

# Guide to the André Thouin Papers

GEN MSS 1758



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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** GEN MSS 1758

**CREATOR:** Thouin, André, 1747-1824

**TITLE:** André Thouin papers

**DATES:** 1795-1823

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2 linear feet (12 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** French

**SUMMARY:** The collection consists of volumes five through fifteen of André Thouin's fifteen-volume *Manuscripts Agriculture Botanique*, documenting Thouin's work as an agriculture botanist and professor at the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle in France. Included are correspondence, reports, notes, lists and catalogs of plants, memoirs, printed materials, artwork, and other papers concerning botany, gardening, plant propagation, arboriculture, museum administration, and scientific exploration.

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

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.thouin>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

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

b.        box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Gerald W. Cloud on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund and Margaret Deakers and Eugene Mersereau Waith Fund, 2017.

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## Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The André Thouin Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

André Thouin Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

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## Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections as they are acquired, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

Information included in the Description of Papers note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

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## André Thouin (1747-1824)

André Thouin was a French botanist best known for his work in the field of agronomy. Thouin studied botany under Bernard de Jussieu. He was appointed chief gardener of the Jardin du Roi in Paris in 1764, and in 1793 became professor and chair of horticulture at the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle. Thouin's major publications included *Essai sur l'exposition et la division méthodique de l'économie rurale* (1805), *Description de l'École d'agriculture pratique du Muséum d'histoire naturelle* (1807), *Monographie des greffes* (1821), and *Cours de culture et de naturalisation des végétaux* (1827). He also contributed to the *Encyclopédie méthodique* (1782-1832) and journals such as *Annals and Memoirs of the Museum of Natural History*, *Memoirs of the Academy of Sciences*, *Agricultural Society*, and *Annals of French Agriculture*. Shortly before his death, Thouin compiled his professional papers, which included correspondence, manuscripts, official reports, printed materials, and artwork dating from 1770 to 1823, in a fifteen-volume collection titled *Manuscripts agriculture botanique*.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of volumes five through fifteen of André Thouin's fifteen-volume *Manuscripts agriculture botanique*, documenting Thouin's work as an agriculture botanist and professor at the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle in France. Included are correspondence, reports, notes, lists and catalogs of plants, memoirs, printed materials, artwork, and other papers concerning botany, gardening, plant propagation, arboriculture, museum administration, and scientific exploration.

The volumes contain letters and reports by Thouin, other naturalists, and government officials respecting acclimatization of foreign plants, trees, spices, and cereals, importation of seeds to France, and horticulture in French colonial settlements in Guiana, Guadeloupe, and Senegal. Materials also document expeditions of Louis-Armand Chapelier to Mauritius and Madagascar, Nicholas Baudin to the West Indies, Jean-Baptiste Leschenault de la Tour to India, and George Samuel Perrottet to Indonesia and the Philippines, in addition to voyages of François André Michaux and his work on acclimatization of North American forest trees. Further included are manuscripts for Thouin's *Description de l'École d'agriculture pratique du Muséum d'histoire naturelle* and *Monographie des greffes*, as well as writings by botanists Jean-Nicolas Céré, Joseph-François Charpentier de Cossigny, and Pierre-Antoine Poiteau, and original drawings by painter Adèle Riché.

The collection also contains a manuscript index created by Thouin for the entire fifteen-volume collection. Dates in the titles are Thouin's own and may not reflect the actual date span of materials in each volume.

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## Arrangement

Arranged in numerical order, with a manuscript index filed first.

## Collection Contents

b. 1	Table par ordre alphabétique des matières contenues dans mes 15 volumes de recueils	1823
b. 2	Volume 5 Papers document expeditions by Louis-Armand Chapelier to Mauritius and Madagascar, and Nicolas Baudin to the West Indies, as well as expeditions to Egypt and India, and Pierre Clément de Laussat's planned expedition to Louisiana, later cancelled after France sold the territory to the United States.	1795-1803
b. 3	Volume 6 Includes writings, notices, and memoirs regarding gardens and certain plants and flowers, such as dahlias.	1804-1806
b. 4	Volume 7 Includes manuscripts for Thouin's <i>Description de l'École d'agriculture pratique du Muséum d'histoire naturelle</i> .	1807-1810
b. 5	Volume 8 Contains copies of materials dating from 1759, including reports on grasshoppers and François André Michaux's expeditions to the United States, as well as a letter from Thouin to former American President Thomas Jefferson regarding José Corrêa da Serra's visit to the U.S.	1810-1814
b. 6	Volume 9 Includes papers related to Jean-Baptiste Leschenault de la Tour's expedition to India, and artwork by Adèle Riché.	1814-1817
b. 7	Volume 10 Contains correspondence and other papers dated 1801-1802 relating to a cancelled expedition to Louisiana, and papers concerning the voyage of Captain Pierre Bernard Milius to Île Bourbon (now Réunion). Also included are correspondence and reports about horticulture in Cayenne, French Guiana, and plants from Europe and other countries that could be cultivated in a French settlement in Senegal.	1818
b. 8	Volume 11 Includes a report from Jean-Baptiste Leschenault de la Tour regarding an 1818 expedition to India, and correspondence of Thouin and government ministers regarding topics like importation of seeds from the United States and Russia, and black pine trees.	1819
b. 9	Volume 12 Includes letters to Thouin related to Louis-Armand Chapelier's voyage to Madagascar, where he died in 1806, and George Samuel Perrotet's expedition to the Indonesia and the Philippines, as well as correspondence of Thouin and the French minister of the interior.	1820
b. 10	Volume 13 Includes artwork by Adèle Riché; correspondence respecting cultivation of botanical gardens in Cayenne, French Guiana, and cotton in a French settlement in Senegal; and a document discussing planting and cultivation of sugar cane.	1821

b. 11	Volume 14 Includes a number of letters from Thouin to the ministers of the interior and the marine (French navy) regarding topics such as the cultivation of Rheum ribes and the Chinese mulberry tree, and issues with citrus trees in Martinique, as well as manuscripts for his <i>Monographie des greffes</i> .	1822
b. 12	Volume 15 Includes artwork by Adèle Riché, and correspondence of the ministers of the departments of agriculture, colonial administration, and the marine, among others.	1823

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## 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

Acclimatization (Plants)  
Agronomy -- France  
Arboriculture -- France  
Botanists -- France  
Botany -- France  
Botany -- Study and teaching  
Gardening -- France  
Horticulture -- France  
Natural history -- France -- 19th century  
Naturalists -- France  
Scientific expeditions -- India  
Scientific expeditions -- Islands of the Indian Ocean  
Scientific expeditions -- Southeast Asia  
Scientific expeditions -- West Indies, French

### Corporate Body

Muséum national d'histoire naturelle (France)

### Geographic Names

Cayenne Island (French Guiana)  
France -- Colonies -- Africa  
France -- Colonies -- West Indies

### Genres / Formats

Botanical illustrations  
Engravings (prints) -- France -- 19th century

### Occupations

Botanists

### Names

Baudin, Nicolas, 1754-1803  
Céré, Jean-Nicolas, 1737-1810  
Chapelier, Louis Armand, 1778-1806  
Charpentier de Cossigny, Joseph François, 1730-1809  
Michaux, François André, 1770-1855  
Perrottet, G. S. (George Samuel), 1793-1870  
Poiteau, Pierre Antoine, 1766-1854  
Riché, A. (Adèle), 1791-1878  
Thouin, André, 1747-1824