

1163-01-827      **Duncan J Melville\*** ([dmelville@stlawu.edu](mailto:dmelville@stlawu.edu)), Dept. of Mathematics, St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY 13617. *The Mathematical Papers of RFA Lee*. Preliminary report.

In the early 1800s, Rachel Frances Antonina Lee (1774–1829) spent a considerable amount of time and effort in the preparation of a “Course of Mathematics”. Although the work went through three partial drafts covering hundreds of pages over a period of several years, it was never completed and never published. Its survival, and that of her other mathematical papers, is due to accidental and fortuitous circumstances.

We will explain the background and life of the author and discuss the content, both mathematical and philosophical, of the “Course of Mathematics”. Given the absence of any comment on her mathematical education or attainments in other biographical sources, the survival of such subterranean mathematics suggest historians should be cautious in our assessment of the range and depth of female mathematical knowledge and interests in the early 19th century. (Received September 13, 2020)