

his influence with the Court of Vienna to allow his niece to join him. Paul I said; *"Monsieur, my brother, Madame Royale shall be restored to you, or I shall cease to be Paul I."* In May 1799, Madame Royale was allowed to leave Vienna. She joined her Bourbon relatives at Mittau, in Lithuania. Marie Thérèse Charlotte married Louis-Antoine, Duke de Angoulême on 10 June 1799, at Mittau, in Kurland. He was the son of Princess Marie Thérèse of Savoy (31 January 1756 - 2 June 1805) and Charles Philippe de France, Comte d'Artois (9 October 1757 - 6 November 1836). According to the Memoirs of Madame Vigée Le Brun by Marie-Élisabeth-Louise Vigée-Le Brun (1755-1842), *"Of the Duchess d'Angoulême I would not venture to speak. What could I say that would not fall short of the truth? The merits of this Princess are known to the whole world, and I fear I should but weaken the future verdict of history. It is equally well known that fate united her with a Prince whose high soul worthily appreciated her."* In January 1801, Paul I ordered the French Royal family to leave Mittau. She eventually returned on 24 April 1814, to France. Within a year of the monarchy's first restoration, Napoléon Bonaparte threatened to return from Elba. Napoléon Bonaparte is said to have described her as, *"the only man in her family."* Marie Thérèse Charlotte's proclamation to French people in regard to Napoléon's attempt to return from Elba and re-claim France: *"If the voice of your legitimate King has not yet reached you, I now make you hear it. It is in his name; in virtue of the powers he has confided to me, that I address you. Faithful Frenchmen join the daughter of your Kings. She does not bring you war; she speaks to you only of peace and union. She laments the frightful calamities brought upon you by treason and perjury; she cannot look without terror to those of which war may still render you the victims. Frenchmen, in the name of the country, of your families, of all that you hold most dear and sacred upon earth, rise all, join yourselves to me to secure the triumph of the paternal views of the best of Kings. Frenchmen, time is precious, victorious armies advance; let a truly national movement, and the expression of our fidelity to our King, at once put an end to a war, not undertaken from ambition and the love of conquest, but from necessity of saving France and Europe. Frenchmen, raise the standard of fidelity, and you shall see me in the midst of you."*

Marie Thérèse Charlotte, Her Royal Highness the Duchess D'Angouleme, London, June 26, 1815.



The Arrival of the Duchess of Angoulême in Pauillac

by Antoine-Jean Gros

1819



The Generosity of the Duchess of Angoulême

by Antoinette Cécile Hortense, Mme Haudebourt Lescot.

In 1830, Charles X abdicated, and she was forced once again into exile. She took refuge near Edinburgh, and then in Prague. Her husband, Louis-Antoine died on 3 June 1844, in Görtz, Austria. He was buried in his father, Charles X's crypt in the Church of the Annunciation of Our Lady of Kostanjevica, in Görtz. The couple had no children. Marie Thérèse Charlotte died of pneumonia aged 71, on 19 October 1851, at the Castle of Frosdorf, in Gorz. In her will, Marie Thérèse Charlotte wrote, *"Thank all Frenchmen who have remained attached to my family and to me, for the proofs of devotion that they have given us and for the sufferings they have endured for our sakes. I pray God to shower his blessings upon France that I have always loved, even in the time of my bitterest afflictions."* She

was buried in the Church of the Annunciation of Our Lady, Castagnavizza, in Nova Gorica, Slovenia.

Excerpts and Sources: Mémoires de Madame Royale, Duchesse d'Angoulême by Marie Thérèse Charlotte, Duchess D'Angouleme and Memoirs of Madame Vigée Le Brun by

Marie-Élisabeth-Louise Vigée-Le Brun.