

Napoléon Louis Bonaparte (Paris, France 1804 - Forli, Italy 1831)

Napoleon Louis BONAPARTE (1804-1831) Study of an antique profile

Circa: XVIII ème

Signed with a pen lower left

Circa 1830

Black pencil drawing on bistre paper

Without frame: Height: 20 cm x Width: 19 cm

With frame (circa 1830): Height: 38 cm x Width: 37 cm

Napoleon-Louis Bonaparte (11 October 1804 - 17 March 1831) was King of Holland for less than two weeks in July 1810 under the name of Louis II (Dutch: Lodewijk II). He was the son of Louis Bonaparte (King Louis I) and Queen Hortense. His father was the younger brother of Napoleon I of France, who ruled the Napoleonic Kingdom of Holland from 1806 to 1810. His mother was the daughter of Joséphine de Beauharnais, Napoleon's first wife. His younger brother, Louis-Napoléon, became Emperor of the French in 1852 under the name of Napoléon III.

Biography

Napoleon Louis's brother, Napoleon Charles, died in 1807 at the age of four. On his death, Napoleon Louis became Prince Royal of Holland. This also made Napoleon Louis the second eldest nephew of Emperor Napoleon I, who at the time had no legitimate children, and he was probably the eventual successor to his uncle. He lost this presumptive status on 20 March 1811 when his uncle's second wife, Marie Louise, gave birth to a son, Napoleon François Joseph Charles Bonaparte, who was appointed King of Rome and then Duke of Reichstadt.

In 1809, Napoleon I appointed him Grand Duke of Berg, a status he retained until 1813.

On 1 July 1810, Louis I of Holland abdicated his throne in favour of Napoleon Louis. During the nine days between his father's abdication and the fall of Holland to the invading French army in July 1810, Napoleon Louis reigned as Lodewijk II, King of Holland.

When Napoleon I was deposed in 1815 after the Battle of Waterloo, the House of Bourbon was restored to the throne of France. Napoleon Louis fled into exile, but the Bonapartes never abandoned the idea of restoring the Napoleonic Empire.