

Napoleon BRANDO

Complete with frown and forelock, an actor in a gilded frame and a conqueror's clothing sits for a twentieth-century imitation of a nineteenth-century museum piece



Real moss and 40-foot tree help to simulate pastoral look of Malmaison painting. Merle Oberon said, for exact copy "my arm would have to be three feet long"



Top, Napoleon at Fontainebleau, by Delaroche; Prud'hon's Portrait of the Empress Josephine, below

NO ONE is interested in seeing an exact likeness of a great man," said Napoleon to court painter Jacques Louis David. As history has proved, Napoleon could be wrong. For 150 years, artists have diligently duplicated the brooding gaze and arrogant posturings of the conquering Corsican. His image, staring out of gilt frames and tattered textbooks, has been a constant spur to writers and collectors of Napoleoniana, and to less learned folk a reminder that Napoleon was something more than a label for a pastry or an after-dinner drink.

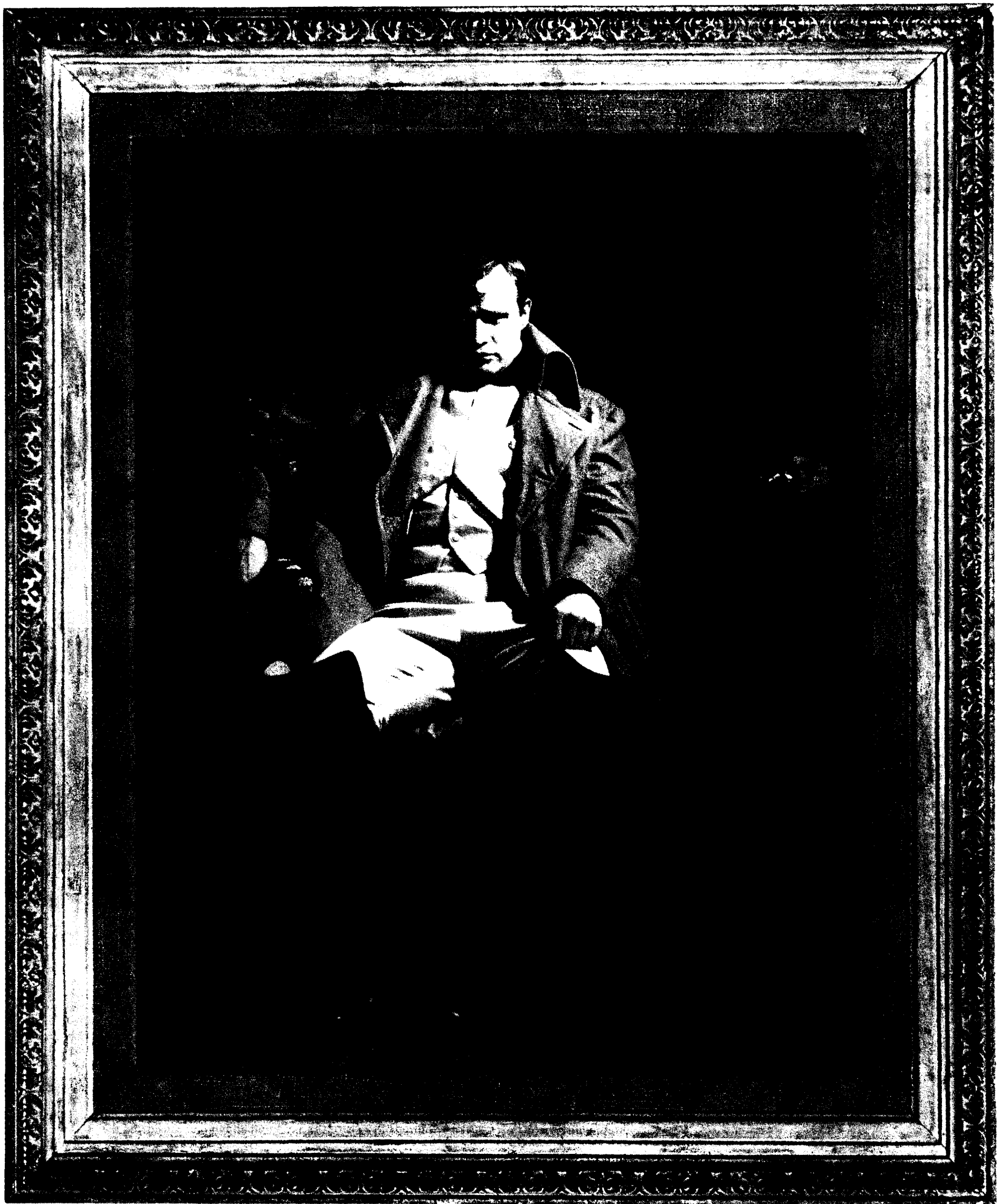
Now here we go again. Latest to dig deep into Napoleonic lore for popular consumption is director Henry Koster (The Robe). He's filmed Anne-Marie Selinko's best-selling novel *Désirée*. The story deals with the off-battlefield adventures of the little Emperor (Marlon Brando), his inconstant consort Josephine (Merle Oberon) and a temptress named *Désirée* (Jean Simmons) who distracts him from his military and amatory path. The film will be released by 20th Century-Fox next month.

In the movie, Koster, like Napoleon, has been wary of slavish imitation. At no time does Brando sneak a hand inside his vest. But with built-up nose, exaggerated foam-rubber waistline and extraordinarily accurate uniforms, the actor seems more like the Emperor than the Emperor himself.

So that his actors might develop true insight into the characters they played, Koster brought to the studio some of his own collection of Napoleonic art. A copy of one familiar portrait was placed in Brando's dressing room. And as the actor's face took on the Emperor's darkly contemplative look, Koster bowed to temptation. Result: these carefully contrived "live" copies of famous paintings of the imperial pair.

—EVELYN HARVEY

PHOTOGRAPHS FOR COLLIER'S BY FRANK POWOLNY



Duplicating shadowy lighting of early 19th-century art, director Koster turns Marlon Brando into a living copy of portrait, left. The campaign coat was aged, buttons cast from originals, boots made extra thin so feet would look small as Emperor's own

Did You Stop Reading

By LEONARD A. STEVENS

Most people still read as they did in primary school—haltingly and without a clear understanding. If you do, it may be costing you time, money, even a better job. Here's how you can improve your ability

MOST people think of reading as relaxation. They look forward to settling down in an easy chair with a good magazine or book, and they care little whether it can be finished in a few minutes, a few hours or even a few days. What difference does it make whether they are fast or slow readers?

Probably none at all, so far as leisure reading is concerned. But for many people today reading has become more than a luxury; it's a necessity. To keep up with their work, they must read letters, technical reports, trade publications, research findings, interoffice communications: a never-ending flood of words. In getting a job or keeping one, the ability to read and comprehend quickly can mean the difference between success and failure.

Yet the unfortunate fact is that most of us are poor readers. How good a reader are you? Your answers to the questions listed opposite the title above will give you an indication. There's a fair

chance that you're reading this article as an elementary-school pupil would—slowly and rather haltingly.

Even a good education is no guarantee of good reading ability; corporation executives, public officials, doctors and lawyers frequently have bad reading habits. As many of them have found out, such habits can cost money, steal valuable time, prevent advancement on the job, even disrupt family life.

Fortunately, almost anyone can learn how to read faster and comprehend more of what he or she reads. Thousands of adults already have been helped by reading clinics, which have sprung up all over the country in the last few years. You can even train yourself at home, and perhaps double your reading speed.

Why are so many people poor readers? Dr. Nila Banton Smith, director of New York University's Reading Institute, has made a study of the question. She believes that most reading faults go back to early school training. Basic reading instruction for the average adult, she says, ceased before he reached the sixth grade, and most often ended in the third grade.

Even that training often was not of the best. According to Dr. Emmett A. Betts, director of Temple University's Reading Clinic in Philadelphia, two persons out of five in school were forced to read material too difficult for them to understand at the time. They struggled with one unfamiliar word after another, a frustrating experience which left them with bad reading habits.

Today most of these people still struggle with words rather than ideas. While reading, they stop frequently every line to consider the meaning of individual words. The procedure is slow, tedious and inefficient.

Actually, the main object of reading is to grasp the ideas presented by a writer. Ideas seldom are found in single words; they're conveyed by groups of words. When a reader pauses over individual words, he's likely to miss the main theme. He sees only the parts, not the whole. A good reader's eyes pause only to gather groups of words that embody ideas.

The ability to scan reading matter quickly and extract its main ideas is especially important in



Swinging your head from left to right as you scan line of print is also bad reading habit



Bad reading habits can slow you down, lessen your comprehension. Above: a finger reader

management jobs today. William H. C. Lehmann, manager of the Marketing Training Program for the General Electric Company, puts it this way: "In today's competitive markets, there's a great need for information, and most of it is obtained by reading. It's hard to do a good job and not spend all day reading."

An informal survey among executives and supervisors at the pharmaceutical firm of Johnson & Johnson in New Brunswick, New Jersey, showed that on the average they read four and a half hours a day—and all but one considered themselves poor readers. As a result, the firm introduced a reading-improvement program.

Similar programs have been started by the Atlantic Refining Company, International Business Machines, Esso Standard Oil Company, Minneapolis-Honeywell Regulator Company, National City Bank of Cleveland, Western Electric Company and General Electric Company.

Suppose you should move into a job and find the

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