

Guide to the de Lévis Family Papers

MS 323



compiled by Dimitri Gutas

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 323

CREATOR: De Lévis family

TITLE: De Lévis family papers

DATES: 1707-1850

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.25 linear feet (5 boxes)

LANGUAGE: French

SUMMARY: The papers contain legal documents, correspondence, and miscellaneous papers primarily concerned with Gaston-François-Christophe de Lévis, duc de Ventadour (1794-1863). The papers, in French, primarily relate to inheritance of land in Martinique.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0323>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0323>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

De Lévis Family Papers (MS 323). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Gaston-François-Christophe de Lévis, 1794-1863: aide de camp to duc d'Angoulême; fought in the campaigns of Spain (1823) and Morée (1828); entered the Chambre des Paris in 1830; did not recognize Louis-Phillipe and went into exile with the old branches of the Bourbons; served as counselor to the comte de Chambord.

For a chart outlining the genealogical relations of the De Levis family, please consult the [Genealogical Chart](#).

For short biographies of the De Levis family, please consult the [Biographies](#).

Scope and Contents

The de Lévis Family papers are mostly concerned with Gaston-François-Christophe de Lévis, duc de Ventadour (1794-1863). They contain legal documents, letters, court decisions, and other miscellaneous papers bearing directly with his inheritance case brought to court on Jan. 29th, 1831, and its later developments. The inheritance consists of certain estates in Martinique, originally the property of the d'Alesso family, de Lévis' grand-grandparents on his mother's side.

There are also manuscripts concerning many other members of both families, which bear directly or indirectly on the de Lévis case. These, however, come chronologically earlier and cover a span of about a century; from 1707 to circa 1810. Those after this date have to do with de Lévis' various affairs.

The documents first to be consulted are the printed booklet called "Mémoire" and all the other manuscripts to be found in the first Box, in the "Documents" folder. Therein are also included two charts of the de Lévis estates and a manuscript bearing the title "Note historique". For the sake of convenience, a [genealogical table](#) has been drawn based on this and other manuscripts. Short [biographies](#) about de Lévis' grandfather, father, and himself can be found in the 22nd vol. of *La Grande Encyclopédie*; Paris; Lamirault et Cie., eds; 1895-1896.

From the second folder on, material has been arranged chronologically and, wherever possible, according to content. (Thus, for example, the letters to the duc of de Lévis occupy a different folder than those by himself.) The first and earliest set of manuscripts are about Mme d'Ampus, presumably the first proprietor of the estates. These later on pass to M. Fabry and to M. Boutin from whom they are finally bought by the d'Alesso family. The other people under whose names the consequent manuscripts have been filed are members of the family to be found in the genealogical table.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	Documents	
b. 1, f. 2 - 4	Succession de Madame d'Ampus	1707-1803
b. 2, f. 5 - 7	Fabry-Boutin affair	1751-1788
b. 3, f. 8	Mme. Gabrielle-Augustine-Michel Maréchal de Lévis	
b. 3, f. 9	M. le Comte d'Ennery	1775-1789
b. 3, f. 10	Rose Bénédicte d'Alesso, Comtesse d'Ennery	1802-1820
b. 4, f. 11	Letters by the duc de Lévis	1822-1847
b. 4, f. 12	Letters to the duc de Lévis	1802-1850
b. 4, f. 13	The duc de Lévis cases	1822-1850
b. 5, f. 14	Tribunal -de Lévis - Thury	1834-1835
b. 5, f. 15	Cour Royale -de Lévis - Thury	1834-1835
b. 5, f. 16	de Lévis; estates in Martinique	1820-1846
b. 5, f. 17	de Lévis; accounts	
b. 5, f. 18	Other letters	1771-1847
b. 5, f. 19	Unidentified or undated manuscripts	

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Families
Inheritance and succession -- France

Geographic Names

Europe
West Indies

Names

De Lévis, Gaston François Christophe,
1794-1863

Families

De Lévis family