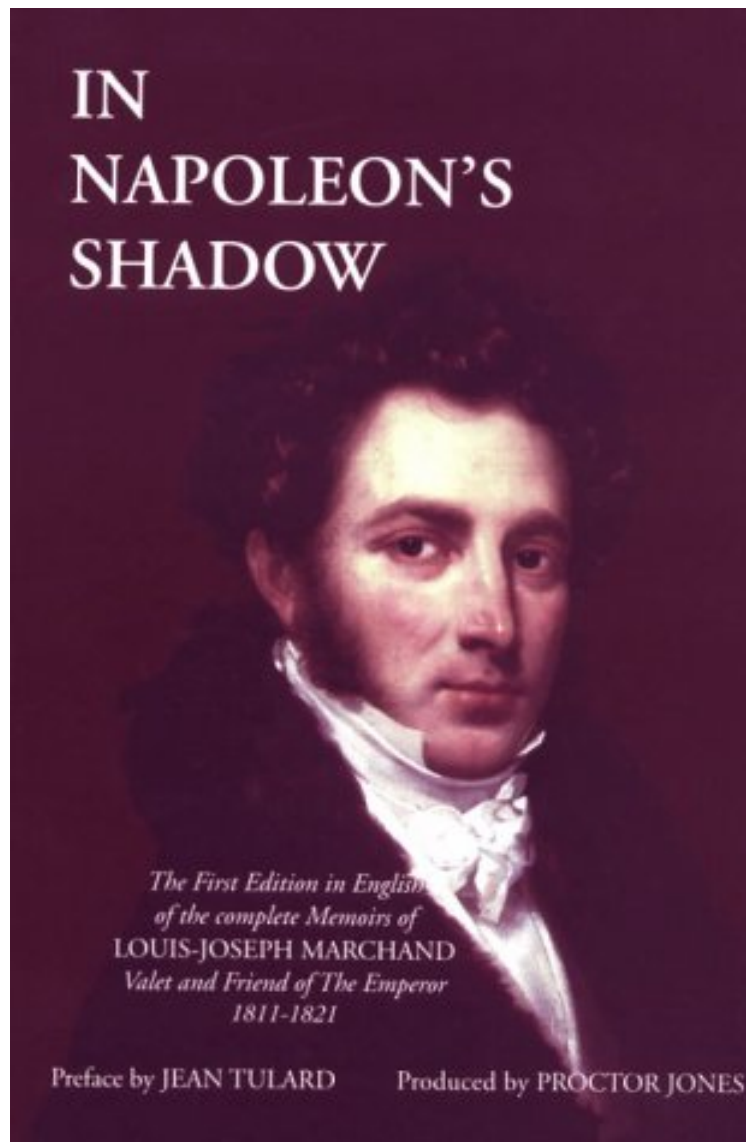


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## **In Napoleon's Shadow: The Memoirs of Louis-Joseph Marchand, Valet and Friend of the Emperor, 1811-1821**

*Louis-Joseph Marchand*

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3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An Eyewitness to ExileBy Lucien BonaparteAlong with General Bertrand's memoirs, Louis-Joseph Marchand's memoirs are the best account of the Emperor Napoleon's exile in St. Helena. Serving as valet to Napoleon, Marchand traces the path of the Emperor from his apogee to his first exile in Elba and later exile on St. Helena. Marchand's intimate acquaintance with the Emperor dates from his service on Elba. The tragic details of the Hundred Days and the flight from France after Waterloo are recounted in a simple style that makes for effortless reading. The bulk of the narrative takes place in St. Helena. Marchand introduces us to the private chambers of the Emperor. We get to see how the exiles viewed their day-to-day existence as well as their reaction to the various efforts of their British jailers to enforce order at Longwood (Napoleon's home on St. Helena). I would recommend this book to any Napoleonic scholar. The nature of this work requires some prior knowledge of Napoleon and his career; however, the book features extensive footnotes that illuminate the history of even the most obscure persons referenced. All in all, a wonderful work by Marchand--valet and friend of Napoleon. 0 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A Very Dry and Tedious AccountBy danny boyThe lost memoirs by Marchand are important historically as they set the scene for Napoleon's demise, with multiple conspiracy theories. The problem is that these memoirs are really truly boring. For those who cannot sleep, read this book.

There is no doubt of the authenticity of these 'Memoirs', nor the truth of the facts which Marchand reports. He had nothing to hide, nothing to apologize for. He spoke with sincerity and simplicity of the everyday life of Napoleon. This body of work is the last of the important Napoleonic Memoirs to be translated into English. Marchand has provided precious memories that lead us into an intimacy of this Great Man.