

Ouvrage sur les Femmes:

An Inventory of Manuscripts, Transcripts, and Research Notes at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator:	Harry Ransom Center
Title	<i>Ouvrage sur les Femmes</i> : Manuscripts, Transcripts, and Research Notes
Dates:	1745-1987
Extent:	8 boxes (3.78 linear feet)
Abstract:	The research notes, drafts, and fair copies written by Jean Jacques Rousseau and Louise Marie Madeline Fontaine Dupin were sold at a series of auctions held between 1951 and 1958, from which the Ransom Center acquired a major portion of Madame Dupin's work.
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-03636
Languages	English and French
Access	Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition	Purchase, 1967 (R 3506)
Processed by	Bob Taylor, 1997
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Biographical Sketches

Jean Jacques Rousseau, one of the most influential French philosophical writers of the 18th century, was born in Geneva, Switzerland in 1712. After a peripatetic and largely self-taught youth, Rousseau arrived in Paris in 1742. He quickly attracted the attention of Denis Diderot and was asked to contribute to the *Encyclopédie*. During the years between 1750 and 1762 he wrote those works of social and philosophical commentary for which he is best remembered-- *Discourse on the Arts and Sciences*, *The New Eloise*, *Emile*, and *The Social Contract*. In the latter year he fled France following his condemnation by the Parlement of Paris. Rousseau settled briefly in Britain under the protection of David Hume, but following their bitter disagreement he departed and returned to France in 1767. He spent his last years of increasing eccentricity writing his autobiographical *Confessions*. J. J. Rousseau died in Paris in 1778.

Louise Marie Madeline Fontaine Dupin was born in Paris on 28 October 1706 to Marie Anne Armande de Fontaine and the banker Samuel Bernard. In 1722 she married Claude Dupin; they had one son, Jacques Armand, born in 1727. Dupin's success as a "tax farmer" and government official enabled him to buy the chateau of Chenonceaux in 1733. At Chenonceaux Madame Dupin cultivated a salon of artists and writers, and, by the mid-1740s, formed the intention of writing the history of womankind. With the assistance of Rousseau she labored on this task for several years, before abandoning it about 1750. Madame Dupin continued to live at Chenonceaux following her husband's death in 1769, dying there shortly after dictating her will on 20 November 1799.

Dr. Leland Thielemann was a professor of French at the University of Texas at Austin for 20 years preceding his 1984 retirement. After receiving a Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1950 he taught at the University of California at Los Angeles before coming to Austin. Dr. Thielemann specialized in 18th century French intellectual history and the Enlightenment, publishing in such journals as the *Modern Language Quarterly* and *Diderot Studies*. Before his death on 24 December 1987 Dr. Thielemann spent considerable time transcribing and organizing the Ransom Center's Rousseau materials.

Scope and Contents

In the years between 1745 and 1749 Jean Jacques Rousseau was employed by Louise Marie Madeline Dupin as a research assistant on her ambitious project to delineate in print the history of women. After years of labor by Rousseau and Madame Dupin her *Ouvrage sur les Femmes* was shelved, unfinished. The research notes, drafts, and fair copies written by Rousseau and his employer were stored at the chateau of Chenonceaux, essentially forgotten, until their sale at a series of auctions held between 1951 and 1958. As a result of these sales the Ransom Center acquired a major portion of Madame Dupin's stillborn work.

During the late 1970s and early 1980s the late Dr. Leland Thielemann of the University of Texas at Austin worked extensively with the Rousseau-Dupin archive. As a result of his efforts the Center's holdings have been brought into line with the arrangement suggested by Anicet Sénéchal in his 1963 bibliographical article in the *Annales de la Société J.-J. Rousseau*.

The archive of the *Ouvrage sur les Femmes* comprises three series: Draft and Notes (3 boxes), Dr. Thielemann's Transcriptions and Comments (2 boxes), and Dr. Thielemann's Research Notes (3 boxes).

The Draft and Notes series consists of abstracts from published works used as source materials, draft sections or chapters of the projected work, and fragments and copies of various sorts. This section is largely in the hand of Rousseau, with corrections and additions by Dupin. Leland Thielemann's Transcriptions and Comments, the second series, presents his renderings of the original manuscript material, with bibliographical comments and some conjectures. The final series embraces Dr. Thielemann's rough notes and early attempts to organize the Ransom Center's Rousseau-Dupin archive.

Series Descriptions

Series I. Draft and Notes, 3 boxes

Draft and Notes falls into three subseries. The first of these, Subseries A, embraces about half of the known surviving "Extraits de lectures"--that is, abstracts from various published sources touching upon the history of women. The works abstracted run from classical authors such as Livy and Aristotle to contemporary works on history, jurisprudence, and social conditions. These extracts are in Rousseau's hand, and represent the research material upon which Madame Dupin's work was founded. The second subseries comprises 15 of the 47 articles which Sénéchal identified as having been specifically written for the projected work. These articles (which appeared in pt. IIC of Sénéchal's bibliography) are largely in the hand of Rousseau, but with extensive portions by Dupin. The third subseries--embracing pt. IIIC of Sénéchal's heading "Brouillons, fragments, compilations"--represents copies of earlier drafts, partial drafts, and other fragments. The Ransom Center holds 27 of these--again, arranged by Sénéchal's scheme--generally written by Rousseau, with corrections by his patron. The final subseries contains seven Rousseau-Dupin fragments either mentioned only in passing by Sénéchal or omitted altogether from his article.

Series II. Transcriptions and Comments, 2 boxes

Transcriptions and Comments represents Leland Thielemann's transcriptions of these original Rousseau-Dupin manuscripts. Appended to the transcriptions are Dr. Thielemann's comments on the original manuscript texts and the possibility of their alternate placement within the framework of the overall work. Given that some of the extracts and articles can be read only with difficulty Dr. Thielemann's renderings should prove of considerable assistance to researchers.

Series III. Research Notes, 3 boxes

Leland Thielemann's research notes, many of them in rough draft form, were the basis of his transcriptions found in Series II. They further represent his first efforts to relate the Ransom Center's mass of Rousseau materials to the likeliest framework of the intended work.

Index Terms

Persons

Dupin, Louise Marie Madeline Fontaine, 1707-circa 1800

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques, 1712-1778

Thielemann, Leland

Subjects

Women--Social conditions--Early works to 1800

Series I. Draft and Notes, 3 boxes

Subseries A: Extraits de Lectures

No. 1 (Academie royale des inscriptions)	box 1 folder 1
No. 3 (Aristotle. De Republica)	folder 2
No. 6 (Banier, A. Mythologie et les Fables)	folder 3-4
No. 7 (Barre, Joseph)	folder 5
No. 8 (Basnage, Henri)	folder 6
No. 10 (Beaunier, Charles)	folder 7
No. 16 (Brumoy, P. Theatre des Grecs)	folder 8-9
No. 20 (Chardin, Jean)	folder 10
No. 21 (Charron, P. De la Sagesse)	folder 11
No. 23 (Codex Legum Antiquarum)	folder 12
No. 26 (Della Valle, Pietro)	folder 13
No. 27 (Denis d'Halicarnasse)	folder 14
No. 29 (Domat, Jean)	folder 15
No. 30 (d'Orleans, Pierre Joseph)	folder 16
No. 31 (Dubos, J.B.)	folder 17
No. 32 (Du Halde, Jean Baptiste)	folder 18
No. 37 (Fleury, Claude)	folder 19
No. 40 (Godard d'Aucour, Claude)	folder 20
No. 44 (Helyot, H. Histoire des Ordres Monastiques)	folder 21

No. 45 (Herodotus)	folder 22
No. 50 (Justinian. Canones Apostolorum)	folder 23
No. 52 (Justinian. Novellae (Constitutiones))	folder 24
No. 53 (La Bleterie, J.P.R.)	folder 25
No. 56 (Lambert de St.-Omer)	folder 26
No. 57 (La Vega, Garcilaso de)	folder 27
No. 58 (Le Brun des Marettes, J.B.)	folder 28
No. 60 (Loisel, Antoine)	folder 29
No. 61 (Longueval, Jacques)	folder 30-31
No. 66 (Montfaucon, B. de. Antiquité Expliquée)	folder 32
No. 67 (Montfaucon, B. de. Monumens)	folder 33
No. 69 (Neron, Pierre)	folder 34
No. 72 (Ordonnances des Roys de France)	folder 35
No. 73 (Pausanias)	folder 36
No. 74 (Pinto, F. M.)	folder 37
No. 77 (Rapin de Thoyras, Paul)	folder 38-39
No. 78 (Reboulet, Simon)	folder 40
No. 81 (Rituel de Venise)	folder 41
No. 82 (Rollin, Charles)	folder 42
No. 85 (Studii delle Donne)	folder 43

No. 87 (Theodosius II. Codicis Theodosiani)	folder 44
No. 89 (Titus Livius)	folder 45
No. 92 (Vitae Caesarum)	folder 46

Subseries B: Draft Articles

Art. 1 (Observations sur l'egalité des sexes)	box 2 folder 1
Art. 3 (Du temperamment)	folder 2
Art. 4 (De la force)	folder 3
Art. 6 (De l' <i>Ancien Testament</i>)	folder 4
Art. 17 (Divers pays d'Europe: la Bretagne, Dannmarck, Moscovie, Pologne, la Suisse)	folder 5-9
Art. 21 (De l'histoire de France)	folder 10
Art. 25 (De l'origine de gouvernement)	folder 11
Art. 26 (Des droits)	folder 12
Art. 27 (Avant propos a la lois)	folder 13
Art. 32 (De l'adultere et sa punition)	folder 14
Art. 35 (De la noblesse et des titres)	folder 15
Art. 37 (Du viol)	folder 16
Art. 38 (Du principe des moeurs)	folder 17
Art. 43 (Effets de l'education dans l'amour)	folder 18
Art. 44 (Des defauts particulieres)	folder 19

Subseries C: Brouillons, Fragments, Compilations

IIIC3a (Physiologie)	box 3 folder 1
IIIC3b (Médecine par rapport aux femmes)	folder 2
IIIC4d (Des moeurs. De l'éducation)	folder 3
IIIC4e (Mariage et instruction féminine)	folder 4-5
IIIC5a (Des loix)	folder 6
IIIC5d (De la disposition des emplois)	folder 7
IIIC6c (Les femmes dans l'antiquité)	folder 8
IIIC6d (Histoire des Amazones arrangée)	folder 9
IIIC6e (Role des femmes dans la Grèce)	folder 10
IIIC6f (Histoire des Romains)	folder 11
IIIC6g (Vestales romaines)	folder 12
IIIC6g (Des festes)	folder 13
IIIC6g (Sur la religion payenne)	folder 14
IIIC6h (Histoire des empereurs de Constantinople)	folder 15-16
IIIC6h (Divers pays modernes)	folder 17
IIIC6k (Des sciences et des beaux-arts)	folder 18
IIIC6k (Femmes celebres)	folder 19
IIIC8a (Observations sur l'égalité des sexes)	folder 20
IIIC8e (De l'histoire ancienne)	folder 21

IIIC9b (Mélanges--plans, papes et Amazones)	folder 22
IIIC9d (Mélanges)	folder 23
IIIC10a (A vérifier)	folder 24
IIIC10b (Notes diverses)	folder 25
IIIC10c (Conclusion et préface)	folder 26
IIIC10d (A revoir)	folder 27
Subseries D: Other Fragments	
La monoye (cf. Sénéchal, p. 186, footnote 3)	folder 28
Des métiers (ibid.)	folder 29
Anciens extraits (ibid.)	folder 30
Mélanges physiques	folder 31
Mélanges	folder 32
Tiré de l'ars d'Ovide	folder 33
Letter from M. Delaverdy (1746) and Discours de M. Lamotte	folder 34

Series II. Transcriptions and Comments, 2 boxes

Transcriptions of Extraits 1-32	box 4 folder 1
Transcriptions of Extraits 37-74	folder 2
Transcriptions of Extraits 77-92 and Articles 1-17 (Denmark)	folder 3
Transcriptions of Articles 17 (Muscovy)-21	folder 4
Transcriptions of Articles 25-32	folder 5
Transcriptions of Articles 35-44 and Copies IIC3a-IIC4e	box 5 folder 1
Transcriptions of Copies IIC5a-IIC6h	folder 2
Transcriptions of Copies IIC6k-IIC10d	folder 3
Transcriptions of other materials	folder 4

Series III. Research Notes, 3 boxes

Thielemann notes

box 5 folder 5-6

Thielemann notes

box 6 folder 1-4

Thielemann notes

box 7 folder 1-5

Thielemann notes

box 8