

Peace of Pressburg

Honor!! Talleyrand is shown in court dress as newly elected imperial Grand Chamberlain wearing white breeches and stockings, a blue top, flowing red robe, and a long wig, holding a cocked feathered hat and his staff of office. The radical printseller William Holland (1757–1815) specialized in anti-Napoleonic subjects.

1 Unidentified – perhaps the Irish artist John Boyne, well known for his caricatures (c1750–1810).

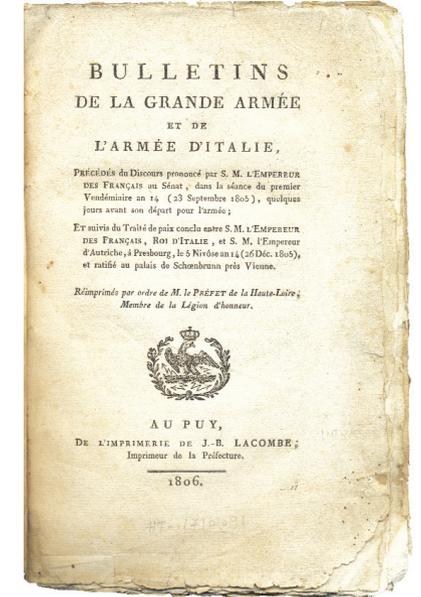
70 (France. Ministerial correspondence). *Relations extérieures. Le Ministre des Relations extérieures.* (printed letterhead with oval emblematic republican vignette in centre right: Liberty with Phrygian cap is seated, writing, flanked by symbols of authority; stylized wreath-border incorporating legend: République Française & Relat.Ext.). Letter, signed 'ch.mau. talleyrand', addressed to [Louis] Bignon,¹ French minister-plenipotentiary to the Prince-Elector of Hesse-Cassel, dated 17.Ventose, year 13 (9 March 1805). Folio. 1 1/2 p on greyish green wove paper; conjugate leaf blank; folding marks.

Refers to a letter of complaint for non-receipt of re-imbusement for his diplomatic expenses during a stay at Mayence. Talleyrand explains that delays occurred, as funds were limited, but promised a separate payment to defray outstanding expenses.

1 Louis-Pierre-Edouard de Bignon (1771–1841), distinguished diplomat and historian, served as minister-plenipotentiary at Cassel from 1804 until 1806, when he was appointed French High Commissioner and administrator of public domains and finances of occupied Prussia. He also played a prominent part in the formation of the Confederation of the Rhine, a German buffer state under French protection created in July 1806. Following the battle of Waterloo, he acted as foreign minister to the Provisional Government, signing the convention of 3rd July 1815 by which Paris was surrendered to the Allies.

70a (Treaty of Pressburg) *Bulletins de la Grande Armée et de l'Armée d'Italie, précédés du discours prononcé par S.M.l'Empereur des Français au Sénat, dans la séance du premier vendémiaire an 14 (23 Septembre 1805), quelques jours avant son départ pour l'armée; et suivis du traité de paix conclu entre S.M. l'Empereur des Français, Roi d'Italie, et S.M.L'Empereur d'Autriche, à Presbourg, le 5 nivôse an 14 (26 Déc.1805), et ratifié au palais de Schoenbrunn près Vienne.* Le Puy, [Jean Baptiste] Lacombe, 'réimprimés par ordre de M. le préfet de la Haute-Loire', 1806. 8vo. [4] + 151 + [1 blank + 4]p including index. With imperial crowned eagle emblem on title. Contemporary blue decorative wrappers neatly restored; edges untrimmed.

French imperial army bulletins reporting on the victorious military invasion of Germany in September 1805 which resulted in the surrender of the Austrian garrison at Ulm, the occupation of Vienna, and the decisive Austro-Russian defeat at Austerlitz on 2nd December. Talleyrand favoured moderation after Ulm,¹ but Napoleon lost all restraint after Austerlitz, and made harsh demands on Austria. By the terms of the Treaty of Pressburg agreed on 26th December 1805, here published on pp142–151, the Austrian emperor accepted a humiliating peace. His representatives, Johann Prince of Liechtenstein² and Ignaz Count of Gyulai,³ both cautious men, had to negotiate with Talleyrand at Pressburg. The following day the treaty was ratified at Schönbrunn Palace, Vienna, by Napoleon himself, 'Charles Maurice Talleyrand' signing as his foreign minister, and 'H. B. Maret',⁴ counter-signed as French secretary of state. Thus ended the war of the Third Coalition against France. Austria was forced to cede territories to Napoleon's German allies and to the new kingdom of Italy, and to pay a large war indemnity. Talleyrand wished to soften the blow, as



he was anticipating a possible future Austro-French alliance, and managed to have her indemnity reduced by 10 millions.⁵ For this leniency he was later reproached by Napoleon,⁶ whose triumph at Austerlitz encouraged further military adventures which increasingly strained the relationship with his foreign minister who was opposed to further territorial expansion.

A tall copy, untrimmed.

1 cf Blennerhasset, Talleyrand, p 98;

2 Johann I Joseph sovereign Prince of Liechtenstein (1760–1836), a prominent

cavalry commander, acted as Austrian chief representative at Pressburg; he was later criticized for his lack of political skill which caused him to resign his commission in 1810;

3 Ignaz Count Gyulai von Máros-Nemeth (1763–1831), one of the most competent Austrian generals during the French revolutionary wars, was co-negotiator at Pressburg; he participated effectively in later campaigns, leading an army corps during the invasion of France in 1814;

4 Hugues-Bernard Maret, Duc de Bassano (1763–1839), politician and diplomat, served as Imperial Secretary of State and later as foreign minister (1811–1813);

5 cf Blennerhasset, Talleyrand, p 102;

6 cf Harris, Talleyrand, pp162, 168,196.