Guide to the Russell Henry Chittenden Papers

MS 611

compiled by Nancy L. Fappiano

November 1981

Yale University Library
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 611

CREATOR: Chittenden, R. H. (Russell Henry), 1856-1943

TITLE: Russell Henry Chittenden papers

DATES: 1870–1945

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.5 linear feet (4 boxes, 1 folio)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Correspondence, writings and memorabilia almost entirely relating to Chittenden's work as a physiologist and expert on nutrition. Also essays documenting his part in the development at Yale University of the Sheffield Scientific School, which he directed from 1898 to 1922. Important correspondents are Willy Kühne, his professor at the University of Heidelberg, and Ira Remsen, chairman of the Referee Board of Consulting Scientific Experts of the Department of Agriculture, of which Chittenden was a member from 1908 to 1914. Also in the papers are the manuscripts of his autobiography (written in 1936), miscellaneous family papers, diplomas and awards.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0611

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 http://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0611.

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

b. box
f. folder
Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Gift of Russell H. Chittenden, 1944.

Conditions Governing Access
The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
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Preferred Citation
Russell Henry Chittenden Papers (MS 611). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Existence and Location of Copies
Autobiography of Russell Henry Chittenden is available on microfilm (274 frames on 1 reel, 35mm.) from Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, at cost. Order no. HM6.

Biographical / Historical
Physiological chemist; professor of physiological chemistry at Yale University 1882-1922; director of Sheffield Scientific School, Yale University, 1898-1922, and trustee 1900-1930; member of the Referee Board of the Department of Agriculture 1908-1915.

Scope and Contents
The Russell H. Chittenden Papers, which span the years 1870 to 1945, include correspondence, writings, and miscellaneous files. The papers are largely professional, reflecting Chittenden’s training in physiological chemistry and his interest in problems of nutrition.

The correspondence files (1870-1941) contain both personal and professional correspondence, although the bulk of the material is professional. From 1879 to 1893 Wilhelm Kühne, a German physiologist, was a major correspondent. In 1875 he had read a paper by Chittenden and in 1878 invited him to be his student and lecture assistant at the University of Heidelberg. In 1880, a year after his return from Germany, Chittenden was awarded the Ph.D. and two years later was appointed professor of physiological chemistry in the Sheffield Scientific School at Yale University. Shortly thereafter he became a member of the governing board of the school and its permanent secretary. From 1908 to 1914 Chittenden served on the referee board of consulting scientific experts to the Secretary of Agriculture, a forerunner of today’s Food and Drug Administration. There is a good deal of correspondence with Ira Remsen, a chemist who was chairman of this board, regarding experiments and findings, as well as briefs, minutes, and reports on the work of the board.
Chittenden’s writings span the years 1898 to 1945 and include drafts of scientific papers, speeches, and an extensive autobiography (Box 2, folders 35-37). Dated writings are arranged in chronological order. Undated writings are divided into two alphabetical sections, each representing a major interest: nutrition and science, and the Sheffield Scientific School and education.

Among the miscellaneous files are notes and papers on chemistry and nutrition, and memorabilia from professional organizations. There are also many tributes and honors awarded to Chittenden.

The papers were donated by Russell H. Chittenden to Yale University in 1944. For related papers see the Records of the Sheffield Scientific School, 1846-1956, YRG 31.
### Collection Contents

#### Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 1-2</td>
<td>Correspondence, personal</td>
<td>1918 February–June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 3</td>
<td>Correspondence, personal: concerning <em>The History of the Sheffield Scientific School</em></td>
<td>1928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. 1, f. 4-20</td>
<td>Correspondence, professional</td>
<td>1870–1941, undated</td>
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</table>

**Referee Board of Consulting Scientific Experts of the Department of Agriculture**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 21</td>
<td>Appointments, agreements, payroll</td>
<td>1911–1912</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 22</td>
<td>Briefs presented to the Board</td>
<td>1909, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 23</td>
<td>Minutes of Board meetings</td>
<td>1908–1911</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 24</td>
<td>Questions for the Board concerning sulphur dioxide</td>
<td>1911</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 25-26</td>
<td>Report: “An Experimental Study of the Effect of Aluminum Compounds, When Used in Foods, on the Nutrition and Health of Man”</td>
<td>1913</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 27</td>
<td>Reports</td>
<td>1908–1911, undated</td>
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**Writings**

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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 28</td>
<td>“Economy in Nutrition”</td>
<td>Circa 1904</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 29</td>
<td>“The Proposed Graduate Year for the Select Course in Preparation for Business”</td>
<td>1915</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 30</td>
<td>[Alumni?] address</td>
<td>1920</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 31</td>
<td>“Research in Chemistry as Related to Medicine”</td>
<td>[1922?]</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 32</td>
<td>no folder</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 33</td>
<td>“A Memorial to William Beaumont, M.D.”</td>
<td>1926</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 34</td>
<td>“Lafayette Benedict Mendel”</td>
<td>Circa 1936</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 35-37</td>
<td>“Sixty Years of Service in Science: An. Autobiography”</td>
<td>1936</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 2, f. 38</td>
<td>“The Club”</td>
<td>1938</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 39</td>
<td>“ Parsimony in Nutrition”</td>
<td>Circa 1942</td>
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<td>b. 2, f. 40</td>
<td>“The First Twenty-Five Years of the American Society of Biological Chemists”</td>
<td>Circa 1945</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 41-58</td>
<td>Writings on nutrition and science</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 3, f. 59-71</td>
<td>Writings on Sheffield Scientific School and education</td>
<td>undated</td>
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</table>
b. 3, f. 72  Writings of others  1908–1923

Miscellaneous files

Chemistry and nutrition papers

b. 4, f. 73  Chemistry notes  undated

b. 4, f. 74  Memoranda to the Saltpeter Commission  Circa

b. 4, f. 75  Minutes of the meeting of the Commission for the Study of Problems Relating to Human Nutrition  1907

b. 4, f. 76  Notes and charts on food and nutrition  Circa 1918

Professional organizations

b. 4, f. 77  Membership certificates  1880–1912

b. 4, f. 78  Memento commemorating the founding of the American Physiological Society  1938

b. 4, f. 79  Lists of colleagues with list of books  undated

Tributes and awards

b. 4, f. 80  Chittenden dinner: correspondence, addresses, ticket  1936

b. 4, f. 81  Guest book from luncheon arranged by Chittenden’s former students  1938

b. 4, f. 82  Tribute album from the Governing Board of the Sheffield Scientific School  1922

b. 4, f. 83  Tributes and awards  1878–1930

Honorary diplomas
See: Box 5

Family Papers

b. 4, f. 84  Family genealogy and personal history  undated

b. 4, f. 85  Legal papers  1877–1912

b. 4, f. 86  Reprints and newspaper clippings  1909–1918, undated

Diplomas

b. 5  Bachelor of Philosophy: Yale College  1875

b. 5  Doctor of Philosophy: Yale College  1880

b. 5  National Academy of Sciences of the United States  1890

b. 5  New York Medical Legal Society  1894

b. 5  American Philosophical Society  1904
## Diplomas (continued)

<table>
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<td>b. 5</td>
<td>Honorary Doctor of Science degree: University of Pennsylvania</td>
<td>1904</td>
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<td>b. 5</td>
<td>Honorary Doctor of Laws degree: Washington University (Missouri)</td>
<td>1915</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 5</td>
<td>Yale Chapter, Society of Sigma XI</td>
<td>1916</td>
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<td>b. 5</td>
<td>Society of Medical and Natural Sciences (Brussels)</td>
<td>1919</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 5</td>
<td>Honorary Doctor of Laws degree: Yale University</td>
<td>1922</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 5</td>
<td>New York Academy of Medicine</td>
<td>1930</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. 5</td>
<td>Honorary Doctor of Medicine degree: Medical Society of Connecticut</td>
<td>1934</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Food additives
Medicine
Nutrition
Science
World War, 1914-1918

Geographic Names
Europe
Germany

Occupations
Chemists
Physiologists

Names
Beaumont, William, 1785-1853
Chittenden, R. H. (Russell Henry), 1856-1943
Kühne, W. (Willy), 1837-1900
Remsen, Ira, 1846-1927

Families
Chittenden family

Corporate Bodies
Yale University -- Faculty
Yale University. Sheffield Scientific School