

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650
www.constitutioncenter.org

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CONTACT: Ashley Berke
Senior Public Relations Manager
215.409.6693
aberke@constitutioncenter.org

LAST CHANCE TO SEE *NAPOLÉON* EXHIBITION AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (August 20, 2009) – Now in its final weeks at the National Constitution Center, visitors won't want to miss the *NAPOLÉON* exhibition before it travels to The Muzeo in Anaheim, California. Guests will have the opportunity to learn more about the fascinating life of the French leader through a collection of over 300 rare artifacts. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, through these “artifacts of astonishing intimacy and power... *NAPOLÉON* traces a classic narrative of rise and fall.”

NAPOLÉON will be on display at the Center through September 7, 2009. Created from the extraordinary collection of First Empire authority and author, Pierre-Jean Chalençon, *NAPOLÉON* showcases personal belongings of Napoléon I, as well as some of the most famous depictions of him made by important artists of the time. The exhibition marks the first time a number of items from the Chalençon Collection have ever been on display to the general public. *NAPOLÉON* is a 6,000 square foot international traveling exhibition distributed by Exhibits Development Group in cooperation with Cultural Arts Entertainment Group.

“This rich collection of artifacts and the compelling stories behind them shed light on the life and legacy of one of the world's most fascinating leaders,” said National Constitution Center President and CEO Linda E. Johnson. “We encourage everyone to come see *NAPOLÉON* during its final weeks at the Constitution Center.”

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ADD ONE/NAPOLEON LAST CHANCE

NAPOLÉON features more than 300 objects from the First Empire of Napoléon Bonaparte, including original framed paintings, sculptures, personal effects, prints, and documents, as well as furniture from the Imperial palaces. The exhibition is organized into twelve sections that trace Napoléon's life: The Rise to Power, The Egyptian Campaign, First Consul, The Coronation, The Emperor's Family, The Imperial Court, Art and the Emperor, Napoléon at War, The Road to Defeat, The Final Exile, Death of the Emperor, and Legend. Highlights include:

- The earliest known letter in Napoléon's hand, written in Italian at age 14
- A lock of hair from Napoléon's wife, Empress Josephine Bonaparte
- The sword that proclaimed Napoléon Emperor in the Coronation Ceremony at Notre Dame
- One of Napoléon's signature hats worn during the battle at Essling in 1809
- Napoléon's camp bed from the Battle of Wagram
- Napoléon's personal map of the French Empire at its zenith in 1812
- In his own hand, the first will Napoléon wrote during his final exile on the island of St. Helena

The exhibition also showcases connections between Napoléon and the United States. The correlations are highlighted in artifact displays, such as the valise that contained the signed Louisiana Purchase documents from America and a book on the American Revolution from Napoléon's exile on the island of St. Helena. Additionally, text panels chronicle the influence of the American Revolution on the French Revolution, Napoléon's admiration for George Washington, the impact of the Louisiana Purchase on America, how President James Monroe used First Empire style to redecorate the White House, and the time Napoléon's brother, Joseph Bonaparte, spent living in Philadelphia and Bordentown, New Jersey, among other connections.

Admission to *NAPOLÉON* is \$17.50 for adults, \$16.50 for seniors ages 65 and up, and \$13.50 for children ages 4-12. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. Admission to the Center's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, including the award-winning theater production "Freedom Rising", is included. iPod audio tours cost an additional \$4. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

ADD TWO/NAPOLEON LAST CHANCE

Shire Pharmaceuticals is the local presenting sponsor of the Center's showing of NAPOLÉON and CBS 3 is the official media partner. CBS 3 (KYW-TV) and The CW Philly 57 (WPSG-TV) are part of CBS Television Stations, a division of CBS Corporation.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising". The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. Also, as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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