES, FULFIL ITS PUBLIC SERVICE MISSIONS AND GIVE THE WIDEST POSSIBLE VISIBILITY TO THE HIGHEST HONORS UNDER ITS RESPONSIBILITY, THE GRAND CHANCERY OF THE LEGION OF HONOR REGULARLY APPEALS TO THE GENEROSITY OF ORDER MEMBERS AND OF PHILANTHROPISTS, INDIVIDUALS AND CORPORATE ENTITIES.

The Grand Chancery is a French State institution with three public service missions. Its first task is to administer the three highest French honors: the Legion of Honor, the Military Medal and the National Order of Merit. As such, it is the main point of contact for honorees in all matters relating to their distinction, but also the touchpoint for any member of the public in search of information on their ancestors or wishing to consult the historical archives.

The Grand Chancery also has an educational mission. It manages two public sector schools, the *maisons d'éducation de la Légion d'honneur*, founded in 1805, which accommodate a thousand boarding students, ranging from the first grade in secondary school to post-baccalaureate classes. These girls-only schools are open to descendants of honorees and play a social role by supporting families in need and by reducing or writing off boarding fees for 30% of their boarders.

Finally, the Grand Chancery also welcomes a wide-ranging visiting public in the Museum of the Legion of Honor and the Orders of Chivalry. This history museum displays information to visitors on honors awarded in France and all over the world, their founding values and the merits of the people who have received them over the years. Through its civic vocation, it is an educational venue highly suitable for school visits.



Grand Chancery of the Legion of Honor © Gilles Targat

## THE HISTORICAL HERITAGE OF THE GRAND CHANCERY

The three public service missions of the Grand Chancery entail a fourth: the conservation and upkeep of its architectural, artistic and archival heritage.

The Legion of Honor owns several prestigious buildings: the Hôtel de Salm, a palace which houses its headquarters and its museum, the former royal abbey of Saint-Denis and the former convent of Les Loges which house the *maisons d'éducation*. These historical listed buildings\* are living and utilitarian places which constantly require renovating, modernizing and upgrading to standards.

The artistic heritage of the institution comprises many paintings and pieces of art, the majority of which are exhibited in the museum alongside decorations and regalia. These historical treasures call for regular and meticulous upkeep, as does the furniture in the palace, a store for the National Furniture for which the Grand Chancery holds responsibility.



Museum, foreign orders room © Chrystèle Lacène

With a history spanning more than 200 years, the Grand Chancery has a volume of administrative and historical archives evaluated at 3,5km of shelving, which notably includes 2.2 million dossiers regarding honorees and 70,000 dossiers regarding school students, from 1804 to the present day; this heritage must also be preserved and maintained.

\* Part of the *maison d'éducation des Loges* in Saint-Germain-en-Laye is listed.



Maison d'éducation de Saint-Denis, former royal abbey © Joël Peyrou



Palace of the Legion of Honor, Rotunda stateroom © Alo Paistik

## REASONS TO SUPPORT THE GRAND CHANCERY

4

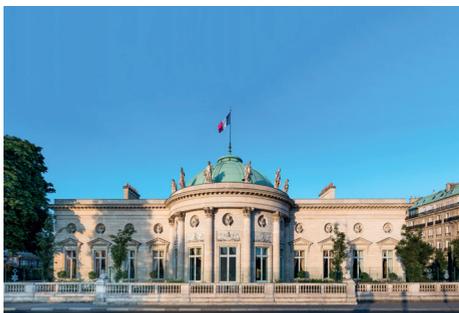
The Grand Chancery is an independent institution whose government funding only covers the costs of its regular and daily operation and the maintenance or replacement of necessary facilities.

For major restoration works or in specific circumstances, the institution is required to supplement its public grant by calling on patronage or drawing on the donations or bequests that it has received. Another way of bolstering its resources is by hiring out its buildings for corporate functions or filming.

Since 2011, financial patronage has helped to fund restoration work on the Palace of the Legion of Honor, an opulently-decorated 18<sup>th</sup> century mansion house. Its staterooms, facades and gardens have thus regained a luster in keeping with the institution, and people can admire them every year on European Heritage Days. In 2015, the museum's Legion of Honor room and National Order of Merit room were totally transformed thanks to a donation dating back to when the museum was founded.

In Saint-Denis, the former royal abbey, whose splendid classical architecture houses one of the *maisons d'éducation*, had its west wing rooms fully refurbished in 2014, while its entrance gate and the ironwork masterpieces comprising the cloister gate and the Madrid staircase banister were renovated in 2016 and 2017. At Les Loges, the gardens' chapel was fully restored thanks to donations of skills and labor from three trades.

In 2017, the institution was able to fully finance two events by drawing on charitable donations: the 8<sup>th</sup> congress of Grand Chanceries from Francophone sub-Saharan Africa and France, and the exhibition *A hundred portraits for a centenary, Foch's soldiers as seen by Burnand*, held at the museum as part of the First World War commemorations.



Palace of the Legion of Honor © Chrystèle Lacène



Museum, Legion of Honor room © Chrystèle Lacène

## PROJECTS AWAITING FUNDING

5



Palace of the Legion of Honor, bas-relief of south-east building © François Poche

The Grand Chancery is currently seeking financial support or assistance in the form of skills to carry out several different projects.

### RESTORATION PROJECTS

- In the Palace of the Legion of Honor: the peristyle of the Cour d'Honneur, the bas-relief of the south-east building, the decorative ceiling paintings in the white stateroom, the First Empire commodes and seats in the Rotunda stateroom.
- In Saint-Denis: the roof of the abbey's west wing, the facades of the Bayard and Quincunx courtyards, the grand vestibule and the drawing room.
- At Les Loges: the chapel of the Cour d'Honneur, the horticultural greenhouse.
- In the museum: the royal orders room.

**Cost: from €100K to €3 million, according to the project.**



Maison d'éducation des Loges, horticultural greenhouse © Alain Baunty



Maison d'éducation de Saint-Denis, former royal abbey, roof of west wing © Joël Peyrou

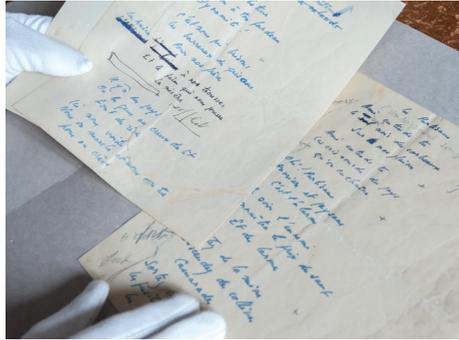
# PROJECTS AWAITING FUNDING

## ARCHIVE MANAGEMENT AND CAPITALIZATION PROJECT

The Grand Chancery's archives are currently stored in a variety of places which do not guarantee ideal conservation conditions. The project consists of:

- Inventorying and classifying them,
- Moving them to a single, purpose-designed building,
- Scanning the most fragile items and those which will be made available for public consultation,
- Publishing them on line,
- Creating a single database of honorees for public consultation.

**Overall cost: €3 million, to be deployed at separate stages.**



Museum, manuscript of the *Chant des Partisans* © ECPAD



Grand Chancery, honorees archives © Chrystèle Lacène

# HOW TO SUPPORT THE GRAND CHANCERY

## CULTURAL FACILITATION PROJECTS

The collections in the Museum of the Legion of Honor – decorations, paintings, regalia – deserve to be described and placed in their historical, political or artistic context, in order for visitors to appreciate their full worth.

- A multi-lingual smartphone app should be offered to visitors.
- A digital database of foreign honors should be made available to the general public as a virtual supplement to current collections.

**Cost: from €50K to €150K according to the project.**

The Grand Chancery is a public interest body and as such is certified by French law to benefit from financial and skill patronage (*mécénat*) and receive donations and bequests. It offers its personal and corporate donors all the moral and financial guarantees of a major State institution. It can issue a receipt to allow the donor to **benefit from tax relief** as provided for by French tax legislation (60% relief for companies or 66% for individuals).

**For further information on any of the projects underway and on how you can support the Grand Chancery, please contact General Henri Laporte Many on +33 (0)1 40 62 83 10 or by e-mail at [henri.laporte-many@legiondhonneur.fr](mailto:henri.laporte-many@legiondhonneur.fr)**



Museum, exhibition *De Gaulle and Merit* © ECPAD



Palace of the Legion of Honor, *Le serment des Horaces* © ECPAD



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DE LA LÉGION  
D'HONNEUR

