

Bibliography:

Library Company of Philadelphia. *Pierre Eugène Du Simitière: His American Museum 200 Years After*, 1985.

Sifton, Paul Ginsburg. *Pierre Eugène Du Simitière (1737-1784): Collector in Revolutionary America*. University of Pennsylvania, Ph.D., 1960.

Scope and Contents note

The Library Company of Philadelphia purchased this collection of Pierre Eugene Du Simitière's manuscripts at the auction of Du Simitière's American Museum after his death on March 10, 1785. The books and pamphlets bought at the same auction have been dispersed through the Library Company's collections. Du Simitière gathered or copied these manuscripts during his travels in the West Indies, Boston, New York, and while he lived in Philadelphia, where he was a member of and one of the curators of the American Philosophical Society. After the Library Company of Philadelphia purchased the manuscripts, they were bound together. The Historical Records Survey of the Works Progress Administration described the manuscripts in "Descriptive Catalogue of the Du Simitière Papers in the Library Company of Philadelphia" (1940), from which many of the following series and records descriptions have been abstracted. Since the Historical Records survey, many of the bound volumes have been unbound and foldered by the Library Company of Philadelphia. The unbound volumes in the series descriptions contain folder level description; however, the bound volumes are described only as an overall work. For more detail on the bound volumes, see the "Descriptive Catalogue of the Du Simitière Papers in the Library Company of Philadelphia" (1940). Researchers should be aware that the series titles are drawn from the title of the bound volume. It is important to read the entire scope note for each series, because the volumes often contained additional topics than are listed in the title.

The collection includes information on places such as the West Indies, Pennsylvania, New England, New York, and the Carolinas. It includes information, documents, and research on many Native American groups and Creoles. The collection also contains information, documents, and research on historical events in the United States such as the Jacob Leisler case, politics in New York, the American Revolution, the colonization of America, and the Pennsylvania Line Mutiny. With the exception of a few miscellaneous items, the collections focus is on the years 1720 to 1780.

This collection is divided into thirteen series that were established when the manuscripts were in bound volumes. The titles of the series are also developed from the original titles of the bound volumes. The series are titled: "Papers Relating to Natural History," "Papers Relating to New York," "Papers relating to Pennsylvania, the Carolinas, etc.," "Indian Treaties, 1721-1756," "Original Letters, 1560-1781," "Papers Relating to the West Indies," "Original Journals and Extracts," "Papers Relating to New England and New York," "Papers Relating to Pennsylvania, New England, Etc.," "Miscellaneous Papers from Du Simitière (Scraps)," "Papers Relating to New York politics, 1768-1771," "Prints and artwork, 1758-1790," and "Volume boards, undated." The series are arranged and described in this order.