

Translation of the Napoleon Letter

[The letter is addressed to writer Guillaume Thomas François Raynal]

Sir,

It will probably be difficult for you to remember among the many strangers who annoy you with their admiration of a person to whom you kindly made civilities last year¹ during a pleasant conversation about Corsica. I would be grateful if you could take a look at this sketch of his history.² I present here the first of two letters. If you agree to them, I will send you the end.

My brother, whom I recommend not to forget his deputies' commission to escort Paoli to his country,³ and to come and receive a lesson in virtue and humanity, will give them to you.

I respectfully your most humble and obedient servant.⁴

Buonaparte, artillery officer

Ajaccio, [Corsica] June 24 the first year of freedom [1790]⁵

¹ Relations between Napoleon and Raynal have begun in 1789, which seems to confirm a confidence to Las Cases (Memorial of St. Helena , La Pléiade , vol. I, p. 83) .

² Latest version of history project of Corsica : Letters on Corsica to Abbe Raynal .

³ Joseph is part of a delegation sent by the city of Ajaccio to host Paoli 's return from exile in London . In doing so he has to go through Marseille where Raynal resides.

⁴ Shipping autograph, National Archives , 400 AP Biography 1. In the first years of Napoleon Bonaparte (1840) , Coston gives a rough version of this letter that it dates from 1786 , which is impossible because Raynal did not return to France that ' in 1787. Published for the first time in the Memories of Lord Holland (1851) , shipping is now kept in the national Archives Napoleons funds .

⁵ The letter is dated "June 24, the first year of freedom" (the word "freedom" is underlined twice). Given the dates of stay in Corsica Napoleon, it seems that is present in Ajaccio the month of June in 1790.