

Pierre-Jean Chalençon is internationally recognized for his expertise in antiquities from Napoléon I and his Imperial court. Collecting since he was seventeen, he has assembled one of the world's most important private collections of art and artifacts belonging to the Emperor of his Imperial Court.

Today, the Chalençon Collection includes well over 500 objects. His fine art pieces include: paintings, sketches and sculptures from the great artists of the time including: Gros, David, Canova, Gerard, Isabey, Houdon, Percier, Fontaine, Delaroche, Chaudet, Vernet and Mauzaisse. His decorative art pieces include: silver, porcelain, textiles, furniture and jewelry from the finest manufacturers of 1<sup>st</sup> Empire France and feature the Imperial bed of the Emperor's brother King Jérôme of Westphalia designed by Jacob, the only one of its kind in private hands. Finally, his documents and personal effects include: one of Napoléon's earliest known letters (age 14), his First Will (written in his own hand), maps he used from childhood to his dying days, dozens of books from his lifetime of his private libraries, his camp bed from the Battle of Wagram, clothes he wore in his final days and one of his iconographic hats (worn during the Battle of Essling).

Pieces from the collection have been loaned for exhibitions to museums all over the world including those in: England, Germany, Japan, Brazil, Australia, and France. *NAPOLÉON* however, represents the first time the collection has been seen in North America. Utilizing his vast knowledge of both the period and the collection, Pierre-Jean Chalençon served as Head Curator for the exhibition.

Called on for his extensive knowledge of the period, Mr. Chalençon has served as a personal advisor to François Pinot, the owner of Christie's and many other important collectors. Mr. Chalençon has coordinated 1<sup>st</sup> Empire auctions for the Drouot auction house, as well as the twice-annual "Empire at Fontainebleau" auction for Osenat. He has also acted as a consultant to Sotheby's and Christie's in Paris and London and as a teacher at Christie's Business School in Paris. He has taught classes on the subject on the post secondary level in Paris and has presented numerous lectures at museums and other important venues around the world.

A noted author, he collaborated on *Napoléon: The Immortal Emperor* with David Chanteranne and Gerard Gengembre (2003). He co-authored the recently published *Le Sacre de Napoléon* with Patrick Rambaud (2004), as well as the catalogue for the exhibition *NAPOLÉON An Intimate Portrait* (2005). Mr. Chalençon recently wrote the biography of his close friend and confidant, the legendary French composer and singer Charles Trenet (2005). Additionally, he has been the subject of major articles in many periodicals including Forbes, Apollo and Figaro magazines.

Mr. Chalençon was recently inducted as an Honorary Fellow of Florida State University's Institute of Napoleon and the French Revolution. He is president of the Cercle France-Napoléon, Secretary of the Association of the Château de la Petite Malmaison, is a Trustee of France's Souvenir Napoléonien and an Honorary member of the Napoleonic Society of America. He has recently created an association to restore the tapestries and furniture of the Salon Doré at the Château de Malmaison and serves as its President.

Mr. Chalençon resides in Paris, France.