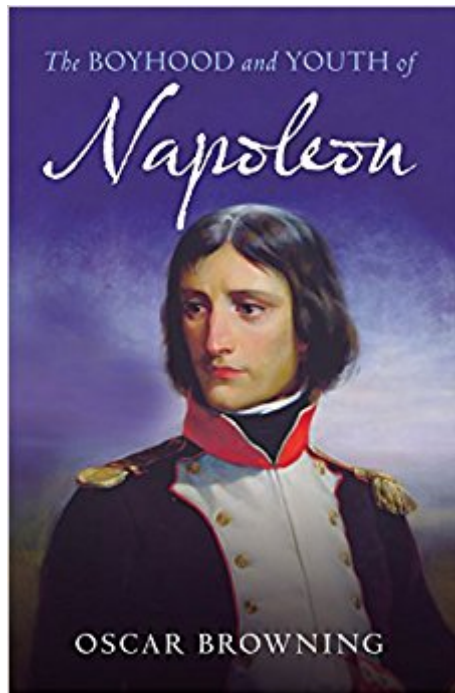




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The Boyhood And Youth Of Napoleon



Synopsis

During the Hundred Days, (1815) there lay in Napoleon's study in the Tuileries a packet of papers, sealed with the Imperial arms, on the cover of which was written, "À remettre au Cardinal Fesch seul." This packet was carried by Fesch to Rome, but he never had the curiosity to open it, and it remained sealed and tied up till his death, on 13 May 1839. Many years later it was eventually opened, and an astonished world discovered that Napoleon had collected papers relating to his boyhood and youth. Using this amazing material - and many other sources - Oscar Browning produced the first English language account of the formative years between Napoleon's birth in 1769, and when he first forced his way onto the world stage as a young man of importance at the siege of Toulon in 1793. There he personally led his men in the assault on the field earthworks guarding the city. During one of the attacks he received a bayonet wound from a English soldier. Napoleon with his artillery also destroyed several British warships anchored in Toulon's harbor, forcing them to sail away. It was his first victory and he was promoted to brigadier general. REVIEWS n The Boyhood and Youth of Napoleon Browning tells the story of Napoleon from his antecedents in Italy through the siege of Toulon in an easy, readable style. Browning tells the reader that his goal is to put Napoleon in a human light. • The Napoleonic Series

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Customer Reviews

Oscar Browning's The Boyhood and Youth of Napoleon is based on a sealed packet of papers found in Napoleon's study during the Hundred Days. The packet was marked "À remettre au

Cardinal Fesch seul" was delivered to the Emperor's uncle in Rome, but remained unopened. Following Fesch's death in 1839, Fesch's papers including the unopened packet were sold and eventually came into the possession of Lord Ashburnham. In the 1880s the papers were cataloged by Frédéric Masson and in 1895 Masson published the papers as *Napoléon Inconnu* along with other manuscripts Masson had collected concerning Napoleon's youth. Arthur Chuquet then used Masson's work as the basis for his *La Jeunesse de Napoléon*. Oscar Browning (1837-1923), a disgraced former master at Eton, used Masson's and Chuquet's works, as well as every book "contained in the admirable bibliography of Kircheisen, which bears on this period," (p. 12) to produce this popular biography of Napoleon's early years. Originally titled *Napoleon, The First Phase* (1905) in obvious imitation of Lord Roseberry's well-known, *Napoleon, the Last Phase* (1900), to whom Browning dedicated his work. Browning, obviously interested in the Napoleonic era, had previously published *England and Napoleon in 1803* (1887). In *The Boyhood and Youth of Napoleon* Browning tells the story of Napoleon from his antecedents in Italy through the siege of Toulon in an easy, readable style. Browning tells the reader that his goal is to put Napoleon "in a human light." In Browning estimation even as a young boy Napoleon was already marked as special. Normally the oldest brother would be designated for a military career, while the younger would go into the priesthood.

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