

# Guide to the John Christopher Schwab Family Papers

MS 434



compiled by William E. Brown, Jr. and John Espy

September 1985

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441

[beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu)

<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	4
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	5
Arrangement .....	5
Collection Contents .....	6
Series I: CORRESPONDENCE AND PAPERS, 1755-1915 .....	6
Series II: VOLUMES AND MISCELLANEA, 1767-1925 .....	7
Selected Search Terms .....	13

---

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 434

**CREATOR:** Schwab, John Christopher, 1865-1916

**TITLE:** John Christopher Schwab family papers

**DATES:** 1767-1925

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 10.25 linear feet (21 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers include correspondence, diaries, notebooks, writings, wills, scrapbooks, albums, genealogical records and memorabilia of several generations of the Schwab family. Principal figures are Gustav Friedrich Schwab; his wife, Eliza Catherine Von Post Schwab; and their son, John Christopher Schwab. The papers of Gustav Friedrich Schwab include business correspondence during his presidency of the firm of Oelrichs & Co. in New York and travel diaries (1843-1846). An additional diary (1883) records his travels during the opening excursion of the Northern Pacific Railroad. The papers of his wife contain an autograph album and diaries (1847-1877). The papers also include material of the German poet Gustav Benjamin Schwab, who was the grandfather of John C. Schwab. The papers of John C. Schwab include his student notebooks both in the United States and in Germany, with half of one notebook (1887-1888) devoted to the lectures of the historian Heinrich von Treitschke.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0434>

---

## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0434>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b.      box  
f.      folder

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

The papers were donated by Norman Schwab, 1943.

---

### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

---

### Conditions Governing Use

Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

---

### Preferred Citation

John Christopher Schwab Family Papers (MS 434). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

---

## Biographical / Historical

JOHN CHRISTOPHER SCHWAB, 1865-1916; B.A. 1886

Born April 1, 1865, in New York City

Died January 12, 1916, in New Haven, Conn.

John Christopher Schwab, son of Gustav Schwab, of the firm of Oelrichs & Company, was born April 1, 1865, in New York City, being named for his great-grandfather, a privy counsellor of Stuttgart, Germany. His paternal grandparents were Gustav Schwab, a German poet of note, and Sophie (Gmelin) Schwab. His mother was Catherine Elizabeth, daughter of Laurence Henry and Henrietta Margaretta (Meier) Von Post. Through her, he was descended from Heinrich Melchior Mühlenberg, the chief founder of the Lutheran Church in America.

He was fitted for Yale under private tutors and at Gibbons' and Beach's School in New York City. He received several prizes in English and Latin composition, High Oration appointments, and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa in college. As a Sophomore, he sang on his Class Glee Club, and the next year he was a member of the Second Glee Club. He was an editor of the *Courant* in his Senior year.

He remained at Yale for a year of post-graduate study in political economy after taking the degree of BA, in 1886, and during this period was also an instructor in German at the Hopkins Grammar School. In July, 1887, he went to Europe, and after spending the summer in travel, entered the University of Berlin. His studies for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy were completed at the University of Göttingen in 1889, and he then returned to the United States and spent some time in historical research in the libraries of New York City. He had received an M.A. in course at Yale in 1888. In the fall of 1890, he took up his work as lecturer in political economy at the University, being made an instructor in that department in the following year. He was promoted to an assistant professorship in 1893, and to a full professorship five years afterwards.

In 1905, after seven years of service in that capacity, Professor Schwab was chosen University librarian, and the remainder of his life was devoted to the upbuilding of the Library. A member of the University Council since his appointment as librarian, he had served for some years on the Council's Committee on Publications, in connection with the work of the University Press. In 1901, he supervised the arrangements for the Yale Bicentennial as chairman of the committee in charge of the celebration. He was a frequent contributor to historical journals and magazines, and at one time was editor of the *Yale Review*. "The Finances of the Confederate States of America," published by Professor Schwab in 1901, is considered a valuable addition in the field of economic history. He was elected Secretary of the Yale Class of 1886 in 1905, and held that office until his death. To the work of civic betterment in New Haven, professor Schwab gave much of his attention, and at the time of his death he was serving as secretary and treasurer of the social settlement known as Lowell House. He was also president of the Model Housing Association of New Haven. He was on the board of trustees of the New Haven Public Library and a member of St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church, of whose Sunday school he was at one time superintendent, and for several years served in Company F, Second Regiment, Connecticut National Guard. He was a trustee of Mount Holyoke College, and in 1913 was on the committee which arranged the pageant held in celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of its founding. He was a member of the American and British Economic associations, the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Library Association, and of the Century Club of New York. In 1911, he received from Mühlenberg College the honorary degree of LL.D.

Professor Schwab's death occurred unexpectedly at his home in New Haven, January 12, 1916, after a brief illness from pneumonia. He was buried in Grove Street Cemetery in that city.

On October 5, 1893, he was married in New Haven to Edith Aurelia, daughter of Samuel Sparks Fisher, upon whom Yale conferred an honorary degree in 1851, and Aurelia Safford (Crossette) Fisher. She survives him with their two children: Katharine Fisher, a student at Vassar, and Norman Von Post. He leaves also two brothers and three sisters, one of the latter being the widow of Henry Charles White (B.A. 1881, LL.B. 1883, M.L. 1884). Another brother, Laurence Henry, graduated from the College in 1878. Gustav Schwab (B.A. 1902) and Laurence Von Post Schwab (B.A. 1913) are nephews.

(Taken from the *Yale Obituary Record*.)

---

## Scope and Contents

The John C. Schwab Family Papers consist of correspondence, papers, albums, notebooks, diaries, scrapbooks and other material documenting the professional career and personal life of John C. Schwab and his family. The papers are arranged in twenty-one boxes and total ten and one-quarter (10.25) linear feet. Span dates for the material are 1767-1925, and bulk dates range from 1880-1890. The papers were donated to Yale University by Norman Schwab in 1943.

The papers are arranged in two series: I. CORRESPONDENCE AND PAPERS, 1755-1915; II. VOLUMES AND MISCELLANEA, 1767-1925.

SERIES I contains correspondence between family members in Germany and the United States. These letters include exchanges between Gustav Friedrich Schwab, his wife Eliza Catherine Von Post Schwab, and their son John Christopher Schwab. A portion of this correspondence relates to Gustav Friedrich Schwab's presidency of the New York firm of Oelrichs and Company.

SERIES II contains the personal papers and manuscripts of several family members. Albums, diaries, and manuscripts of Gustav Friedrich Schwab include a diary of his travels and an essay on the opening excursion of the Northern Pacific Railroad (1883). A small quantity of material relating to the poet Gustav Benjamin Schwab is also included in this series. Materials relating to John Christopher Schwab include personal diaries, student notebooks, scrapbooks, and photograph albums.

---

## Arrangement

Arranged in two series: I. Correspondence and Papers, 1775-1915. II. Volumes and Miscellanea, 1767-1925.

---

## Collection Contents

### Series I: CORRESPONDENCE AND PAPERS, 1755-1915

*2.0 linear feet (5 boxes)*

This series is arranged in chronological order.

b. 1, f. 1-33	1755 July - 1856 March	1755 July - 1856 March
b. 2, f. 34-68	1857 March - 1879 May	1857 March - 1879 May
b. 3, f. 69-103	1879 June - 1886 April	1879 June - 1886 April
b. 4, f. 104-145	1886 May - 1902 February	1886 May - 1902 February
b. 5, f. 146-154	1902 March - 1915 Oct, Misc. and undated	1902 March - 1915 Oct, Misc. and undated

**Series II: VOLUMES AND MISCELLANEA, 1767-1925****8.25 linear feet (16 boxes)**

This series is arranged in alphabetical order by individual name. Oversize materials are grouped separately in the last four boxes, also in alphabetical order.

Jäger, Charlotte (Schwab)		
Albums presented to Gustav Friedrich and Eliza Catherine (Von Post) Schwab		
b. 6, f. 155	Family history, quotations, silhouettes, and illustrations	1850
b. 6, f. 156	Poems and silhouettes	1857
Jäger, Georg		
b. 6, f. 157	Congratulatory volume on the fiftieth anniversary of his becoming a doctor	1858
Kunze, Elizabeth		
b. 6, f. 158	Notebook of music and poetry	1788, 1806, undated
Kunze, John Christopher		
b. 6, f. 159	Diary A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at <a href="mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu">beinecke.library@yale.edu</a> to request access to the digital copy.	1767
b. 6, f. 159	Notebook, "Antilethium"	1793-1807
b. 6, f. 159	Notebook, "Bemerkungen über die Psalmen Davids"	undated
Meier, Caspar		
b. 6, f. 160	Album of poems and watercolors prepared for his return to New York	1822
b. 6, f. 160	Autograph album	1793-1805
b. 6, f. 161	Notebooks of poems	1794, undated
Meier, Henrietta M.		
b. 7, f. 162	Album and commonplace book of poems	1824-1828
Von Post, Herman Caspar		
Diaries		
b. 7, f. 163	Travel in Europe	1862
b. 7, f. 163-164	Miscellaneous	1892-1913
b. 7, f. 165	Memorandum book, with accounts, addresses, estate records, and family history	1893-1913
b. 7, f. 165	Sketchbook	1884-1889

## Von Post, Herman Caspar (continued)

b. 7, f. 165	Will (printed copy)	1912
	Von Post, Jane S. (Whitlock)	
b. 7, f. 166	Account book	1895
	Von Post, Lawrenz H.	
b. 7, f. 166	Autograph album	1822
	Von Post, Simon Hermann (1764-1813)	
b. 7, f. 167	Account book	1800-1819
	Von Post, Simon Hermann (1798-1868)	
b. 7, f. 168-169	Diaries	1823-1828, 1838-1841
	Schwab, Benjamin William	
b. 8, f. 170	Scrapbook of Yale memorabilia	1884-1886
	Schwab, Edith Aurelia (Fisher)	
b. 8, f. 171	Sketchbooks	1880-1891
	Schwab, Eliza Catherine (Von Post)	
b. 8, f. 172	Album of poems	1847-1850
b. 8, f. 173	Diaries	1847, 1850, 1877-1878
b. 8, f. 173	Notebook on her children's illnesses	1852-1882
	Schwab, Gustav Benjamin	
b. 8, f. 174	Printed poem and address on the marriage of Georg and Charlotte (Schwab) Jäger	1819
	Schwab, Gustav Friedrich	
b. 8, f. 175	Album of poems, illustrations, and memorabilia	1835-1848
b. 9, f. 176	Autograph album	1838-1844
b. 9, f. 176	Diary of travel in Europe and America	1843-1846
b. 9, f. 177	German Society of the City of New York: memorial resolutions	1888
b. 9, f. 178-179	Manuscript, "The Opening Excursion over the Northern Pacific Railroad in September 1883" (copies in English and German)	1883
b. 9, f. 180	Muscoota Boat Club: minute book	1874-1878
	Schwab, John Christopher	
	Diaries	



## Schwab, John Christopher &gt; Diaries (continued)

b. 9, f. 181	"Journal of the Family Schwab..." English	1880-1881
b. 9, f. 181-182	Miscellaneous	1882-1893
b. 10, f. 183	Guest register of JCS and Edith Aurelia (Fisher) Schwab, with autographs and memorabilia	1893-1917
b. 10, f. 184	Manuscript, "Six Weeks in the Alps," with photographs	1888
b. 10, f. 185	Memorabilia, "Relics of Franco-Prussian War"	1870
	Notebooks	
b. 10, f. 186	Lectures for his Yale College course, "Public Finance"	1891-1892
b. 10, f. 187	"Memorandum for Mr. Schwab's house in Fordham" English	undated
b. 10, f. 188	"Statistics of Yale College Graduates," 1849-1903 English	1899-1903
b. 11, f. 189-191	Notes for an economic study of American colonial history	undated
b. 11, f. 192	Photograph album of family photographs	undated
b. 11, f. 193	Photographs and illustrations of family and Fort Number Eight	Circa 1869-1914, undated
	<u>The Revolutionary History of Fort Number Eight</u>	
b. 12, f. 194	Printed copy, with annotations, map, and clippings	1861, 1897-1900
b. 12, f. 195	Printed copy, with MS account of the dedication of a memorial stone	1897
b. 12, f. 196	Sketches and watercolor by JCS and Lucy Sophia (Schwab) White	1896, undated
	Scrapbooks	
b. 13, f. 197-198	Personal and Yale memorabilia	1882-1887
	Personal memorabilia	
b. 14, f. 199	1887-1898	1887-1898
b. 15, f. 200	1898-1904	1898-1904
	Student notebooks	
	University of Berlin, University of Göttingen	
b. 15, f. 201	Treitschke, Heinrich von. (Berlin). "Politik"	1887-1888
b. 15, f. 201	Schmoller, Gustav von. (Berlin). "Praktische National Ökonomie"	1887-1888
b. 15, f. 202	Knoke, K. (Göttingen). "Pädagogik"	1888
b. 15, f. 202	Lange, Konrad von. (Göttingen). "Allgemeine Kunstgeschichte"	1888-1889
b. 15, f. 202	Weizsäcker, Julius. (Berlin). "Allgemeine Verfassungsgeschichte"	1887-1888

Schwab, John Christopher > Student notebooks > University of Berlin, University of Göttingen  
(continued)

Cohn, Gustav. (Göttingen).		
b. 15, f. 203	Theoretische Nationalökonomie	1888-1889
b. 15, f. 203	Praktische National Ökonomie	1888
b. 15, f. 203	"Finanzwissenschaft" English	1888-1889
Lexis, Wilhelm. (Göttingen).		
b. 15, f. 203	Praktische National-Ökonomie	1888-1889
b. 15, f. 203	"Bauwesen" English	1888-1889
b. 15, f. 203	"Geld & Munzwesen" English	1889
b. 15, f. 203	"Moralstatistik" English	1888-1889
Baumann, Julius. (Göttingen).		
b. 16, f. 204	"Geschichte der neueren Philosophie" English	1888-1889
b. 16, f. 204	"Logik" English	1888-1889
b. 16, f. 204	"Erkenntnistheorie und Metaphysik" English	1889
b. 16, f. 204	Müller, Gottfried Elias. (Göttingen). "Biophysik"	1889
Yale College		
Hadley, Arthur Twining.		
b. 16, f. 205	"Railroad Administration" English	1886
b. 16, f. 205	"Industrial Legislation" English	1887
b. 16, f. 205	Farnam, Henry Walcott. "Public Finance"	1886-1887
b. 16, f. 205	Bourne, Edward Gaylord. "Medieval Industry"	1886-1887
Yale University		
b. 16, f. 206-207	Committee in charge of the inauguration of President A.T. Hadley: correspondence and papers	1899
b. 16, f. 208	Russell Trust Association: photographs from JCS's Skull and Bones album, with autographs	1886
Schwab, Katharine Fisher		
b. 17, f. 209	Sketchbook	1910-1914

Schwab family		
b. 17, f. 210	Genealogical notes on various ancestors	undated
White, Lucy Sophia (Schwab)		
b. 17, f. 211	Album of pressed flowers, with watercolors and a sketch	1877-1882
b. 17, f. 212	<i>Fort Number Eight: The Home of Gustav and Eliza Schwab</i> (printed copy) English	1925
Unidentified		
b. 17, f. 213	Manuscript volume of poems	[1813?] - 1856
b. 17, f. 214	Pencil sketch	undated
b. 17, f. 214	Watercolor, "Bebenhausen"	1877
Oversize		
b. 18, f. 215	Kunze, Henry C.	
b. 18, f. 215	Estate records	1808-1810
Kunze, John Christopher		
b. 18, f. 215	Petition from members of the German Lutheran Church, New York City	1806
b. 18, f. 215	Photograph of portrait	undated
Meier, Caspar		
b. 18, f. 216	Deed for cemetery lot at Reformed Protestant Dutch Church, Harsenville, N.Y.	1826
b. 18, f. 216	Will and estate records	1832, 1839, 1870
Von Post, Herman Caspar		
Sketchbooks		
b. 18, f. 217	1848-1867	1848-1867
b. 19, f. 218	1883-1885	1883-1885
Von Post, Lawrenz H.		
b. 19, f. 219	Will	1840
Schwab, Gustav Friedrich		
b. 20, f. 220	Certificate of citizenship	1850
b. 20, f. 220	Estate records	1904
b. 20, f. 220	Marriage certificate	1850
b. 20, f. 220	Memorial resolutions	1888

## Oversize &gt; Schwab, Gustav Friedrich (continued)

b. 20, f. 220	Passports	1850, 1855
Schwab, John Christopher		
b. 20, f. 221	Manuscript program, "Twelfth Night Procession," Fordham Heights	undated
b. 20, f. 221	Membership certificates: Massachusetts Historical Society, Society of Colonial Wars	1902, 1911
b. 20, f. 221	Passport	1887
b. 20, f. 222	Scrapbook of family papers and miscellanea	Circa 1860-1914
Schwab, Norman Von Post		
b. 21, f. 223	Scrapbook of Taft School autographs, photographs, and memorabilia	1918-1921
Schwab family		
b. 21, f. 224	Printed matter, mostly biographical, with 2 photographs	1818-1915

---

## 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

Americans -- Germany  
Business  
Businessmen  
Educators  
Emigration and immigration  
Families  
Germans -- United States  
Railroads -- United States

Von Post, Henry Gerhard, 1825-1855  
Von Post, Herman Caspar, 1828-1913  
Von Post, Simon Hermann, 1798-1868  
Weiser, Conrad, 1696-1760

### Families

Koontz family  
Myers family  
Schwab family  
Von Post family

### Geographic Names

Europe  
Germany  
New York (State)

### Corporate Bodies

Northern Pacific Railway Company  
Oelrichs & Company (New York)  
Yale University. Library  
Yale University -- Faculty  
Yale University -- Students

### Genres / Formats

Autographs  
Diaries  
Wills

### Names

Adami, Anton-Filippo, -1770  
Cohn, Gustav, 1840-1919  
Drollinger, Gustav Friedrich  
Dwight, Timothy, 1828-1916  
Freylinghausen, Gottlieb Anastasius, 1719-1785  
Hadley, Arthur Twining, 1856-1930  
Kunze, John C. (John Christopher), 1744-1807  
Meier, Caspar  
Muhlenberg, Frederick Augustus Conrad,  
1750-1801  
Oelrichs, Hermann, 1850-1906  
Punnett, Mary Kunigunde Meier, b.1816  
Rösing, Johannes  
Schleiden, R. (Rudolf), 1815-1895  
Schwab, Benjamin William, 1867-1899  
Schwab, Edith Aurelia Fisher, 1862-1922  
Schwab, Eliza Catherine von Post, 1829-1904  
Schwab, Gustav, 1792-1850  
Schwab, Gustav Friedrich, 1822-1888  
Schwab, John Christopher, 1865-1916  
Schwab, Sophie Caroline, 1795-1865  
Treitschke, Heinrich von, 1834-1896