



## PRESS KIT

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# MUSÉE CHAMPOLLION The Origins of Egyptology

On June 5, 2021, the Department of Isère's 11<sup>th</sup> museum opened to the south of Grenoble in the town of Vif. Set in one of the Champollion family's former residences, the new museum stands as a tribute to the beginnings of modern Egyptology in France.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>MUSÉE CHAMPOLLION, THE ORIGINS OF EGYPTOLOGY A NEW MUSEUM IN ISÈRE</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1. THE “CHAMPOLLION” ESTATE IN VIF TO THE SOUTH OF GRENOBLE</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1. A departmental project	5
1.2. Project partners	6
1.3. The Champollion brothers	7
<b>2. THE MUSEUM CONCEPT: THE CHAMPOLLION BROTHERS AT THE ORIGINS OF EGYPTOLOGY</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1. A marriage of science and the Orient at the foot of the Vercors	9
2.2. Exceptional collections at the heart of the project	11
2.3. A three-part visitor experience	14
The Musée Champollion in figures	16
A network of departmental museums	17
Project stakeholders	18
<b>Images available to the press</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Practical Information / Press relations</b>	<b>23</b>



*The Mansion, 2004*  
© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion

*“Isère is a place where talent abounds and whose past has been graced by so many illustrious men, above all in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. As such, we wanted to restore the Champollion brothers to their rightful historical prominence by creating, in their beautiful family home in Vif, a museum dedicated to their life and works.”*  
**Jean-Pierre Barbier,**  
President of the Department of Isère.

*“The work of the Champollion brothers will draw visitors not just from across the region but also, we hope, from further afield in France and around the world, giving this area a new appeal and a certain standing.”*  
**Patrick Curtaud,**  
Vice-President in charge of culture of the Department of Isère.

# MUSÉE CHAMPOLLION THE ORIGINS OF EGYPTOLOGY A NEW MUSEUM IN ISÈRE

**On June 5, 2021, the Department of Isère’s 11<sup>th</sup> museum opened to the south of Grenoble in the town of Vif. Set in one of the Champollion family’s former residences, the new museum stands as a tribute to the beginnings of modern Egyptology in France.**

Owned by the Department since 2001, it was not until 2016 that the decision was taken to make the Champollion family mansion in Vif, Isère, the site of the first museum dedicated in its entirety to Egyptology, a discipline that the Champollion brothers helped to found. This evocative property was the setting for countless stays enjoyed in the Dauphiné province by Jean-François Champollion, the famous Egyptologist, and his elder brother Jacques-Joseph Champollion-Figeac. The Department of Isère has pledged to pursue the works initiated in memory of the two brothers by their descendants, by completely renovating the family home with the aim of creating an educational museum that will appeal to children and adults alike.

The Musée Champollion will present a permanent exhibition on the life and works of the Champollion brothers in the main residence. The visitor experience will then continue in the former outbuildings, where a temporary exhibition space will house an evolving series of ephemeral displays. Outside, the bucolic grounds and vegetable garden will be restored in the spirit of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Reforested, and adorned with flower beds and an orchard of local tree species, these outdoor spaces will help to recreate the rural ambiance so dear to the two brothers.

The Musée Champollion is part of the network of 11 museums run by the Department of Isère. Public entry will be entirely free of charge.





**Jean-François Champollion**  
Madame de Rumilly (1789-1849),  
oil on canvas, 1823,  
© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion



**Jacques-Joseph Champollion-Figeac**  
Madame de Rumilly (1789-1849),  
oil on canvas, c.1825,  
© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion

## From a place of remembrance to a museum

In the family residence, the descendants of the Champollion brothers have taken great care to preserve the interior décors, paintings, furniture, artefacts and other items that once belonged to their illustrious ancestors. Among Jean-François Champollion's personal belongings are his Hebrew Bible, the tiered mahogany escritoire on which he set about deciphering hieroglyphics, the Egyptian outfit that he wore on his expedition to the country, and prints of the Rosetta Stone annotated in his own hand.

## Immersive museography

From local Isère to the far-off banks of the Nile, the visit will trace the career of the Champollion brothers, step by step. Blending restored spaces and contemporary museography, the scenography will fully immerse visitors in 19th century life. Displays will include items from both the archives of national museums and the collections of the Department of Isère.

The concept of the museum is built around three central themes:

- the synergy and bond shared by the two brothers;
- their research work;
- their contributions to a new science: Egyptology.

*«I've embarked on a project that will keep me busy for four whole months, at the very least. I would find it very hard to spend such a long time abroad. Would it not be possible, perhaps, for us to spend a month together in the shade at Vif, where I could come and join you just as soon as you tell me what day you might arrive, in September or October.»*

Turin, 4 August 1824. J.-Fr. Champollion to J.-J. Champollion-Figeac

## Two men, one myth

Although the two brothers were born in Figeac, they always felt a strong connection to the Dauphiné province. As a young adult, elder brother Jacques-Joseph settled in Grenoble, the land of his father's family. Soon he brought his little brother to the city to supervise his studies. Once there, the younger Champollion would often take breaks in Vif, where he devoted many a long hour to studying Egyptian civilisation in his room.

## At the origins of Egyptology

Over the course of this journey through the lives of the Champollion brothers, visitors will encounter the early landmarks of a new science: Egyptology. The Egypt that became the mother of all civilizations, that supplanted Ancient Greece and Rome, spurring a new art movement and overturning perceptions.



# 1 THE “CHAMPOLLION” ESTATE IN VIF TO THE SOUTH OF GRENOBLE

## 1.1. A departmental project

**On June 5, 2021, the Department of Isère’s 11<sup>th</sup> museum opened to the south of Grenoble in the town of Vif. Set in one of the Champollion family’s former residences, the new museum stands as a tribute to the beginnings of modern Egyptology in France.**

### From a place of remembrance...

The Champollion estate had long remained in the hands of the descendants of the Egyptologist’s elder brother Jacques-Joseph Champollion-Figeac, until its purchase by the Department of Isère in 2001. When they acquired the property – as well as numerous personal effects, items and letters belonging to the Egyptologist and his elder brother – the departmental authorities committed to honouring the estate’s function as a place of remembrance, by preserving it and, in time, opening it to the public.

In order to preserve and improve the Champollion residence, which was in a state of deterioration, in October 2016 the creation of a new museum was announced by Jean-Pierre Barbier, the President of the Department.

The Department’s investment in the project is fully justified by the unique nature of the site and its exceptional collections. The estate is made up of a mansion and its outbuildings, as well as 2.5 hectares of land.

Listed as a Historic Monument, the property was once the setting for countless stays enjoyed in the Dauphiné province by the two Champollion brothers. Everything here evokes their presence and preserves their memory: the shady gardens that they held so dear, the mansion and its décor, the furniture, the works of art and the two men’s personal belongings, all faithfully maintained by their descendants.



*The Mansion, 2004.*

© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion

### ... to the Department’s eleventh museum

This project forms part of the proactive cultural policy pursued by the Department of Isère, which is now home to the largest network of departmental museums in France. The Musée Champollion, which was awarded official ‘Musée de France’ status in 2020, has joined ten other departmental museums offering free public entry in Isère. Taken in the wider context of Isère’s museums and heritage sites, and other houses belonging to historical figures that have become public landmarks in the area (including those of Hector Berlioz, Ernest Hébert and Aristide Bergès), the project both fulfils an important cultural mission and contributes to raising the profile of southern Isère.

The institution will contribute to the common mission of the museum network, while focusing on an original theme hitherto unexplored by museums in the Department: that of Egyptology. The museum’s profile and influence will extend well beyond the borders of Isère. To do so, it will draw on the support of long-term partnerships with major museums and universities in France and further afield, including the Louvre.

## 1.2. Project partners

### Funding partnerships

The Department of Isère is covering 93% of the total renovation cost (€6.3 million). The Municipality of Vif and the State are contributing 1% and 6% to fund, respectively, the external works on the estate and the works related to the property's status as a Historic Monument.

### Scientific partnerships

The Scientific and Cultural Project, which shapes both the purpose and nature of the visitor experience, was defined by the museum team. They received support from a scientific committee made up of experts who have worked with the museum on previous projects, as well as Egyptologists, historians, art historians and heritage curators.

Members of the scientific committee, chaired by the Department of Isère (Office for Culture and Heritage):

**Caroline Dugand**, Curator and Head of the Musée Champollion, assisted by **Maëva Gervason**, Assistant Curator, in the presence of **Aymeric Perroy**, Director of Culture and Heritage, **Magali Longour**, Deputy Director, **Anne Cayol-Gerin**, Project Historian.

### UNIVERSITIES AND EGYPTOLOGY INSTITUTIONS

**Université Lumière Lyon 2**  
**Jean-Claude Goyon**,  
Emeritus Professor in Egyptology

**Università degli Studi di Torino**  
**Alessandro Roccati**,  
Emeritus Professor in Egyptology, Emeritus  
President of the scientific committee of the  
Museo Egizio Foundation in Turin.

**Université de Lille**  
**Didier Devauchelle**, Professor in Egyptology

**Association Dauphinoise d'Égyptologie  
Champollion**  
**Christine Cardin**, Egyptologist

**Karine Madrigal**, Champollion archivist  
(Archives of the Department of Isère)

**Association Champollion, Vif**  
**Alain Faure**, President and biographer of Jean-  
François Champollion

### MUSEUMS

**Musée du Louvre, Department of Egyptian  
Antiquities**  
**Vincent Rondot**, Director  
**Christophe Barbotin**, General Heritage Curator  
**Florence Gombert-Meurice**, Chief Heritage  
Curator  
**Sylvie Guichard**, Emeritus Research Engineer

**Musée Champollion – Les Ecritures du  
Monde, Figeac**  
**Céline Ramio**, Director

**Museums of the Department of Isère:**  
**Musée Dauphinois, Department of Isère**  
**Olivier Cogne**, Director  
**Musée Archéologique de Grenoble,**  
**Jean-Pascal Jospin**, Emeritus Director

**Museums of the City of Grenoble:**  
**Muséum de Grenoble**  
**Catherine Gauthier**, Natural Heritage Curator

**Musée de Grenoble**  
**Valérie Huss**, Heritage Curator

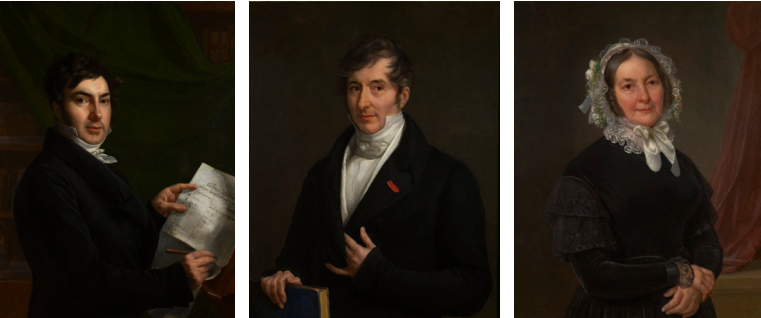
**CHAMPOLLION ARCHIVES**  
**Departmental Archives, Isère**  
**Hélène Viallet**, Director

**Municipal Library, Grenoble**  
**Marie-Françoise Bois-Delatte**, Emeritus  
Curator

**REGIONAL OFFICE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS,  
AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES**  
**Lionel Bergatto**, Museum Consultant

## 1.3. Les frères Champollion

The Champollion estate in Vif preserves the memory of two brothers: Jean-François Champollion (1790-1832), the Egyptologist; and his elder brother Jacques-Joseph Champollion-Figeac (1778-1867), a renowned intellectual, archaeologist, journalist, librarian and university professor.



Madame de Rumilly, Jean-François Champollion, Jacques-Joseph Champollion-Figeac, Zoé Berriat, after 1822, oil on canvas.  
© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion

### Isère: a spiritual home

The two brothers were born in Figeac, in Quercy, but they both had a close affinity with the Dauphiné province. As a young adult, elder brother Jacques-Joseph moved to his father's family's hometown of Grenoble. He soon extended the invitation to his younger brother, whose studies he would later supervise. In 1807, he married Zoé Berriat and his young family started to frequent the country house in Vif that had belonged to the Berriat family since 1778.

It was in the Dauphiné province that the two brothers forged a close bond that would never be broken. Jacques-Joseph assumed the role of attentive godfather to Jean-François, 12 years his junior. The house in Vif became the setting for their meetings and the spiritual home of their relationship. To this day, more than any other place, the site remains evocative of this remarkable fraternal connection.



Ignace-Antoine Melling, *View of Grenoble*, 1819, pen, ink and brown ink wash on paper. Collection of the Fonds Glénat for heritage and creation - © JM Blache

The younger Champollion brother regularly visited Vif in the period leading up to 1826, during which time he worked as a history teacher and researcher in Grenoble. He enjoyed the provincial lifestyle: "I am known in Grenoble, I have friends and a reputation [...]. I will do here, perhaps better than in Paris, the work I have foreseen." Holed away in his room on the second floor of the house in Vif, the Egyptologist devoted long hours to studying Egyptian civilisation and hieroglyphics: for proof, we need look no further than the three hieroglyphic cartouches that he scratched into the beam of his small bedroom.



Hieroglyphic cartouches drawn by Jean-François Champollion on the beam of his bedroom in Vif, c.1820.  
© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion

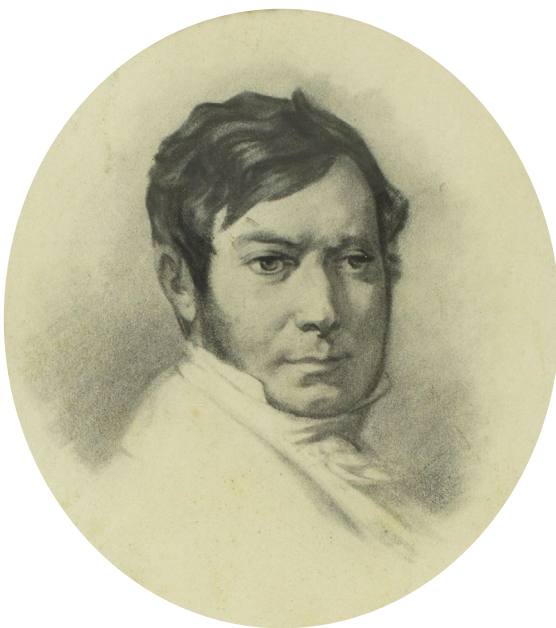
On the left: "Amon-Rê, lord of Thèbes, living forever!"; on the right: "God Saghir, Champollion, may he live, prosper and be well!"





Anon., Jacques-Joseph Champollion-Figeac,  
c.1800, oil on canvas.  
© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion

*« Il y a longtemps que tu me prouves  
que moi c'est toi : je serai trop heureux  
de prouver l'inverse : mon cœur  
m'assure que nous ne ferons  
jamais deux personnes »,*  
écrit Jean-François à Jacques-Joseph, en 1818.



Anon., Jean-François Champollion,  
c.1830, lead pencil drawing.  
© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion

## Two brilliant careers

### Jacques-Joseph Champollion-Figeac (1778-1867)

A bookworm with a passion for ancient times, Jacques-Joseph became a professor of Greek literature and then chief curator for the Grenoble city library, before moving to Paris to work under the permanent secretary of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres. At the same time he maintained a keen interest in his brother's career. In 1822, the latter burst into his house and announced: "I've got it!" Together, they wrote the famous letter to Monsieur Dacier, which resulted in Jean-François becoming a decipherer of hieroglyphics. The death of his brother in 1832 greatly affected Jacques-Joseph. He thereby set about overseeing the publication of Jean-François' work, while pursuing his own career as curator of the royal library and professor of palaeography at the Ecole des Chartes. At the time of his death, in 1867, he was working at the library of the imperial palace in Fontainebleau.

### Jean-François Champollion (1790-1832)

Having begun his academic career at the Ecole Centrale de Grenoble (later to become the Lycée Impérial), Jean-François went on to study linguistics in Paris. It was through his passion for oriental languages that he was first introduced to the mysteries of Egyptian civilisation. Having moved back to the Dauphiné area in 1809, he was appointed assistant librarian at the Bibliothèque de Grenoble and then assistant professor of history, before returning to join his brother in Paris. At the same time, he continued his research into Ancient Egypt and his attempts to decipher hieroglyphics. In 1822, it was proved that the system he had been developing for the previous 15 years was beginning to work: Ancient Egypt could speak at last! In 1826, he was appointed as curator of the new Egyptian Antiquities section of the Musée Charles X (which later became the Musée du Louvre), where he oversaw the creation of an unprecedented collection. Two years later, he led an expedition to survey inscriptions in the Nile Valley. On his return to France, he was elected to the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres, while a Chair in Egyptology was created for him at the Collège de France. His premature death at the age of 41 left much of his work unfinished. Jacques-Joseph, that most loyal supporter of his career, went on to oversee the posthumous publication of his most important works.

## 2 THE MUSEUM CONCEPT: THE CHAMPOLLION BROTHERS AT THE ORIGINS OF EGYPTOLOGY

### 2.1. A marriage of science and the Orient at the foot of the Vercors

The original concept of the Musée Champollion can be summarised as follows:

**“The Champollion brothers, at the origins of Egyptology.  
A marriage of science and the Orient at the foot of the Vercors.”**

The concept is built around three central themes:  
the synergy and bond shared by the two brothers, their research work, and their contribution to the birth of Egyptology.



Antoine Étex, *Jean-François Champollion*, 1841, marble.

© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion

#### Two men, one myth

The museum will focus on the two Champollion brothers. Behind the celebrated image of the Egyptologist lies a more nuanced reality. Jacques-Joseph played a fundamental role as elder brother, surrogate father, mentor and protector to the young Jean-François. The museum highlights this complementarity and brotherly connection. The Musée Champollion will be the only site in France dedicated exclusively to the two brothers.

#### The life of researchers

Through the careers of the two Champollion brothers, a picture also emerges of research practices, particularly in the nineteenth century. The story of their lives sheds light on the approaches and journeys taken by researchers: learning and emulation, the use of sources, confrontation and the transdisciplinarity, the transmission of findings. This perspective is particularly relevant in Grenoble, a city that is still home to a large scientific community.





Pierre-François Lehoux,  
*Ramesses II on his chariot*, Early 19<sup>th</sup> century,  
lithograph extract from *Monuments de l'Égypte  
et de la Nubie*. © Department of Isère  
/ Musée Champollion

Jean-François Champollion's  
*tiered escrtoire* ,  
Early 19<sup>th</sup> century,  
Mahogany, gilt bronze.  
© Department of Isère /  
Musée Champollion



## At the origins of Egyptology

Champollion's work and his fundamental contribution to the decipherment of hieroglyphics were the culmination of centuries of questioning and research aimed at giving a voice to a silent civilisation. By looking at the lives of the Champollion brothers, the museum presents the early landmarks that led to the creation of a new science – Egyptology – and to the rediscovery of an ancient civilisation. Soon Egypt would supplant Ancient Greece and Rome as the mother of civilisations, stimulating a new artistic movement and reversing perceptions.

The museum's Scientific and Cultural Project (SCP) is based on these three themes. They lay the foundations for the programming of cultural activities and temporary exhibitions.

**Following the presentation of the SCP to the Ministry of Culture, the Musée Champollion was awarded official status as a 'Musée de France' on 20 February 2020.**

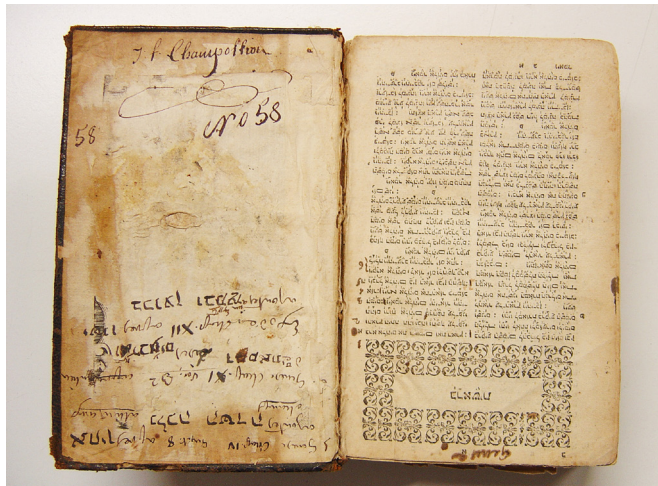
A guarantee of quality, this national label was awarded in recognition of the scientific coherence of the Department's project, the presence of collections of major public interest at the museum, and the intention to establish a site offering free entry to all members of the public.

*Retour d'Égypte-style  
bookcase*,  
c.1820, oak, rosewood.  
© Department of Isère /  
Musée Champollion





Print of the Rosetta Stone,  
Early 19th century,  
brown ink on paper.  
© Department of Isère / Musée  
Champollion



Jean-François Champollion's Egyptian overcoat,  
Early 19th century, wool, silk.  
© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion

## 2.2. Exceptional collections at the heart of the project

**In the mansion visited on so many occasions by the Champollion brothers in the nineteenth century, interior decor, personal items and research notes have all been preserved. Over 200 objects and works from the Champollion collection will be exhibited.**

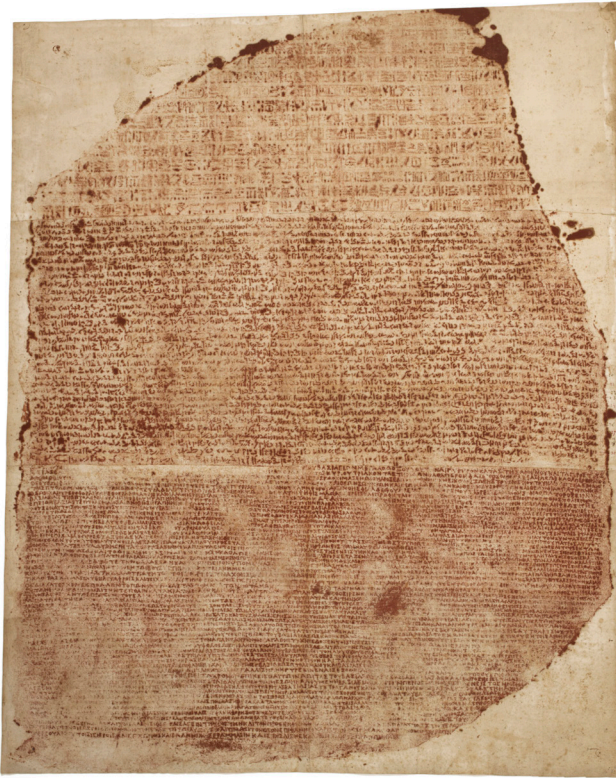
*“The project is designed to showcase the heritage preserved by the descendants of Jacques-Joseph Champollion-Figeac. The works and objects held at the house, most of which have never been shown in public, stand as unique testimonies. They offer a real insight into two prominent figures. They embody the brothers' thirst for research and invite us to share their incredible passion for Egypt.”*

**Caroline DUGAND,**  
Heritage curator,  
Head of the Musée Champollion

### An intimate glimpse of the brothers' lives

On the ground floor of the house, a living room and a dining room – complete with wood panelling, a fireplace, furniture and a portrait gallery – evoke memories of family gatherings. At the opposite end of the house, the top floor presents the small room where Jean-François stayed during his visits, and an adjoining library.

The personal effects once belonging to Jean-François Champollion include exceptional items such as his Hebrew Bible, the tiered mahogany escritoire so closely associated with the decipherment of the hieroglyphs, and the Egyptian clothing that he wore on expedition to the country in 1828 and 1829. Numerous documents, including key remnants such as hand-annotated prints of the Rosetta Stone, are testament to the long hours of research carried out at the house.



Print of the Rosetta Stone,  
Early 19th century, brown ink on paper.  
© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion

**The collection of a 19<sup>th</sup> century researcher**  
The collection offers a tangible insight into the research activities undertaken by the two brothers. It includes two photographic prints of the historical introduction to the *Description de l’Égypte*, a project that Napoleon Bonaparte had entrusted to Joseph Fourier, assisted by Jacques-Joseph. The famous Champollion-Figeac library comprises 1,100 sixteenth- to nineteenth-century works on history, epigraphy, Egypt and the first research into the decipherment of hieroglyphs.

The Jacques-Joseph Champollion-Figeac archives were acquired with the property in 2001. Stored at the Isère Departmental Archives, these 60 (largely unpublished) volumes include letters that Jacques-Joseph exchanged with his brother and other contemporary scholars. They serve as an exceptional source documenting the brothers’ relationship and wider research into the decipherment of hieroglyphs.

### Major acquisitions

The Department of Isère regularly makes new purchases to supplement the original collection. *Scientists of the Egyptian campaign at the Dendera temple* by F.-M. Testard, a rare painted depiction of the scientists who went on Napoleon Bonaparte’s expedition to Egypt, was acquired as a result of an exceptional pre-emptive purchase procedure. A core element of the permanent exhibition, it transports the viewer back to the birth of Egyptology at the dawn of the nineteenth century.



François-Martin Testard, *Scientists of the Egyptian campaign at the Dendera temple*, 1819, oil on canvas.  
© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion

Several noteworthy publications have also recently been added to the museum’s collection, including a copy of Jean-François Champollion’s *Synopsis of the Hieroglyphic System of the Ancient Egyptians*, published in 1828. This fundamental text on the understanding of hieroglyphics includes a rare handwritten dedication by Jean-François Champollion to King Charles X.





Historic model of the *Eglé*, a battleship with 18 carronade cannons, 1826.  
Loan from the Musée National de la Marine, Paris  
© Musée national de la Marine/A.Fux

## Loans from other museums

In order to fully illustrate the career of the Champollion brothers and the birth of Egyptology, over 150 items have been loaned to the museum by 18 institutions. They include national collections such as the Musée du Louvre, the Musée National de la Marine and the Musée du Quai Branly, and regional institutions including the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lyon, the Musée de Grenoble, the Musée Savoisien (in Chambéry) and the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Vienne. The museum has also made enquiries concerning pieces held privately and by foundations.

## The Department of Egyptian Antiquities of the Musée du Louvre, a major partner in the project, has granted an exceptional loan of 82 Egyptian antiquities.

Thanks to this significant contribution, the museum brings to life two key milestones in the history of Egyptology.

In the section devoted to Napoleon Bonaparte's expedition to Egypt on the first floor, 45 funerary servants, amulets and statuettes illustrate a plate from the famous *Description de l'Égypte*, demonstrating how – before the decipherment of the hieroglyphs – objects were still largely ordered in accordance with their aesthetic qualities.

On the second floor, 37 pieces from the national museum will be displayed in a room dedicated to the Musée Charles X (a museum that was opened in the Sully wing of the Musée du Louvre in 1827). All of them were chosen from the guide to the collection (known as the *Note Descriptive*) written by Champollion himself, the first curator of what would later become the Louvre's Department of Egyptian Antiquities. The selection comprises funerary stelae, statuettes of divinities and individuals in bronze, painted wood or stone, canopic vases and jewellery, all examined, classified and presented by Jean-François Champollion. They contribute to the recreation, in twenty-first century Vif, of a modern museum of Egyptology worthy of the great scholar.



Makeup spatula,  
Late period (664-332 BC), serpentine.  
© Musée du Louvre,  
Dist. RMN-Grand Palais  
/ Georges Poncet

Statuette of Ptah-Sokar-Osiris,  
Late period (664-332 BC), painted wood.  
© Musée du Louvre,  
Dist. RMN-Grand Palais / Georges Poncet





Victor Cassien, *Valbonnais*, 1833,  
etching extract from the *Album du Dauphiné*, t. IV, Grenoble, 1839.  
© City of Grenoble, Municipal library, Vh.714 (4) Res.

## 2.3. A three-part visitor experience

**The visitor space covers 300 m<sup>2</sup> spread over three floors, gradually unveiling the careers of the Champollion brothers in their entirety.**

The visit starts on the ground floor with the family environment and individual profiles, before recounting, on the first floor, the meteoric rise of the two brothers and the research that leads to the decipherment of the hieroglyphs. The second floor is dedicated to the rediscovery of Egyptian civilisation and the origins of a new discipline: Egyptology.

### Ground floor: the family environment

The refurbished entry hall, living room and dining room give visitors an intimate glimpse into life in the Champollion household in nineteenth century Vif. Adjacent to the reception rooms, the former kitchen explores the family origins of the two men in the Dauphiné and Quercy provinces and their relocation to Grenoble. In the next room, visitors follow in the footsteps of the young Jean-François Champollion as they encounter the effervescence of intellectual life in Grenoble, represented by a selection of illustrious figures from the Dauphiné area. They also find out about Jean-François's early education and the first steps that the two brothers took in academia while still based in the capital of the French Alps.





Edfou, etching extract from the *Description de l'Égypte*,  
Antiquities t. 1, pl.48, Paris, 1809. © The New York Public Library

## First floor: the rediscovery of Egypt and the decipherment

The first floor of the museum covers two landmark events in the rediscovery of Ancient Egypt and in the lives of the Champollion brothers. Firstly, a film shot from their perspective illustrates their knowledge of Ancient Egypt at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Produced exclusively for the Musée Champollion, this video includes a section dedicated to the famous expedition to Egypt led by Napoleon Bonaparte (1798-1801).

The next room is dedicated to Jean-François Champollion's decipherment of hieroglyphics (1822), a critical event that ushered in a revival of interest in the ancient civilisation. Lastly on this floor, a reconstruction of Jacques-Joseph's study offers a reminder of his own research work and his unfailing support for his now-famous younger brother.



Augustin Régis, *Egyptian tomb chamber at the Musée Charles X*, engraving extract from the guide by Adolphe Joanne, *Paris illustré. Nouveau guide de l'étranger et du Parisien*, Paris, 1863. © BnF

## Second floor: the birth of a discipline and the study of a civilisation

The 1822 decipherment turned all existing research into Egyptian civilisation on its head. Papyrus papers, bas-reliefs and inscriptions were unsilenced at last. This floor is devoted to the summit of Jean-François' career, at which point he was still supported by Jacques-Joseph.

The first room on the floor shines a light on Jean-François' curation of the Egypt section of the Musée Charles X at the Louvre in 1826. The next room focuses on the Franco-Tuscan expedition (1828-1829) that he led to the Nile Valley to collect further documentation for his research. On his return to France, his work started to receive the credit it truly merited. The third space illustrates the researcher's new-found recognition and the new discipline that he helped to found: Egyptology. Lastly, the library and his bedroom tell the story of his untimely death but also his posthumous influence, thanks in no small part to the dedication of his elder brother. And so, from Isère to the banks of the Nile, visitors witness the birth of Egyptology through the eyes of its founding fathers.

## THE MUSEE CHAMPOLLION IN FIGURES



*Luxor Obelisk*, after 1833,  
Wood model covered in paper  
© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion

### Budget

**Total overall budget: €6.7 million**

Department of Isère: €6 270 665

State: €367,206

Municipality of Vif: €62,129

### The project in dates

**2001:** acquisition of the Champollion estate by the Department of Isère

**2016:** launch of a new project to create the museum

**2017-2018:** design phase

**2019-2021:** development phase

**5 June 2021:** museum opening

### The project in figures

**18 firms** have been contracted

to contribute to the museum architecture and design

### 1000 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space

Reception

Gift store

Permanent exhibition

Temporary exhibition

Educational area

Curators' offices

Collection store

Technical rooms

### Permanent exhibition

15 rooms

17 loaning institutions

358 objects and works, including 152 loans

82 objects loaned by the Musée du Louvre

9 multimedia devices, 3 dioramas and 1 scale model

21 scientific partners

### The grounds

2.5 hectares of land open to the public

160 freshly planted trees (30 different species)

1,070 freshly planted shrubs (30 different species)

2,100 freshly planted perennials (50 different species)



## A NETWORK OF DEPARTMENTAL MUSEUMS

Present throughout the territory thanks to its free-to-enter departmental museums, the aim of the heritage policy of the Department of Isère is to make all types of heritage (historical, archaeological, artistic, ethnographic, etc.) available to the public in different forms. The Musée Champollion is part of a network of eleven museums run by the Department of Isère.



**DOMAINE DE VIZILLE**  
MUSÉE  
DE LA RÉVOLUTION  
FRANÇAISE



**MAISON BERGÈS**  
VILLARD-BONNOT



**MUSÉE  
DE L'ANCIEN  
EVÊCHÉ**  
GRENOBLE



**MUSÉE  
ARCABAS EN  
CHARTREUSE**  
SAINT-HUGUES



**MUSÉE  
ARCHÉOLOGIQUE  
SAINT-LAURENT**  
GRENOBLE



**MUSÉE  
CHAMPOLLION**  
VIF

OUVERTURE  
2021



**MUSÉE  
DAUPHINOIS**  
GRENOBLE



**MUSÉE  
HÉBERT**  
LA TRONCHE



**MUSÉE  
HECTOR-BERLIOZ**  
LA CÔTE SAINT-ANDRÉ



**MUSÉE DE LA RÉSISTANCE  
ET DE LA DÉPORTATION  
DE L'ISÈRE**  
GRENOBLE



**MUSÉE DE  
SAINT-ANTOINE  
L'ABBAYE**

## PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS

### DEPARTMENT OF ISÈRE

#### **President**

Jean-Pierre Barbier

#### **Vice-President responsible for culture, heritage and decentralised cooperation**

Patrick Curtaud

#### **Vice-Président responsible for departmental buildings**

André Gillet

#### **Office for Culture and Heritage**

Aymeric Perroy, Magali Longour, Hélène Piguet, Sabrina Menu

**Musée Champollion** : Caroline Dugand, Maëva Gervason  
Amandine Durand, Typhaine Gate-Saidi, Jean-François Hivorel, Faustine  
Jauffret, Isabelle Monier, Karine Sutra, Rachel Varvarande  
With the collaboration of Jean-Pascal Jospin, Lila Grama

#### **Office for Public Construction and the Working Environment**

Philippe Rouger, Marc Coulon, Élisabeth Bérard

#### **External Relations Directorate**

Richard Marchand, Jean-Marie Cabrières, Émilie Flandrin, Manon  
Sanchez, Sandrine Anselmetti, Richard Andrieux, Stéphane Dugne,  
Christophe Juvanon

### WITH THE SUPPORT OF

#### **Regional office of cultural affairs, Auvergne-Rhône Alpes**

Marc Drouet, Frédéric Henriot, Lionel Bergatto, François Michaud, Patrick  
Maillard, Régis Vermorel

#### **Municipality of Vif**

##### **Mayor**

Guy Genet

### PRIME CONTRACTORS

Architects: ARCHIPAT, Gaël Robin, Nicolas Castro  
Museum layout and scenography: SCEN ART, Mélanie Claude  
Graphic design (museography): Agence LES PISTOLeros  
Lighting: Stéphanie Daniel  
Landscaping: REYNAUD PAYSAGES, Frédéric Reynaud



## IMAGES AVAILABLE TO THE PRESS



*The Mansion, 2004.*

© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion



*Madame de Rumilly, Zoé Berriat, wife of Champollion-Figeac, after 1822, oil on canvas.*  
© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion



*Madame de Rumilly, Jean-François Champollion, after 1822, oil on canvas.* © Department of Isère / Musée Champollion



*Ignace-Antoine Melling, View of Grenoble, 1819, pen, ink and brown ink wash on paper.* Collection of the Fonds Glénat for heritage and creation - © JM Blache



*Madame de Rumilly, Jacques-Joseph Champollion-Figeac, after 1822, oil on canvas.*  
© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion



*Hieroglyphic cartouches drawn by Jean-François Champollion on the beam of his bedroom in Vif, c.1820.*  
© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion  
On the left: "Amon-Rè, lord of Thèbes, living forever!";  
on the right: "God Saghir, Champollion, may he live, prosper and be well!"



Anon., *Jacques-Joseph Champollion-Figeac*,  
c.1800, oil on canvas.

© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion



*Retour d'Égypte-style bookcase*,

c.1820, oak, rosewood. © Department of Isère / Musée  
Champollion



Anon., *Jean-François Champollion*,  
c.1830, lead pencil drawing.

© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion



Pierre-François Lehoux, *Ramesses II on his chariot*,  
Early 19th century, lithograph extract from *Monuments  
de l'Égypte et de la Nubie*.

© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion



Antoine Étex, *Jean-François Champollion*,  
1841, marble. © Department of Isère / Musée

Champollion



*Jean-François Champollion's Hebrew Bible*, Early 19th  
century. © Department of Isère / Musée Champollion



*Jean-François Champollion's tiered escritorio*,  
Early 19th century, Mahogany, gilt bronze.

© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion



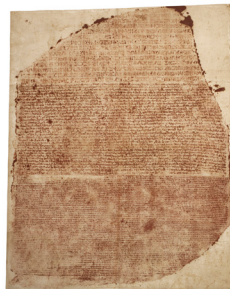
*Jean-François Champollion's Egyptian overcoat*,  
Early 19th century, wool, silk.

© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion

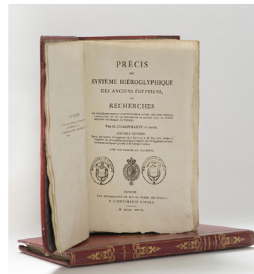




*Water jug and basin, 19th century, carved copper.*  
© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion



*Print of the Rosetta Stone,*  
Early 19th century, brown ink on paper.  
© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion



*Jean-François Champollion, Synopsis of the Hieroglyphic System of the Ancient Egyptians, 1828.*  
© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion



*Luxor Obelisk, after 1833,*  
Wood model covered in paper  
© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion



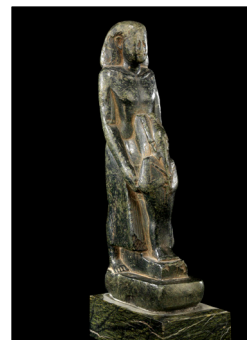
*François-Martin Testard, Scientists of the Egyptian campaign at the Dendera temple, 1819, oil on canvas.*  
© Department of Isère / Musée Champollion



*Historic model of the Eglé, a battleship with 18 carronade canons, 1826. Loan from the Musée National de la Marine, Paris* © Musée national de la Marine/A.Fux



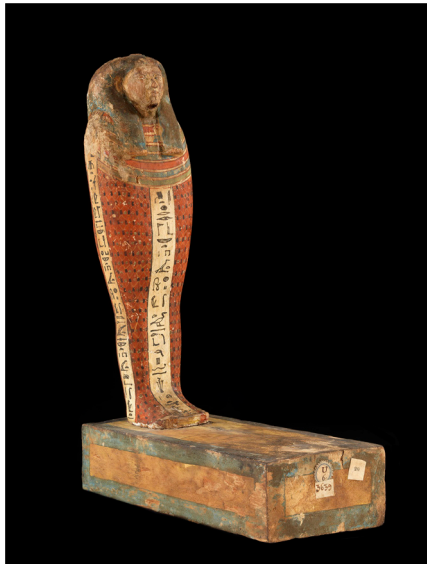
*Curved stele with three-level inscription,*  
New Empire (1500-1069 BC), limestone.  
© Musée du Louvre,  
Dist. RMN-Grand Palais / Georges Poncet



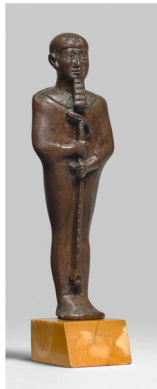
*Theophorus statue,*  
Saite era (664-525 BC), serpentine.  
© Musée du Louvre,  
Dist. RMN-Grand Palais / Georges Poncet



*Makeup spatula*,  
Late period (664-332 BC), serpentine.  
© Musée du Louvre,  
Dist. RMN-Grand Palais / Georges Poncet



*Statuette of Ptah-Sokar-Osiris*,  
Late period (664-332 BC), painted wood.  
© Musée du Louvre,  
Dist. RMN-Grand Palais / Georges Poncet



*Figurine of Ptah*,  
Late period (664-332 BC), bronze.  
© Musée du Louvre,  
Dist. RMN-Grand Palais / Hervé Lewandowski



Victor Cassien, *Valbonnais*,  
1833, etching extract from the *Album du Dauphiné*, t. IV,  
Grenoble, 1839. © City of Grenoble, Municipal library,  
Vh.714 (4) Res.



*Edfou*, etching extract from the *Description de l'Égypte*,  
*Antiquities* t. 1, pl.48, Paris, 1809.  
© The New York Public Library



Augustin Régis, *Egyptian tomb chamber at the Musée Charles X*, engraving extract from the guide by Adolphe Joanne, *Paris illustré. Nouveau guide de l'étranger et du Parisien*, Paris, 1863. © BnF



## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### **Musée Champollion**

45 rue Champollion  
38450 VIF  
04 57 58 88 50

musee-champollion@isere.fr  
musees.isere.fr

### **Free admission**

On Reservation  
Accessible to people with reduced mobility

### **Geographic location**

In Isère, about twenty kilometers south of Grenoble

## PRESS RELATIONS

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## MAP

Musée Champollion  
38450 Vif

