

## **Appendix : General Eugène de Beauharnais (1781-1824) - “Napoleon's Adoptive Son”.**

Eugène de Beauharnais was born on 3 September 1781 in Paris as the son of General Vicomte Alexandre de Beauharnais (1760-1794) & the noble daughter Joséphine Tascher de la Pagerie (1763-1814). His father so mismanaged his duties during the War of the First Coalition that he was executed for incompetence. The mother in 1796 remarried Napoleon. 1804-1810, she was Empress of France, but in 1810 the marriage was dissolved.

Meanwhile, Napoleon used Eugène and his sister Hortense (1783-1837) as pawns in his dynastic plans. Hortense 1802 married Napoleon's brother Louis, became Queen of Holland and eventually mother of Napoleon III. Eugène 1806 married Princess Augusta of Bavaria (1788-1851). Her parents were reluctant to accept the marriage. Napoleon made it more palatable by adopting Eugène as his son. Augusta gave birth to seven children, all of whom were favourably married:

1. Josephine (1807-1876). In 1823 married to Crown Prince Oscar (I) of Sweden and Norway.
2. Hortense (1808-1847). In 1826 married to Prince Frederick Wilhelm of Hohenzollern-Hechingen.
3. August (1810-1835). In 1834 married to Queen Maria II of Portugal.
4. Amélia (1812-1873). In 1829 married to Emperor Peter I of Brazil.
5. Theodelinde (1814-1857). In 1841 married to Count Wilhelm of Württemberg, later Duke of Urach.
6. Caroline (1816-1816).
7. Maximilian (1817-1852). In 1839 married to Grand Duchess Maria Nikolaevna of Russia.

The reason they were so sought-after was allegedly that the de Beauharnais family combined good ancestry with political impotence. Bavaria was a kingdom and the Napoleonic dynasty passé. The siblings' success strengthened Josephine's Swedish position and gave her an otherwise unimaginable freedom of action.

Eugène's career as Napoleon's adjutant, French general & 1805-1814 Italian viceroy is well documented. He was competent if not very brilliant. It should be noted that both Jean and Desirée knew him well. Napoleon proposed him as an alternative to Jean, but he declined. A niece of Desirée's was married into his family and 1823-1829 her chief maid. Eugène's health was bad & in 1824 he died of a stroke.

Eugène was keen on his legacy and after his death his memoirs, a biography & his letters were published (de Beauharnais 1826; Vaudoncourt 1828; du Casse red. 1858). He was later mostly mentioned in encyclopedias. In recent years, however, interest in him has awakened (Adalbert 1940; Oman 1966; Autin 1989; Nohrenius 2006).

## Referenser

- Adalbert, prins av Bayern. (1940.) Eugen Beauharnais, der Stiefsohn Napoleons : Ein Lebensbild. Berlin: Im Propyläen Verlag.
- Autin, Jean. (1989.) Eugène de Beauharnais : de Joséphine à Napoléon. Paris: Perrin
- Beauharnais, Eugène de. (1826.) Mémoires sur la cour du prince Eugène et sur le royaume d'Italie pendant la domination de Napoléon Bonaparte; par un Français attaché à la cour du vice-roi d'Italie. Paris: Librairie de J.-M.-V. Audin.
- Casse, Albert du. (red.) (1858.) Mémoires et correspondance du prince Eugène, vol 1-10 (1858-1860). Paris.
- Oman, Arola. (1966.) Napoleon's viceroy, Eugène de Beauharnais. London: Hodder and Stoughton.
- Nohrenius, Kerstin. (2006.) Eugène : Vid Napoleons sida. Stockholm: Columbus & Åkermans förlag.
- Vaudoncourt, Frederic de. (1828.) Histoire politique et militaire du prince Eugène, vice roi d'Italie. Paris.