



Smithsonian

Archives of American Art

Pierre Eugène Du Simitière papers

Archives of American Art
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Victor Building, Suite 2200
Washington, D.C. 20001
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives of American Art
Title:	Pierre Eugène Du Simitière papers
Date:	1560-1786 (bulk 1721-1786)
Identifier:	AAA.dusipier
Creator:	Du Simitière, Pierre Eugène, ca. 1736-1784
Extent:	10 Volumes ((on 3 microfilm reels))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Lent for microfilming, 1955, by the Library Company of Philadelphia. In 1785 Du Simitière's effects were sold at auction, resulting in his library being scattered. Most of the manuscripts were purchased by the Library Company of Philadelphia. The Library of Congress later acquired some others. The whereabouts of some material is still uncertain.

Location of Originals

Originals in the Library Company of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Other Finding Aids

A descriptive catalogue of the Du Simitière papers in the Library Company of Philadelphia is available on microfilm reel P25 (fr. 672-774).

Available Formats

35mm microfilm reels P7 (fr. 128-913), P8 (fr. 1-854) & P9 (fr. 1-750) available for use at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Restrictions

The Archives of American art does not own the original papers. Use is limited to the microfilm copy.

Biographical / Historical

Portrait painter, curator and naturalist; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Born in Geneva, Switzerland. Came to America in 1765 after spending several years in the West Indies collecting natural history specimens. Elected curator, 1768, of the American Philosophical Society, and set up a natural history museum. He collected Revolutionary War ephemera and literature.

Scope and Contents

Papers relating to natural history and Du Simitière's collection of specimens; material collected on the history of the West Indies and Colonial American affairs in New England, Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey, including the Lancaster Treaty, 1744, and Indian treaties, 1721-1756; letters, 1560-1781; journals, pamphlets and extracts; a broadside of the Du Simitière sale, 1785; drawings and portraits of American legislators and soldiers by Du Simitière; and leaves of a medieval illuminated manuscript.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Natural history -- Catalogs and collections -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
Naturalism
Portrait painting -- 18th century -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia

Occupations:

Museum curators -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
Portrait painters -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia

Functions:

Natural history museums -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia

Places:

United States -- History -- 18th century