

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

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For more than 25 years, Daniel Fate Brooks served as director of Arlington Historic House and Gardens, the only extant antebellum structure—and the only house museum—in Birmingham, Alabama. He remains an adjunct instructor in decorative arts and history at Samford University and is a founding faculty member of the Alabama Governor's School. A native of Alabama's Black Belt region, Brooks curated a portion of the landmark exhibition *Made in Alabama: A State Legacy* (Birmingham Museum of Art, 1995) and authored an essay for the accompanying book. He has published articles in *Alabama Review* and *Alabama Heritage* and was a contributor to the major compilation *The Vice Presidents* (Facts on File, 1998). A former president of the Alabama Historical Association, Brooks is the recognized expert on the life of William Rufus King, one of Alabama's first U.S. senators and vice-president under Franklin Pierce. Upon his retirement from Arlington in 2010, he moved to his 1820s home in Lowndesboro, Alabama, where he is currently completing a biography of King.