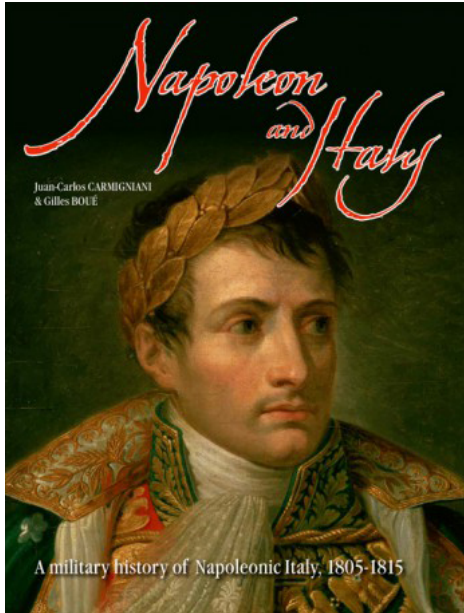


The Napoleon Series Reviews

Carmigniani, Juan-Carlos and Gilles Boué. *Napoleon and Italy: a Military History of Napoleonic Italy, 1805 – 1815*. Paris: Histoire & Collections. 2016. 272 pages. ISBN# 9782352503231. \$55



About forty years ago, I bought one of my first Napoleonic books – *Waterloo* by Henri Lachouque, Jean Tranié, and Juan-Carlos Carmigniani. It was a coffee table book that was lavishly illustrated and at the time, the pride of my collection. Little did I know what I was getting into. Over the years Juan-Carlos Carmigniani and Jean Tranié teamed up to write at least 15 other books that I am aware of. They all follow the same format of a mix of text and hundreds of illustrations, many of them in color and full page! A partial list can be seen at: [The Napoleonic Books of Tranie & Carmigniani](#) by Yves Martin. Many of these books are out-of-print and used copies can run several hundred dollars. Unfortunately, Jean Tranié's death in 2001 ended this amazing partnership.

The last time Mr. Carmigniani wrote a book on the Napoleonic Era was in 1997, when *Napoléon: 1812, la campagne de Russie* was published. However the 19 year drought is over! He has teamed up with Gilles Boué for a new volume. Mr. Boué has written several books on the period, including *Leipzig 1813: Europe against Napoleon* and *The French Army in 1814: The Campaign of France, from Champagne to Paris*. Their latest effort is a look at the Napoleonic Kingdom of Italy.

Like many of the other books co-written by Mr. Carmigniani, *Napoleon and Italy* is a coffee table book with over 300 illustrations.

Napoleon and Italy consists of ten sections, plus a large number of appendices:

- “And Came the Kingdom of Italy” examines the geopolitical background of the states that would form the kingdom.
- “In the Shadow of Austerlitz” looks at how the defeat of the Austrians in 1805 was the impetus for forming it.
- “The Battle of Caldiero” is about the 1805 Campaign in Italy.
- “The Conquest of the Kingdom of Naples” covers the events that led to its creation.
- “1809 – Prince Eugène’s Year”: the Kingdom of Italy’s fight to ensure its independence from Austria during the 1809 Franco-Austrian War.

- “Loyal Allies”: the participation of the Italian military in campaigns outside of Italy, to include in Spain, and the 1812 Russian Invasion.
- “Border Defence and the End of the Kingdom” is about the campaigns of 1813 and 1814 that would see the eventual dismantling of the Kingdom.

Napoleon and Italy also includes numerous appendices. They are not numbered, but they consist of 57 pages on a variety of topics, including

- The Italian Royal Guard in Combat: 1809 – 1814
- Schönbrunn Declaration of 27 December 1805: when Napoleon announced his intention to capture the Kingdom of Naples
- Napoleon’s notes to Prince Eugène on how to defend Italy dated 14 January 1809
- A history of the Kingdom’s Army
- 58 uniform plates on the Kingdom’s Army
- Information on the various units in the Italian Army, including where each was located from 1805 – 1813
- History of the Kingdom Naples’ Army
- List of battles that they fought at and their order-of-battle for each.

Like the other books, *Napoleon and Italy* is richly illustrated with over 300 images, of which 2/3rds are in color. Many of the color images are full page, while some are even double page. Many are battle scenes or events in the history of kingdom, such as the arrest of the Pope in 1809 and the insurrection of Milan on 20 April 1814, which overthrew Prince Eugène’s government. The artists include many Italians, but also ones that will be more familiar, such as JOB, Eugene Lelièvre, Hippolyte Lecomte, Albrecht Adam, Faber du Faur, Herbert and Richard Knötel, Henri Boisselier, and Jack Girbal. There are close to 100 portraits of generals, politicians, and government officials who played key roles in the events in Italy. My only complaint with the illustrations is that although the vast majority are clean, crisp copies with vibrant colors, several of them are slightly out of focus with faded colors. This is a minor flaw, from an otherwise superb work.

Napoleon and Italy is everything I expected it to be. . . a combination of concise text that explains that the topic of each chapter combined with beautiful illustrations, many of which I have never seen before. Unfortunately for those of us who enjoy these magnificent books, Mr. Carmignani died in 2008. Hopefully Mr. Boué will continue writing similar volumes. Like most of the other books in the series *Napoleon and Italy* will sell out quickly. I strongly recommend you buy a copy before none are left.

Reviewed by: [Robert Burnham](#)

Placed on the Napoleon Series: June 2016