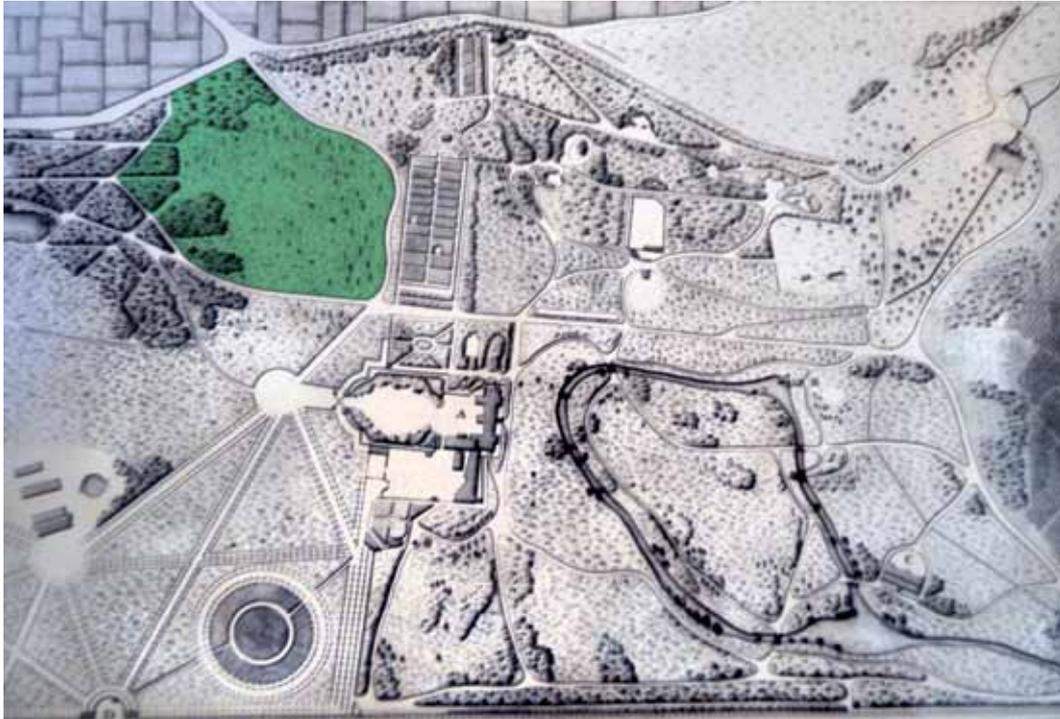


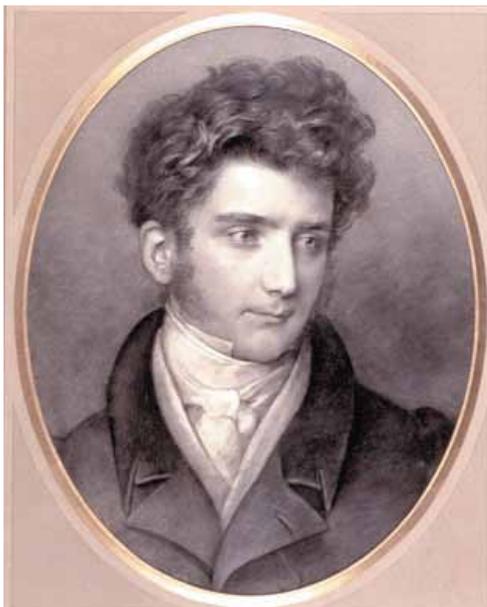
*The Fondation Tuck
and
the Château de Vert-Mont*



The *Château de Vert-Mont* has been home to the *Fondation Tuck* since 1992, but it has a much longer history. Indeed, the land the *Château* is built on was once part of a very large domain that Emperor Napoleon's wife *Josephine* assembled in the beginning of the 19th century, eventually reaching an overall size of more than 700 hectares of land, including also the nearby *Château de Bois-Préau*.

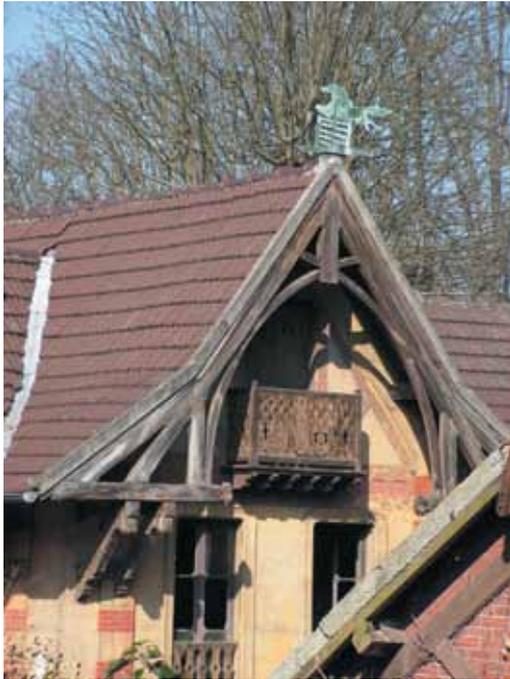


Partial plan of the *Domaine de Malmaison* in the imperial era: in colour, the site of the future *Domaine de Vert-Mont* (*Domaine National de Malmaison et Bois-Préau*)



After *Josephine's* death in 1814, the domain first stays in her family's hands, but very quickly the heirs lose interest and in 1828 starts a long series of sales and partitioning of the domain. It is only in 1855 that a philosopher, *Gustave d'Eichthal*, re-assembles the pieces to construct what we know today as the *Domaine de Vert-Mont*. He is also the one who launches the construction of the *Château*.

Gustave d'Eichthal (1804-1886), a scientist, philosopher and Saint-Simonian
(*Hervé le Bret*)



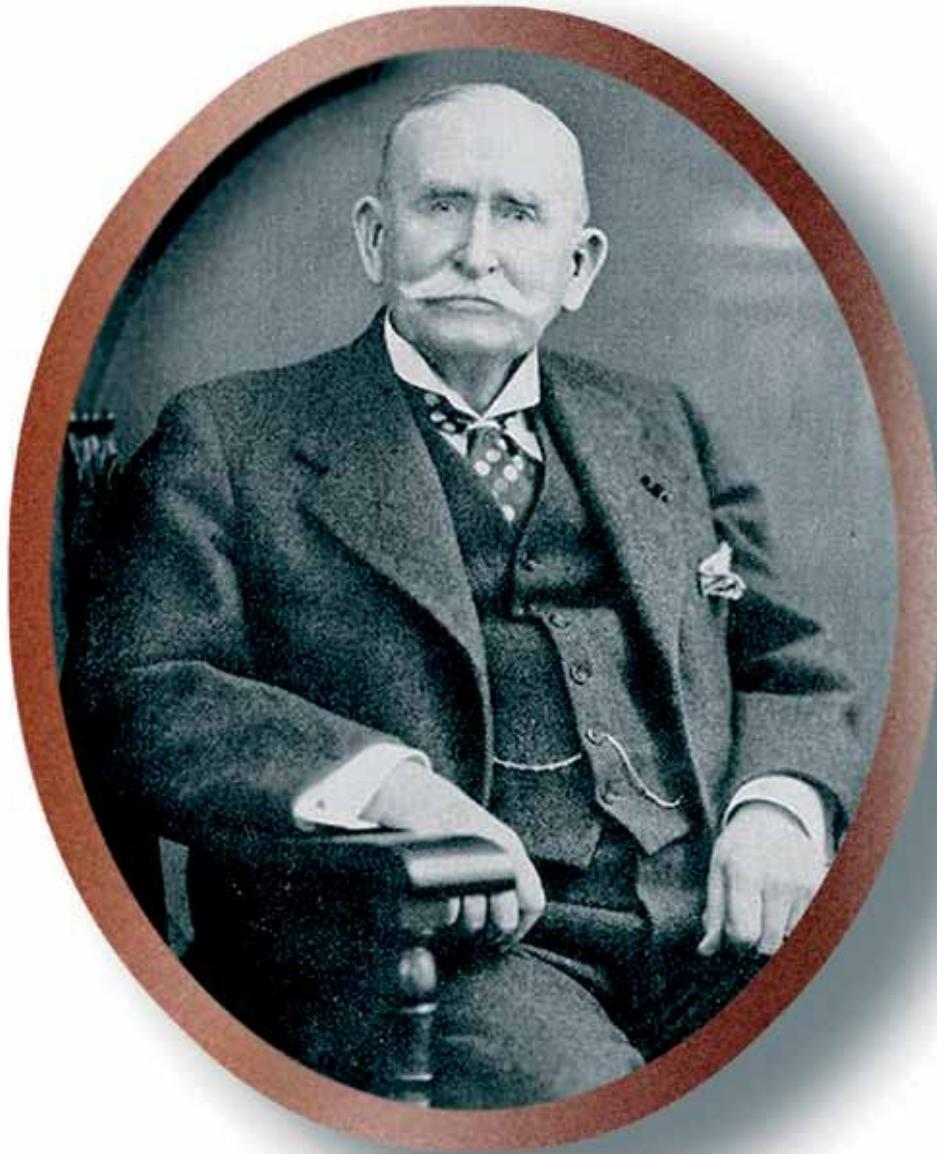
Gustave d'Eichthal himself is quite an interesting person, since he is one of the main representatives of the Saint-Simon philosophy which had a major influence on European philosophers throughout the 19th century. This philosophy is based on a strong belief in science as a motor of societal progress and it tries to reconcile market liberalism with some kind of socialism.

The so-called coachman's house, comprising rooms for the coachman and the servants, as well as an attic: it is the only building constructed by Gustave d'Eichthal that remains today, ca. 1858-1860
(InSiglo)

The orangery constructed by Victor Delacroix along the chemin des Vignerons
(InSiglo)



Gustave d'Eichthal, a brilliant philosopher, finally did not succeed economically and he sold the *Domaine* in 1867. During the next 25 years, Vert-Mont was owned first by *Victor Delacroix*, a self-made millionaire who owned one of the first large department stores in Paris, and then by *Alexandre Tavernier*, who has made his fortune as a trader at the Paris stock exchange.



Edward Tuck 1842 – 1938
(Fondation Tuck)

Edward Tuck bought the *Domaine de Vert-Mont* in 1892. Born in 1842 as the son of Amos Tuck, member of Congress and collaborator of Abraham Lincoln, he comes the first time to Paris as a 22 year old freshly graduated lawyer and joins the American embassy as vice-consul. However, after some months, he realizes that his future lies more in business than in diplomacy. He is sent back to New York and for 15 years he works for a large investment bank.

Thanks to some fruitful investments, in particular in the development of the American railroad system, he significantly increases his fortune and in 1889, at age 47, he and his wife, *Julia Stell*, decide to settle in Paris. In 1898, they buy the *Château de Vert-Mont*. Their life in the *Château* is made of intense networking – he is a kind of american shadow ambassador and is in contact with many politicians and diplomats – and of managing their philanthropic engagements.



The reception room or winter lounge at the time of Julia and Edward Tuck
(InSiglo)

Indeed, the *Tucks* donate their fortune for a large variety of causes and actions. In particular, they donate a large collection of art objects to the *Petit Palais* museum in Paris, where a special *Tuck* hall exists until today. Most importantly, they donate to the city of *Rueil-Malmaison*. In particular, a hospital was built before World War I thanks to their donation. The outstanding role and action of *Edward Tuck* in France is recognized in 1929 by the grade of *Dignité de grand'croix de la Légion d'honneur*, a distinction that less than 3000 people have received since its creation in 1805.



Edward Tuck (center) was made a citizen of Paris on his 90th birthday
(Fondation tuck)



Madeleine Eristov (1911-1995), professor and researcher at CNRS, creates the International center for intellectual cooperation in 1957 and installs it in Vert-Mont (*Fondation Tuck*)

Edward Tuck was a great philanthropist, but he was also a very modern man who believed in science and technology as motors for the progress of mankind. There are many hints that he wanted the *Château de Vert-Mont* to become a centre for international scientific cooperation. Indeed, he sold *Vert-Mont* in 1924 to his niece *Dorothy Hall* for a quite modest amount and in 1954 she sold the *Domaine* to a group of researchers led by *Madeleine Eristov*, again for a relatively small amount of money, but with the obligation to use the *Domaine* and the *Château* for installing an international centre for intellectual cooperation.

Unfortunately, despite many attempts to install such a centre, the objective was not reached and in 1992 the administrators felt the need for finding a different destiny for the *Château* and the *Domaine*. This is why they contacted IFP that was coincidentally starting to enlarge and to internationalize the recruitment of its students for the *École du Pétrole*. Together they decided to give birth to a foundation, and in honour of the original donor of the domain, they named it the *Fondation Tuck*.



IFP School's students receiving grants paid by the Tuck foundation thanks to industrial donors
(IFP School)

The *Fondation*, now in its early 20s, has three main activities. Firstly, and most importantly, it provides scholarships to students of IFP School, the former *École du Pétrole*. Secondly, the *Fondation* launches and manages R&D programs and thus acts like a small funding agency. And thirdly, the *Fondation* fosters scientific and societal dialogue and cooperation in the area of energy and sustainable development through a dedicated think tank.

While the *Fondation* is itself entirely dedicated to philanthropic actions and is recognized as such by the french administration, it depends itself on donations, since it has no capital endowment. It is only thanks to many industrial donors, from France, Europe and abroad, representing the energy and the transportation industry, that its actions are made possible, and that it can maintain and develop this wonderful place, the *Château de Vert-Mont*, as a place for fostering education, research and scientific dialogue.



Enerbio's workshop at Vert-Mont
(Fondation Tuck)



Main industrial donors of the Fondation Tuck



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Fondation Tuck

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