

**Opulence and Intrigue: Odier, Rihouët, and the Diplomatic Service of Alabama's  
William Rufus King**

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Gulf Coast culture flourished in the 1840s, bolstered by agricultural development, while a growing nation eyed westward expansion. Leery of European interference in American affairs yet eager to strengthen tenuous relations abroad, President John Tyler prevailed upon William Rufus King, a distinguished Alabama senator, to serve as minister to France. This richly illustrated presentation reveals King's colorful legacy and life, entwining the story of his intriguing diplomatic mission with tales of his opulent collection of silver and porcelain.