

**NAPOLEON AND MARIE-
LOUISE, 1810-1814: A
MEMOIR, PP.1-264**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649654598

Napoleon and Marie-Louise, 1810-1814: A Memoir, pp.1-264 by Sophie Cohondet Durand

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

SOPHIE COHONDET DURAND

**NAPOLEON AND MARIE-
LOUISE, 1810-1814: A
MEMOIR, PP.1-264**

DC
216:
.D953

NAPOLEON AND MARIE-LOUISE

1810—1814

3 F014

A MEMOIR

↑ 23.1

BY

MADAME LA GÉNÉRALE, DURAND

FIRST LADY TO THE EMPRESS MARIE-LOUISE

LONDON

SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON, SEARLE & RIVINGTON
CROWN BUILDINGS, 188, FLEET STREET

1894

(All rights reserved)

13 /

LONDON :
PRINTED BY WILLIAM CLOWES AND SONS, LIMITED,
STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS.

4/12

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION,
PUBLISHED IN 1819.

It is right that I should give to the public certain details regarding a work in which many persons still living figure unfavourably. It is much against my will that I find myself obliged to give these reminiscences prominence which I did not intend for them. After the departure of the Empress Marie-Louise, in whose service I was for four years, I was desirous of collecting the various notes which I had made, under the name of Souvenirs. I retraced all that I had seen, the anecdotes to whose authenticity I was a witness, those which had been related to me, and which I had verified; I depicted the illustrious persons whom I served with the sentiments of gratitude and respect due to them. I was far indeed from insulting him whose misfortunes have been so great—that is a baseness of which I am incapable.

I had sketched out their portraits, all prompted by truth, but without any reflections, and especially without any evil speaking.

A friend of my family, who has been living for some time in London, wrote to me a year ago, that he had collected a great deal of material, and was about to publish memorials of Napoleon and his family. He begged me to communicate to him the notes which he knew I possessed. Either from a presentiment or from prudence, I at first refused on the score of the many sorrows of my life, and my fear of reviving them by such publicity. He reassured me by protesting that he would conceal my identity. Yielding to his renewed importunities, I sent him the memoranda for which he had asked. But what was my astonishment when several persons spoke to me of a pamphlet which had arrived from London, in which the Court of Napoleon was most severely handled. Although the work was forbidden, I succeeded in procuring a copy, and found in it a portion of the notes and portraits that I had sent, but totally disfigured by reflections as ill-placed as they were improper. The author, finding my portraits insipid, wanted to render them piquant. He did not perceive that he made them odious. To these portraits are added unfounded anecdotes, which I owe it to the truth to deny, all the more that

the author, in a preface which he had no right whatever to place at the head of his book, has almost pointed me out as the writer of it.

I submit these Souvenirs to the public, just as I wrote them for my own family, and I give my name, because, if this work be worthy of blame, that blame should fall only upon myself, and not upon estimable persons who have been very unjustly accused.*

* This final edition of the "Mémoires sur Napoléon et Marie-Louise" had been prepared by Madame la Générale Durand, who died without having published them.

They could not have been placed before the public at an earlier date.—Editor's Note.

CONTENTS.



CHAPTER I.

	PAGE
The family of Napoleon—Jerome, King of Westphalia—The Princess of Wurtemberg—The Duc d'Enghien—Cause of the divorce of Napoleon and Josephine—Marie-Louise . . .	1

CHAPTER II.

Arrival of Marie-Louise at Brannau—Her household—Madame Mgrat—Dismissal of Madame Lajenski and her little dog—Meeting of Napoleon and Marie-Louise at Soissons . . .	10
--	----

CHAPTER III.

NAPOLEON.

Ceremony of the religious marriage—The Emperor's life—His private habits—His public behaviour—His character—Traits of kindness and beneficence	16
--	----

CHAPTER IV.

Napoleon organizes the household of Marie-Louise—Women's Rivalries—Biennais the jeweller—M. Püer	29
--	----