

N° 1

Légionnaires D. Droit

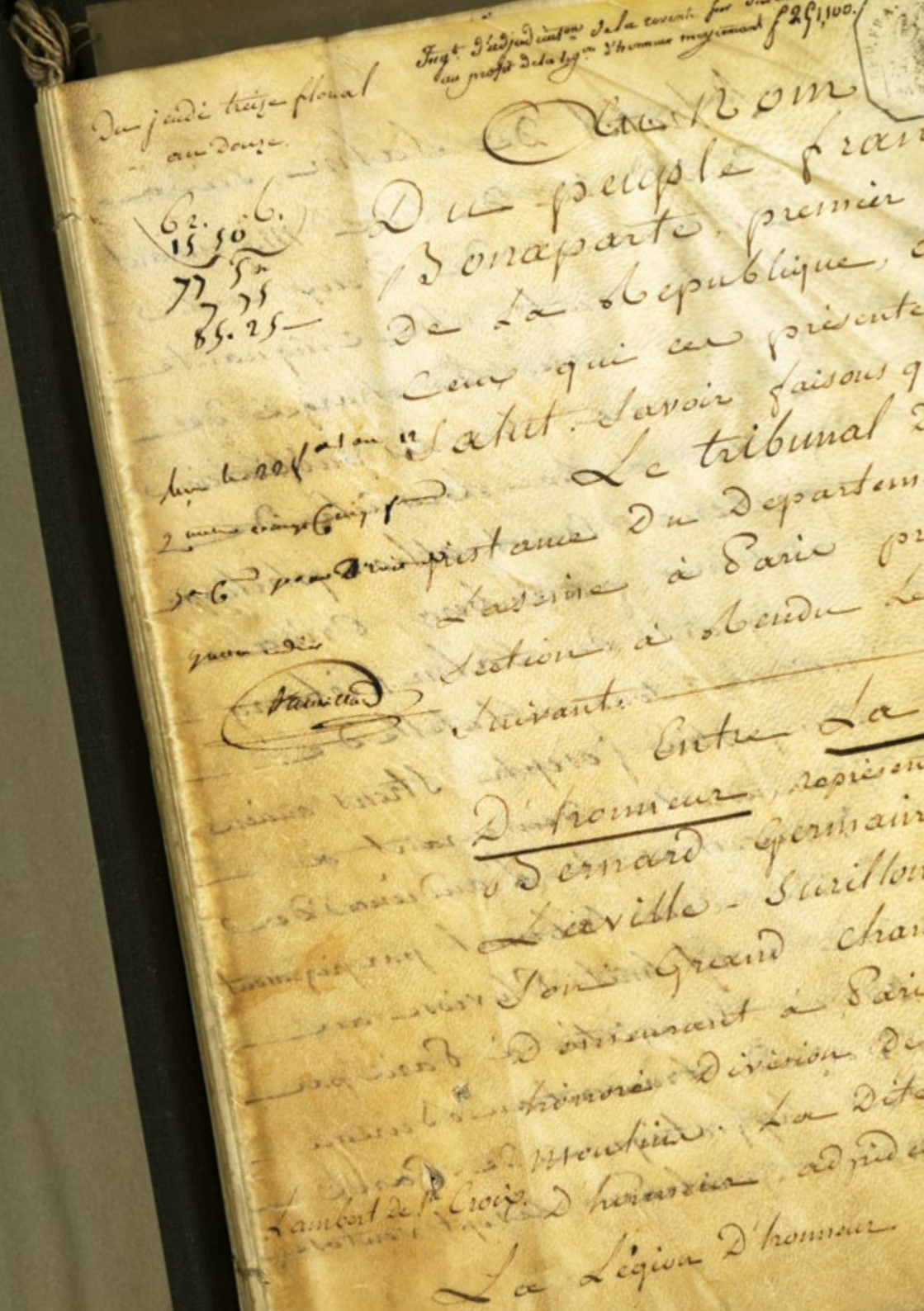
1<sup>er</sup> Vendém<sup>er</sup> An 12

24 7 1803

3	Abady (Jean)	Caporal 63 <sup>e</sup>	1
21	Acier (Jean Pierre)	Camboue 62 <sup>e</sup>	2
25	Adam (Nicolas)	Brig <sup>ade</sup> 16 <sup>e</sup> Cavalerie	3
23	Accard (Jb <sup>te</sup> )	Sergent 10 <sup>e</sup> De ligne	4
48	Agarrot (Louis)	Chef de B <sup>ataillon</sup> 11 <sup>e</sup> De ligne	5
50	Aigouy (Nicolas)	Sergent major 59 <sup>e</sup>	6
55	Aimaré (Jean)	Fusilier 106 <sup>e</sup>	7
57	Aimé dit Galopin (Jean)	Caporal au 105 <sup>e</sup>	8
63	Albaret (Pierre)	Brigadier 18 <sup>e</sup> Dragons	9
68	Albers (Jean Jean)	Grandier à cheval Garde Impériale	10
73	Albises (Jean)	Fusilier 25 <sup>e</sup> De ligne	11
92	Alis (Jb <sup>te</sup> )	Chef d'Escadron 2 <sup>e</sup> Cuirassiers	12
79	Alexandre (Barthélemy)	Chasseur à cheval 25 <sup>e</sup> Régiment	13
87	Algerier (Louis)	M <sup>aitre</sup> Des logis 6 <sup>e</sup> Rég <sup>iment</sup> D'artillerie à cheval	14
93	Allain (Nicolas)	Quartier Maître fusil 2 <sup>e</sup> le formidable	16
94	Allain (Jean Marie)	M <sup>aitre</sup> D'Equipage marine	17
127	Alzar (Louis)	M <sup>aitre</sup> Des logis 5 <sup>e</sup> Rég <sup>iment</sup> D'art <sup>illerie</sup> à cheval	18
132	Amblard (Antoine)	Adj <sup>oint</sup> Sous off <sup>icier</sup> 41 <sup>e</sup> De ligne	19

MÉMOIRE DE L'HONNEUR





I have decided to embark upon a major project for the Grand Chancery of the Legion of Honor: the preservation and capitalization of our archives, both historical and contemporary. They represent the intangible heritage of our institution.

This project, named 'Mémoire de l'honneur' (Memory of Honor), aims to bring to life and make accessible to all the archives which include the biographies of the people decorated with national distinctions, the history of these awards as well as those of the buildings that house their headquarters and the maisons d'éducation of the Legion of Honor.

Given our dedication to our public service mission and our awareness of the attachment of the French people to the Legion of Honor and its influence throughout the world, we ascribe great strategic importance to the Memory of Honor project. All the technical and scientific departments of the Grand Chancery are involved in this initiative, first and foremost an archivist, Chief Heritage Curator, who has been specifically recruited for the purpose.



Finally, to meet the multiple requirements of this project, we are conducting an ambitious fundraising campaign that will enable each donor to firmly inscribe the memory of the Legion of Honor in the future.

General Benoît Puga  
Grand Chancellor of the Legion of Honor  
Chancellor of the National Order of Merit

© Franck Juery



# AN INSTITUTION AT THE SERVICE OF MERIT AND EXCELLENCE

The Grand Chancery is a French State institution placed under the authority of the President of the Republic, Grand Master of the Legion of Honor. It has three public service missions, governed by the code of the Legion of Honor.

Its primary task is to administer the four highest French Honors: the Legion of Honor, the Military Medal, the National Order of Merit and the National Medal of Recognition for victims of terrorism. Its role is central in the designation of honorees and to ensure the consistency of the French honorary award system.

The Grand Chancery is also endowed with an educational mission. It manages two public sector schools, the maisons d'éducation of the Legion of Honor, founded in 1805; which accommodate a thousand boarding pupils, ranging from the first grade in secondary school to post-baccalaureate classes. Open to the female descendants of French and foreign honorees, these schools have a vocation of excellence and cultivate the values of the national orders.

Finally, the Grand Chancery welcomes a wide range of visitors to the Museum of the Legion of Honor and the Orders of Chivalry. This distinctive Museum, which opened in 1925, is a worldwide reference in its field and contributes to spreading knowledge of French and foreign decorations. It aims to highlight their founding values and the achievements of the people who have received them over the years.



Award Ceremony at the Palace of the Legion of Honor © AlloPhoto



Maison d'éducation de Saint-Denis © Laurence Von Der Weid

# ARCHIVES OF HIGH HISTORICAL, SOCIOLOGICAL AND SYMBOLIC VALUE

**THE GRAND CHANCERY IS 'THE ADMINISTRATION OF HONOR AND MERIT' AND THE DECORATIONS ARE INTENDED TO DISTINGUISH THOSE WHO EXCEL IN THE NAME OF COMMON GOOD, WHILE PUTTING THEM FORWARD AS AN EXAMPLE. THE CAPITALIZATION OF ITS ARCHIVES IS THEREFORE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE INSTITUTION'S MISSION.**

## HONOREES AND HONORS

The greater part of the collections concern the files on its honorees. They cover a period spanning more than 200 years, from the creation of the Legion of Honor in 1802 to the present day. The merits of approximately 900,000 members of the Legion of Honor, one million holders of the Military Medal and 330,000 members of the National Order of Merit are recorded. These files are of first-rate scientific value for historians and sociologists. And, given the French population's enthusiasm for genealogy, they provide valuable biographical and filiation information.



Manuscript of the *Chant des Partisans*, 1943 © ECPAD

In addition, there are valuable documents on the creation and evolution of each of the distinctions administered by the Grand Chancery: organizational laws and decrees, minutes of the investitures of the Presidents of the Republic as Grand Master, individual papers of the Grand Chancellors, minutes of meetings of the Councils of Orders, and disciplinary files of honorees.

## MAISONS D'ÉDUCATION

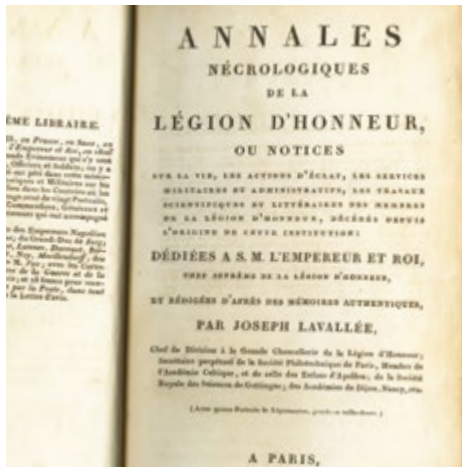
The maisons d'éducation of the Legion of Honor have also been generating archives of great historical interest for two centuries. The institution holds many elements that help retrace the creation of these boarding schools by Napoleon, the regulations established over the years for the admission of pupils and their education, documents bearing witness to everyday life, and the personal files of girls and staff.

## MUSEUM

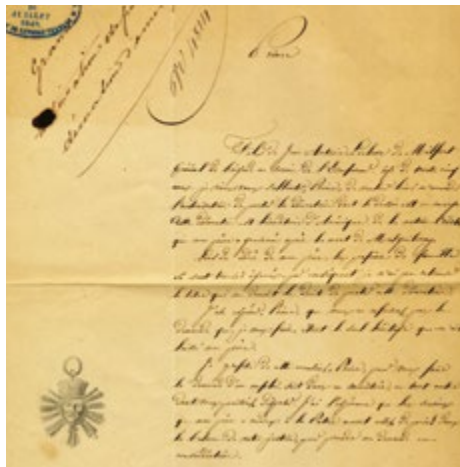
The Museum of the Legion of Honor has a collection of historical archives on French decorations, from the Ancien Regime to the present day, together with documents about its origins, the subscription that brought about its creation, and the donations and bequests that have enriched its collections.

## BUILDINGS

Finally, the Grand Chancery holds the archives concerning the prestigious buildings owned by the Legion of Honor since the First Empire: Hôtel de Salm, Château d'Ecouen, the former Royal Abbey of Saint-Denis and the former Convent of Les Loges in Saint-Germain-en-Laye. On many occasions, these buildings have been renovated and restored, the most substantial being the reconstruction of the Palace of the Legion of Honor after the fire in 1871.



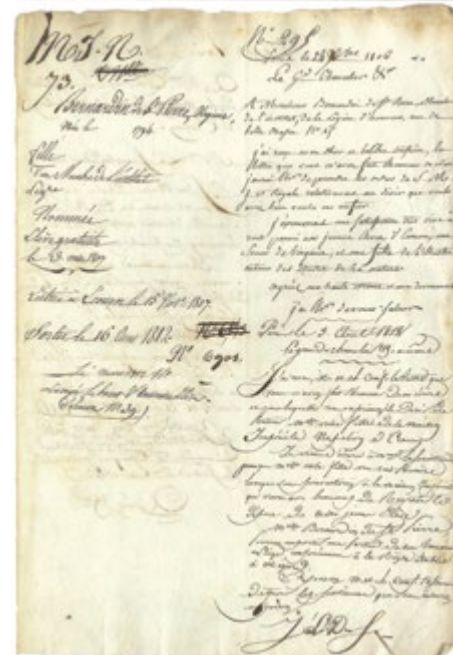
**Biographies of Legion of Honor members - 19th, 20th and 21st centuries**  
 The identity and achievements of the 900,000 members of the Legion of Honor since the creation of the order are known thanks to various documents whose historical and sociological wealth has not yet been fully exploited. First and foremost, there are "mémoires", detailed biographies of the people nominated for the Legion of Honor. But there are also obituaries (photo), which are expansive accounts of individual fates, and more concise documents such as cardboard name cards, award decrees from the First Empire, or "special tables", lists of awards of the decorations in use during the two World Wars.



**Authorizations to wear foreign decorations - 19th and 20th centuries**  
 The Grand Chancery issues French recipients of foreign decorations with the authorization to wear them. These administrative documents constitute important biographical and genealogical sources. Photo: authorization of 1849



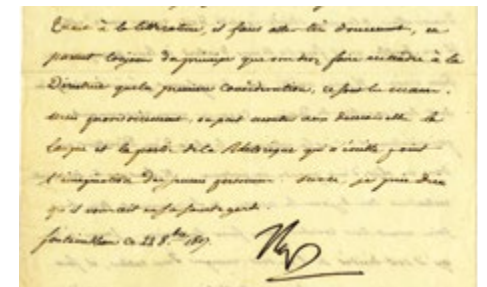
**Minutes of General de Gaulle's investiture - January 8, 1959**  
 On the day of his investiture to the supreme office, the President of the Republic is designated Grand Master of the Legion of Honor by the Grand Chancellor. The Grand Chancery keeps most of the minutes of the Grand Masters of the Fifth Republic.



**Files of pupils of the maisons d'éducation - 19th, 20th and 21st centuries**  
 These 60,000 files, kept since the opening of the first school in 1807, are portraits of pupils, and depict the daily life of the schools and how they have changed through the ages. Photo: file from the First Empire



**Elevations and plans for the maison d'éducation des Loges - Second Empire**  
 Alphonse-Amédée Lejeune, the institution's architect, was asked to redevelop the maison d'éducation des Loges in Saint-Germain-en-Laye and submitted several projects to the Grand Chancellor. The proposed plans testify to the organization of an educational institution in the mid-19th century.



**Letter from Napoleon to Lacépède - 1807**  
 The first Grand Chancellor, the Count of Lacépède, set up the maisons d'éducation of the Legion of Honor wished for by Napoleon. The Emperor issued him with instructions in a letter dated October 22, 1807, which is revelatory of the role he assigned to women in society.



# CONTRASTING CONDITIONS AND ACCESSIBILITY

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The long-standing activity of the Grand Chancery, its occasionally turbulent history and the geographical dispersal of its buildings explain why its archives are not currently centralized and do not have a standardized inventory. Precise knowledge of the collections and their physical condition is thus incomplete.

The oldest files of the members of the Legion of Honor have been transferred to the National Archives, which has digitized them and put them online. More recent files, together with all other archives, are kept in three locations: at the institution's headquarters and in the two maisons d'éducation, in Saint-Germain-en-Laye and Saint-Denis.

Some archives are stored in purpose-built facilities: such is the case for the "live" files of honorees and for part of the historical archives of the Legion of Honor. On the other hand, others are housed in cellars affected by dampness or exposed to the risk of fire or flooding in the event of the River Seine breaking its banks.

Consequently, the physical condition of the archives is disparate: some documents are perfectly preserved while others display worrying signs of wear and tear or mold.

Public access is very restricted and also varies according to the documents and where they are stored.



Museum of the Legion of Honor, archives © ECPAD

# THE 'MÉMOIRE DE L'HONNEUR' PROJECT

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'MÉMOIRE DE L'HONNEUR' IS A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM TO CAPITALIZE UPON THE ARCHIVES OF THE GRAND CHANCERY, FROM THE MOMENT THEY ARE INVENTORIED UNTIL THEY ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

It comprises four main phases:

**1. MAPPING**, which should lead to the compilation of a comprehensive inventory and a standardized classification of more than 3,5 km of archives.

**2. SAFEGUARDING**, which includes both the restoration of damaged archival items and the digitization of as many documents as possible, both of which are necessary for their preservation and communication.

**3. STORAGE**, which will be centralized in a single location (excluding live archives), located in a listed building of the maison d'éducation de Saint-Denis. This building must undergo

major renovation including structural repairs and air treatment that is designed to guarantee optimal conditions of conservation and security.

**4. COMMUNICATION WITH THE PUBLIC**, which will be done in a dematerialized manner through the development of an IT application consisting of a single file of honorees and historical records. A consultation room is also planned in the dedicated building, to allow access to physical documents.

## PROJECT COST

Renovation of the archive building: 4.7 M€  
Restoration - Digitization - IT application development: 3 M€.

## SCHEDULE

The overall progress of the project closely depends upon the funding it receives.

Building renovation: 2021 - 2024

Restoration - Digitization - IT application development: 2020-2023



Maison d'éducation de Saint-Denis, archive building © Laurence Von Der Weid

# HOW TO SUPPORT 'MÉMOIRE DE L'HONNEUR'

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By supporting 'Mémoire de l'honneur', you are contributing to the durability and influence of a valuable part of heritage of the history of France. You can contribute in various ways: through financial donations or, if your company's activity lends itself, through skills-based philanthropy or in kind.

Alice Bouteille, Director of Communications, is at your disposal to provide you with all the information you may require on the projects to be financed, as well as on the terms and conditions of your support, the tax benefits and any related recognition program.

The Grand Chancery is a public interest body and as such is certified by French law to benefit from financial and skills-based philanthropy and receive donations and bequests for which it is exempt from inheritance tax. It offers its individual 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 : 66% for individuals, up to a ceiling of 20% of taxable income; and 60% for companies, up to a ceiling of 0.5% of annual revenue excluding VAT.

\* French taxpayer

## DONATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS

Amount of donation	Income tax relief (66 %)	Actual cost of donation
500 €	330 €	170 €
1,000 €	660 €	340 €
2,500 €	1,650 €	850 €
5,000 €	3,300 €	1,700 €
10,000 €	6,600 €	3,400 €

## DONATIONS FROM COMPANIES

Amount of donation	Tax relief (60 %)	Actual cost of donation
5,000 €	3,000 €	2,000 €
10,000 €	6,000 €	4,000 €
25,000 €	15,000 €	10,000 €
100,000 €	60,000 €	40,000 €
500,000 €	300,000 €	200,000 €

## YOUR CONTACT



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Museum of the Legion of Honor, archives of the Buquet collection © ECPAD



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D'HONNEUR

