

# Guide to the Russell Henry Chittenden Papers

MS 611



compiled by Nancy L. Fappiano

November 1981

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## Collection Overview

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

**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: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.0611>

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## 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.0611>.

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

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Russell H. Chittenden, 1944.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

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### Preferred Citation

Russell Henry Chittenden Papers (MS 611). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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### Existence and Location of Copies

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

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## 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.

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## 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, 1870-1945

b. 1, f. 1-2	Correspondence, personal	1918 February-June
b. 1, f. 3	Correspondence, personal: concerning <i>The History of the Sheffield Scientific School</i>	1928
b. 1, f. 4-20	Correspondence, professional	1870-1941, undated
Referee Board of Consulting Scientific Experts of the Department of Agriculture		
b. 2, f. 21	Appointments, agreements, payroll	1911-1912
b. 2, f. 22	Briefs presented to the Board	1909, undated
b. 2, f. 23	Minutes of Board meetings	1908-1911
b. 2, f. 24	Questions for the Board concerning sulphur dioxide	1911
b. 2, f. 25-26	Report: "An Experimental Study of the Effect of Aluminum Compounds, When Used in Foods, on the Nutrition and Health of Man"	1913
b. 2, f. 27	Reports	1908-1911, undated
Writings		
b. 2, f. 28	"Economy in Nutrition" English	Circa 1904
b. 2, f. 29	"The Proposed Graduate Year for the Select Course in Preparation for Business" English	1915
b. 2, f. 30	[Alumni?] address English	1920
b. 2, f. 31	"Research in Chemistry as Related to Medicine" English	[1922?]
b. 2, f. 32	no folder	
b. 2, f. 33	"A Memorial to William Beaumont, M.D." English	1926
b. 2, f. 34	"Lafayette Benedict Mendel" English	Circa 1936
b. 2, f. 35-37reel 1U	"Sixty Years of Service in Science: An. Autobiography" English This material has been microfilmed. Patrons must use HM 6 instead of the originals.	1936

## Writings (continued)

b. 2, f. 38	"The Club" English	1938
b. 2, f. 39	"Parsimony in Nutrition" English	Circa 1942
b. 2, f. 40	"The First Twenty-Five Years of the American Society of Biological Chemists" English	Circa 1945
b. 3, f. 41-58	Writings on nutrition and science 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.	undated
b. 3, f. 59-71	Writings on Sheffield Scientific School and education	undated
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: <a href="#">Box 5</a>		
Family Papers		
b. 4, f. 84	Family genealogy and personal history	undated

## Miscellaneous files &gt; Family Papers (continued)

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
b. 5	Honorary Doctor of Science degree: University of Pennsylvania	1904
b. 5	Honorary Doctor of Laws degree: Washington University (Missouri)	1915
b. 5	Yale Chapter, Society of Sigma XI	1916
b. 5	Society of Medical and Natural Sciences (Brussels)	1919
b. 5	Honorary Doctor of Laws degree: Yale University	1922
b. 5	New York Academy of Medicine	1930
b. 5	Honorary Doctor of Medicine degree: Medical Society of Connecticut	1934



## **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. Sheffield Scientific School  
Yale University -- Faculty