



Guide to the Paul Rapelye Papers, 1820-1823

This collection guide was produced in .

This PDF version was created on **April 3, 2026**.

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

103 Perkins Library, Duke University

Durham 27708-0185

919-660-5822

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Table of Contents

Summary	3
Background	3
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	4
Names and Subjects	5
Collection Inventory	6
Correspondence, 1820-1822	6
Volumes	6
Paul Rapelye:	6
Wm. S. Bennett and Co.:	6

Summary

Collection Title:

Paul Rapelye papers, 1820-1823

Creator:

Rapelye, Paul, fl. 1820-1823

Extent:

1.5 Linear Feet

14 Items

Physical Location:

For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Language:

English

Language:

English.

Collection ID:

RL.01069

Permalink:

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/findingaids/rapelye/>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], The Papers of Paul Rapelye, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Background

Scope and Content

The papers of Paul Rapelye span the years 1820-1823. They consist of eight account books, 1820-1823, one letter book, 1821-1823, and five letters, 1820-1822, that mostly concern mercantile trade. He and his associates traded primarily in cloth, cloth goods, and clothing, but also occasionally in rice,

cotton, and other commodities. Rapelye traveled and conducted business in Charleston, Savannah, New York city, and Manchester, England.

In a letter of July 15, 1822, auctioneer Jacob Rapelye of Charleston discussed his business and the aborted slave insurrection led by Denmark Vesey. There is also a reference to the capture of a Portuguese slave ship and the disposition of the slaves (1820, July 27).

Biographical/Historical

In October 1821, Paul Rapelye, a commission merchant, was a partner in the firm of Wm. S. Bennett and Co., of Charleston, S.C. During 1820-1823, however, he also operated variously in the firms of P. Rapelye and Co. in Savannah and Paul Rapelye in Savannah, New York City, and Manchester, England.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

The collection is divided into correspondence and account books, the latter arranged under the names of the companies to which they belonged.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

103 Perkins Library, Duke University

Durham 27708-0185

919-660-5822

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection.

All or portions of this collection may be housed off-site in Duke University's Library Service Center. The library may require up to 48 hours to retrieve these materials for research use.

Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

The status of copyright interests in these papers is unknown. For further information, see the section on copyright in the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Paul Rapelye, commission merchant from Charleston, South Carolina, were purchased by the Rubenstein Library in 1979 and 1983.

Processing Information

Processed by: William R. Erwin, Jr.

Completed January 22, 1988

Encoded by Stephen Douglas Miller

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Textile fabrics
- Slavery -- Insurrections, etc. -- South Carolina
- Commission merchants
- Clothing trade
- Manchester (England) -- Commerce
- Slave trade
- Savannah (Ga.) -- Commerce
- New York (N.Y.) -- Commerce
- Auctioneers -- South Carolina
- Charleston (S.C.) -- Commerce
- Rice trade -- South Carolina

- Cotton trade -- South Carolina
- Rapelye, Paul, fl. 1820-1823
- Wm. S. Bennett and Co. (Charleston, S.C.)

Collection Inventory

Correspondence, 1820-1822

Correspondence Box 1

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Volumes

P. Rapelye and Co.: Inventory, 1820 Box 1

Paul Rapelye:

Invoice Book, 1820-1821 Box 1

Invoice Book, 1822-1823 Box 1

Ledger, 1820 -1821 Box 2

Index to Ledger, 1820-1821 Box 2

Daybook, 1820-1821 Box 2

Wm. S. Bennett and Co.:

Letter Book, 1821-1823 Box 3

Sales at Auction, 1821-1822 Box 3

Sales at Auction, 1822 Box 3

[Return to Table of Contents](#)