

Napoleon's writing table

General de Gaillemont, as a young man, served under Napoleon 1st & having a great adoration for him was very glad to buy at some sale of the Emperor's furniture, several things that belonged to him. In 1860 or 61, when Grandpapa & Grannie moved to Maison Versailles, I remember this table & ever since it has been in the possession of one or other of us. General de Gaillemont was an old man in 1861 when he left his house, sold his furniture & went to Paris.

Una S Ryder

July 8 1919, Gratnar, North Bovey, Devon

Grandpapa (*Revd William Money*) bought all the furniture that General de Gaillemont left in Maison Versailles including the writing table which has always been known in the family as "Napoleon's table".



I can recollect Grandpapa telling me that this table had belonged to Napoleon the Great & that he General de Gaillemont had bought it with other things at some sale of Napoleon's effects.

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The text above is copied from a long hand note by Una Ryder.

The writing table was bequeathed to me in 1999 by Margery Meeres the daughter of Wilfred Ryder who must have inherited from his sister Una Ryder who died in 1941; Una being the eldest daughter of Julia Ryder who was the daughter of the Reverend William Money.

Napoleon's insignia is embossed in the leather top. I took it to the Antiques Roadshow at Saltire in the spring of 2010. This was a prominent feature in the BBC programme broadcast I think on 13th March 2011. Deboarah Lambert indicated that the provenance would be improved if it could be discovered in which of Napoleon's residences it had been kept.

Lisle Ryder.