

# **F.V. Raspail: Sa Vie: Opuscules divers**

**FC8.R1848.S822**

**Finding aid prepared by Holly Mengel.**

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Last updated on March 23, 2015.

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

2012 April 3

## Table of Contents

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Summary Information.....	3
Biography/History.....	4
Scope and Contents.....	5
Administrative Information.....	6
Controlled Access Headings.....	6
Bibliography.....	7
Collection Inventory.....	8

## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	University of Pennsylvania: Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts
<b>Creator</b>	Millaud, Albert, 1844-1892
<b>Creator</b>	Mirecourt, Eugène de, 1812-1880
<b>Creator</b>	Raspail, F.-V. (François-Vincent), 1794-1878
<b>Creator</b>	Raymond, Michel
<b>Title</b>	F.V. Raspail: Sa Vie: Opuscles divers
<b>Call number</b>	FC8.R1848.S822
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1822-1880
<b>Extent</b>	1 volume
<b>General Physical Description note</b>	13 published pamphlets, 1 manuscript note, 1 poem, and 6 newspaper clippings
<b>Language</b>	French
<b>Abstract</b>	François-Vincent Raspail (1794-1878) was a French scientist and politician known for his opposition to the French monarchy and for his scientific work in the fields of histochemistry, cellular theory and the microbial theory of disease. This volume of <i>Opuscles divers</i> , dating from 1822 to 1880, consists of twenty-one items, including pamphlets, notes, and newspaper clippings about François-Vincent Raspail.

**Cite as:**

F.V. Raspail: Sa Vie: Opuscles divers, 1822-1880, Rare Book & Manuscript Library Print Collections, University of Pennsylvania.

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## Biography/History

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François-Vincent Raspail (1794-1878) was a French scientist and politician known for his opposition to the French monarchy and for his scientific work in the fields of histochemistry, cellular theory and the microbial theory of disease. During his life, he was a "tutor, experimental scientist, republican organizer, orator, author, medical practitioner, scientific populizer, presidential candidate, and deputy," (Weiner, page 290).

Raspail was born in Carpentras in January 25, 1794, the son of Joseph and Marie Laty Raspail. He was educated as a theologian, but due to the White Terror of 1816, he fled to Paris where he quickly became involved with the Freemasons and the Carbonari, an Italian secret society. Early in his career, he worked as a teacher while studying botany and chemistry. Some of his scientific accomplishments include discoveries in the studies of cell structure, microbial theory of disease and microscopy. He is also known as the inventor of histochemistry. He was a prolific writer of articles on the sciences, and on specific topics such as botany, chemistry, forensic medicine, microscopic anatomy, paleontology, physiology, and zoology.

In medicine, Raspail was primarily interested in public health, believing that illness and poverty were linked, that medical care was frequently too expensive for the masses, and "that sanitary measures could help prevent disease," (Weiner, page 5). Despite his refusal to obtain a degree in medicine and his arrest for the illegal practice of medicine in 1846, his medical practice was large and prosperous. Moreover, "his books and pamphlets [sold] by the thousands, and throngs of patients [came] to his dispensary for free medicines and advice," (Weiner, page 135). Revolutionary in his social theories and determined that health should be a citizen's right, Raspail believed that society should "provide for the handicapped, infants, the needy aged, widows, orphans and foundlings," (Weiner, page 5). He was a proponent of the use of camphor for its antiseptic and hygienic qualities and for its usefulness battling contagious diseases.

Raspail rebelled against the French monarchy, and at the beginning of Louis Philippe's reign in 1830, his involvement in politics, particularly socialist-democratic politics, grew, but "as a democrat and a socialist, restless under discriminating laws, he chafed at the slowness of social reform," (Weiner, page 4). He was imprisoned in 1836 at Sainte-Pelagie, serving time for "alleged political subversion," (Weiner, page 158) and during his time in prison, he began writing popular science books. Indeed, "in the 1840s, he broadened his objectives and advocated popular and governmental involvement in sanitation and

preventative medicine," (Weiner, page 3). Although deeply interested in revolution and dramatic changes in politics, Raspail, "never advocated bloodshed," (Weiner, page 11). Instead, Raspail became known as a "radical orator and publicist who had been prosecuted repeatedly for revolutionary activity," (Weiner, page 135) and his political struggles continued throughout the 1840s. He was arrested as a leader "of the protest march on the Constituent Assembly" (Weiner, page 5) in the attempted revolt of May 15, 1848; and despite his imprisonment, he ran for presidency against Prince Louis Napoleon Bonaparte in December of 1848. In March 1849, he was again sent to prison where he was held until 1851, when his sentence was changed from imprisonment to exile in Belgium.

After his return in 1862, Raspail was elected a deputy from 1869 to 1870 and again from 1876 to 1878, (Ackerknecht, page 340), during the French Third Republic. As a legislator, he was finally able to "promote freedom and health jointly," (Weiner, page 3). Towards the end of his life, Raspail was largely concerned with social medicine, in particular the "fight against epidemic diseases, [and] for prison reform and the like," (Ackerknecht, page 340). According to Weiner, "his lasting achievement was that he helped create a receptive attitude toward health measures among a wide French audience [and] he accustomed them to the view that health and hygiene, private and public, were but one aspect of their inalienable rights," (page 269). His wife Henriette Adela?de Troussot ( 1802-1853) and he were the parents of five children; and his four sons, Benjamin, ?mile, Fran?ois and Xavier, were prominent in politics during the French Third Republic, carrying on their father's involment in politics.

Raspail died of pneumonia in Paris on January 7, 1878. More than 100,000 people, including workers and governmental officials, attended his funeral. During his eventful life, he "wrestled with problems of public health and social medicine that to this day have not been solved," (Weiner, page 3).

## Scope and Contents

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This volume of *Opuscules divers*, dating from 1822 to 1880, consists of an incomplete table of contents and twenty items, including pamphlets, notes, and newspaper clippings about Fran?ois-Vincent Raspail bound together.

There are thirteen published pamphlets containing three biographical sketches; two articles describing Raspail's political qualifications, and two articles about Raspail's library. The last of these articles was published before his library was sold in 1880. Included also are four political speeches and two articles about science written by Raspail.

Of particular note may be a fascimile note written by Raspail in 1848 attached to the first item in the collection. Although much of this note is illegible, it appears that it was written for a speech during Raspail's candidacy for presidency of the French Second Republic in December 1848.

One poem titled "Feu Raspail," was written by Albert Millaud and published in *Petite n?m?sis*, a collection of poems. Finally, there are six newspaper clippings: one is dated 1874, one is a portrait of

Raspail, three were published on the occasion of Raspail's death in 1878, and one is about the sale of his library in 1880.

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## Administrative Information

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University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

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Finding aid prepared by Holly Mengel.

### Sponsor

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Form/Genre(s)

- Biographies
- Book catalogs
- Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)
- Speeches

### Geographic Name(s)

- France--History--Second Empire, 1852-1870

### Personal Name(s)

- Raspail, F.-V. (François-Vincent), 1794-1878

## Subject(s)

- France--History--Second Republic, 1848-1852
- France--History--Third Republic, 1870-1940
- Medicine
- Science--Study and teaching

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## Bibliography

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Ackerknecht, Erwin H. ?Raspail: Scientist and Reformer, by Dora B. Wiener and Simone Raspail.? *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol 86, No. 2 (Jun. 1971), pp. 339-340.

Brown, Harcourt. ?Raspail: Scientist and Reformer, by Dora B. Wiener and Simone Raspail.? *American Historical Review*, Vol. 74, No. 3 (Feb., 1969), pp. 1013-1014.

Weiner, Dora B. François-Vincent Raspail: Doctor and Champion of the Poor. *French Historical Studies*, Vol. 1, No. 2 (1959), pp. 149-171.

Weiner, Dora B. *Raspail: Scientist and Reformer*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1968.

## Collection Inventory

	Item
<p><b><i>Raspail</i>, par Eug?ne de Mirecourt (includes one folded leaf at end: a fascimile of a note signed by Raspail), 1856.</b></p> <p><b>Notes</b></p> <p>Imprint: Paris: Gustave Havard, ?diteur, 15, Rue Gu?n?gaud.</p> <p>Dimensions: 96 pages, [1] leaf of plates ; 14 centimeters.</p>	1
<p><b><i>F. V. Raspail</i>, par Jean Saint-Martin, 1877.</b></p> <p><b>Notes</b></p> <p>Imprint: Paris: E. Dentu, Libraire-?diteur, Palais-Royal, 15, 17, 19, Galerie d'Orl?ans.</p> <p>Dimensions: 106 pages ; 19 centimeters.</p>	2
<p><b>Biographical sketch, "Notice sur F.-V. Raspail" from <i>Catalogue des livres, principalement sur les Sciences et sur la R?volution Fran?aise, composant la Biblioth?que de feu M. F.-V. Raspail</i>, 1879.</b></p> <p><b>Notes</b></p> <p>Dimension: 40 pages ; 22 centimeters.</p>	3
<p><b><i>Le citoyen Raspail jug? par ses oeuvres. Aux ?lecteurs du d?partement de la Seine</i>, 1834.</b></p> <p><b>Notes</b></p> <p>Imprint: Paris: E. Baudouin, 90 rue de la Harpe.</p>	4



Dimension: 4 pages ; 22 centimeters.

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***Loi de libert?. Eptre ? Raspail, par Michel Raymond [Raymond Brucker], 1838.*** 5

**Notes**

Imprint: Paris: Mme. Ve. Huzard (n?e Vallat La Chapelle), 7 rue de l'?peron.

Publisher: Librairie Sociale, 4, rue de l'?cole-de-M?dicine

Dimension: 80 pages ; 22 centimeters.

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**"Feu Raspail,"** by Albert Millaud (clipping possibly from *Figaro*, also published in *Petite n?m?sis*), 1870. 6

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***Sainte libert?, ton nom n'est pas un blasph?me. Discours prononc? ? la loge d'adoption des Amis bienfaisans, samedi 16 mars 1822, par le F. Raspail, orateur adjoint, 1822.*** 7

**Notes**

Table of contents describes this as "Discours Ma?onnique."

Imprint: P. Gueffier, rue Cu?n?gaud, no. 31.

Publisher: Chez Corre?ard, libraire, Palais-Royal, Galerie de Bois.

Dimension: 24 pages ; 21 centimeters.

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***Défense et allocutions du citoyen Raspail, président de la Société des Amis du peuple, 1832.*** 8

**Notes**

Imprint: Paris. Auguste Mie, imprimeur, rue Joquelet, no. 9.

Dimensions: 19 pages ; 22 centimeters.

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***Coteries scientifiques, Article destiné à paraître dans les Annales des sciences d'observation rédigées par M.M. Saigey et Raspail, undated.*** 9

**Notes**

Imprint: Imprimerie de Plassan et Cie, rue de Vaugirard, No. 15.

Dimension: 8 pages ; 22 centimeters.

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***Nouveaux Coups de Fouet Scientifiques, par F.V. Raspail, 1832.*** 10

**Notes**

Imprint: Imprimerie de H. Fournier, rue de Seine, No. 14.

Publisher: Paris: Chez Meilhac, libraire, rue du Cloître St.-Benoît, No. 10.

Dimensions: 33 pages ; 22 centimeters.

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**"L'Almanach Raspail--Ephemerides--Apologie de Faits Qualifiés Crimes ou Delits,"** 11  
(newspaper clipping from *Gazette des Tribunaux*), 1874 February 13.

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**"Allocution de M. Raspail, Pr?sident d'age," before the Chambre des D?put?s, 1876  
March 8.** 12

**Notes**

Imprint: Versailles: Cerf et fils, imprimeurs de la Chambre des D?put?s, 59, rue du Pessis.

Dimension: 1 page ; 26 centimeters.

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**Proposition d'amnistie, pr?sente par MM. F.-V. Raspail, Georges P?rin, Barodet,  
Clemenceau, Lockroy, Louis Blanc, Benjamin Raspail, Ordinaire, Floquet, Talandier,  
Germain Casse, Allain-Targ?, Martin Nadaud, Spuller, Daumas, E. H. Vernhes, P.  
Durant, Turigny, Moreau, Naquet, A. Duportal, Bouchet, Madier de Montjau, Brelay,  
Cotte, Greppo, Maigne, Marcou, Fr?bault, Castelnau, d?put?s, 1876 March 21.** 13

**Notes**

Imprint: Versailles: Cerf et fils, imprimeurs de la Chambre des D?put?s, 59, rue du Pessis.

Dimension: 1 page ; 26 centimeters.

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**Portrait of F. V. Raspail** (clipping from unidentified newspaper), undated. 14

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**Illustrations of the viewing, and the funeral procession of F.V. Raspail, and of the  
Raspail family crypt** (clippings from unidentified newspaper and *Le Journal Illustr?e*),  
circa 1878. 15-17

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***Catalogue raisonn? des ouvrages de M. Raspail, 1867.*** 18

**Notes**

Imprint: Clichy: Impr. M. Loignon, Paul Dupont et Cie, rue du Bac-d'Agni?res, 12.

Dimension: 24 pages ; 17 centimeters.

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*Catalogue des livres principalement sur les sciences et sur la R?volution fran?aise* 19  
*composant la biblioth?que de feu M. F.-V. Raspail, dont la vente aura lieu le lundi 19*  
*janvier 1880 et jours suivants a 7 heures 1/2 pr?cises du soir, rue des Bons-Enfants, 28*  
*(maison Silvestre) salle no. 1, par le minist?re de Me. Maurice Delestre, 1879.*

**Notes**

Publisher: Paris: Adolphe Labitte, libraire de la Biblioth?que Nationale, 4, rue de Lille, 4

Imprint: Typ. Georges Chamerot, 19, rue des Saints-P?res.

Dimension: 259 pages ; 22 centimeters.

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**"La Biblioth?que de Raspail"** (clipping from *Figaro* regarding the sale of Raspail's 20  
library), 1880 January.