

Bernadotte Everly Schmitt Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2006

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm80076869>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013055>

Prepared by Michael McElderry

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Collection Summary

Title: Bernadotte Everly Schmitt Papers

Span Dates: 1868-1970

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1905-1969)

ID No.: MSS76869

Creator: Schmitt, Bernadotte Everly, 1886-1969

Extent: 31,000 items

Extent: 54 containers plus 9 oversize

Extent: 23.5 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mmm80076869>

Summary: Educator, historian, and author. Correspondence, research notes, scrapbooks, writings and lectures, bibliographies, and printed matter relating principally to Schmitt's studies in modern European diplomatic history, especially his work on the outbreak of World War I.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Acheson, Dean, 1893-1971--Correspondence.

Baker, Newton Diehl, 1871-1937--Correspondence.

Barnes, Harry Elmer, 1889-1968--Correspondence.

Coolidge, Archibald Cary, 1866-1928--Correspondence.

Dodd, William E. (William Edward), 1869-1940--Correspondence.

Fay, Sidney Bradshaw, 1876-1967--Correspondence.

Ford, Guy Stanton, 1873-1962--Correspondence.

Gottschalk, Louis Reichenthal, 1899-1975--Correspondence.

Hayes, Carlton J. H. (Carlton Joseph Huntley), 1882-1964--Correspondence.

Hornbeck, Stanley Kuhl, 1883-1966--Correspondence.

Jameson, J. Franklin (John Franklin), 1859-1937--Correspondence.

Langer, William L. (William Leonard), 1896-1977--Correspondence.

Lupis-Vukić, Ivo, 1876-1967--Correspondence.

Nevins, Allan, 1890-1971--Correspondence.

Renouvin, Pierre, 1893-1974--Correspondence.

Rippy, J. Fred (James Fred), 1892-1977--Correspondence.

Schmitt, Bernadotte Everly, 1886-1969.

Shafer, Boyd C.--Correspondence.

Shotwell, James T., 1874-1965--Correspondence.

Stevenson, Adlai E. (Adlai Ewing), 1900-1965--Correspondence.

Woodward, E. L. (Ernest Llewellyn), 1890-1971--Correspondence.

Organizations

American Historical Association.

United States. Department of State.

University of Chicago.

University of Oxford--Students.

Subjects

History, Modern.

History--Periodicals.

Universities and colleges--Great Britain.

World War, 1914-1918.

Places

Europe--Foreign relations.

Europe--History--1789-1900.

Europe--History--20th century.

United States--Politics and government--20th century.

Titles

Journal of modern history.

Occupations

Authors.

Educators.

Historians.

Provenance

The papers of Bernadotte Everly Schmitt, educator, historian, and author, were given to the Library of Congress by his widow, Damaris A. Schmitt, in 1970-1971.

Processing History

The Schmitt Papers were processed in 1981. The finding aid was revised in 2002.

Transfers

Some photographs and maps have been transferred to the Library's Geography and Map Division and Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of these papers.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Bernadotte Everly Schmitt in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public, except that the use of such rights is reserved to Mrs. Damaris A. Schmitt for her lifetime.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Bernadotte Everly Schmitt are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Bernadotte Everly Schmitt Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1886, May 19	Born, Strasburg, Va.
1904	A.B., University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn.
1905	Appointed Rhodes Scholar from Tennessee
1908	B.A., Merton College, University of Oxford, Oxford, England
1910	Ph. D., University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.
1910-1925	Instructor, assistant professor, associate professor, and professor of history at Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio
1913	M.A., Merton College, University of Oxford, Oxford, England
1925-1946	Professor (1925-1939) and Andrew MacLeish distinguished service professor (1939-1946) of modern history
1929-1946	Editor, <i>Journal of Modern History</i>
1930	Published <i>The Coming of the War</i> , 1914. New York: Scribner's Sons. 2 vols. Awarded George Louis Beer Prize
1931	Awarded Pulitzer Prize for History
1936-1947	Co-editor, <i>Cambridge Modern History</i> (New Series)
1939	Married Damaris K. Ames
1943	Special consultant to secretary of war
1943-1945	With Office of Strategic Services
1945	Special adviser to the secretary general, United Nations Conference on International Organization
1945-1949	Special adviser, Division of Historical Policy Research, Department of State
1949-1952	Chief, German War Documents Project, Department of State
1960	President, American Historical Association
1969, Mar. 22	Died, Alexandria, Va.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Bernadotte Everly Schmitt (1886-1969) cover the period 1868-1970, with the bulk of the material spanning the years 1905-1969. A Pulitzer Prize-winning historian, Schmitt was a noted writer of modern European diplomatic history and a respected figure in the American academic community. His papers constitute a source of study for twentieth-century intellectual history in America and for research in historical methodology. The collection consists of correspondence, research notes, scrapbooks, manuscripts and printed copies of lectures and writings, bibliography card files, and printed matter. A selective index is provided for Schmitt's correspondence, with prominent correspondents listed on the front of each folder in the Correspondence series. The papers are organized into five series: [Family Correspondence](#), [Correspondence](#), [Speeches and Writings File](#), [Scrapbooks](#), and [Miscellany](#).

Schmitt maintained a wide-ranging network of correspondents among academicians, statesmen, and politicians. Correspondents represented in this collection include Dean Acheson, Newton Diehl Baker, Archibald Cary Coolidge, William Edward Dodd, Sidney Bradshaw Fay, Guy Stanton Ford, Louis Reichenthal Gottschalk, Carlton J. H. Hayes, Stanley Kuhl Hornbeck, J. Franklin Jameson, William L. Langer, Ivo Lupis-Vukić, Allan Nevins, Pierre Renouvin, J. Fred Rippey, Boyd C. Shafer, James T. Shotwell, Adlai E. Stevenson (1900-1965), and E. L. Woodward.

In 1905, Schmitt entered Oxford University's Merton College as the youngest Rhodes Scholar chosen that year. His letters to his parents in the [Family Correspondence](#) series provide the fullest documentation for his years at Oxford, where he was awarded a bachelor's degree in 1908 with a first class in modern history. The influences of Oxford was an important factor in the development of Schmitt's career, and he later regarded his attainment of a first class as "the greatest distinction that has ever come to me."^[1] A lifelong allegiance to Oxonian principles was a feature of his scholarly methods, and correspondence with historians and statesmen in the Correspondence series reveals the debt he owed to this influence. Mementos of Schmitt's Oxford years are in the [Scrapbooks](#) and [Miscellany](#) series, and a few writings and addresses of this period are in the [Speeches and Writings File](#).

Schmitt is best known for his book *The Coming of the War*, 1914, that won the Pulitzer Prize in 1931. At odds with Sidney Fay and other revisionists who advanced the theory of shared responsibility for the outbreak of the First World War, Schmitt directed the major part of his academic career toward the study of European diplomacy directly prior to World War I. The main theme of the [Correspondence](#) involves the defense of his thesis of German culpability for the war. A particularly heated debate over war guilt was struck between Schmitt and Harry Elmer Barnes in the mid 1920s. The Correspondence series contains information on this controversy as does a file in the [Miscellany](#) series.

Other subjects of interest in the Correspondence include the discussion of standards for historical research, the political and intellectual activities of the scholarly community from the 1920s to the 1940s, and administrative policy decisions of the American Historical Association and the University of Chicago. Correspondence relative to Schmitt's tenure as editor of the *Journal of Modern History* is also included in this series. Schmitt retired from the Department of State in 1952 after which he indulged further an already active interest in contemporary politics. Correspondence with Adlai E. Stevenson and Dean Acheson reflect this involvement.

The [Speeches and Writings File](#) contains a variety of material including several unpublished manuscripts. Of special interest is the typescript of a short work printed privately for the Chicago Literary Club in 1930 entitled "Interviewing the Authors of the War." It recounts interviews Schmitt conducted with leading European statesmen on the subject of the origins of the First World War.

Reviews of Schmitt's books are in the [Scrapbooks](#) series, which in addition to newspaper clippings includes some correspondence as well as memorabilia, invitations, and printed matter.

[1] Autographical sketches, Speeches and Writings File, Container 9.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Family Correspondence, 1905-1970](#)
- [Correspondence, 1905-1969](#)
- [Speeches and Writings File, 1904-1969](#)
- [Scrapbooks, 1868-1966](#)
- [Miscellany, 1903-1970](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-2	<p><u>Family Correspondence, 1905-1970</u></p> <p>Letters sent and received between family members. Also includes personal papers of his wife, Damaris A. Schmitt.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically within each file.</p>
BOX 2-8	<p><u>Correspondence, 1905-1969</u></p> <p>Letters received and copies of letters sent, postcards, telegrams, and attachments.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically. A list of prominent correspondents is indexed in each folder.</p>
BOX 8-29	<p><u>Speeches and Writings File, 1904-1969</u></p> <p>Handwritten and typewritten drafts, typescripts and carbon copies, research notes, correspondence and memoranda, and financial and legal records relating to speeches, lectures, articles, books, reviews, and miscellaneous writings by Schmitt.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically thereunder.</p>
BOX 30-34	<p><u>Scrapbooks, 1868-1966</u></p> <p>Newspaper clippings, invitations, correspondence, postcards, and printed matter.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 35-63	<p><u>Miscellany, 1903-1970</u></p> <p>Correspondence and memoranda, financial and legal papers, correspondence between others, speeches and writings by others, reports, school notebooks (Oxford University), printed matter, and bibliography card files.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically thereunder.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-2	Family Correspondence, 1905-1970 Letters sent and received between family members. Also includes personal papers of his wife, Damaris A. Schmitt. Arranged chronologically within each file.
BOX 1	Schmitt, Cooper D. (father), 1905-1910 (3 folders)
BOX 1	Schmitt, Rose E. (mother), 1905-1914, undated (2 folders)
BOX 1	Correspondence with Schmitt family
BOX 2	Correspondence of Damaris A. Schmitt (wife)
BOX 2-8	Correspondence, 1905-1969 Letters received and copies of letters sent, postcards, telegrams, and attachments. Arranged chronologically. A list of prominent correspondents is indexed in each folder.
BOX 2	1905, Apr.-1924, Dec. (6 folders)
BOX 3	1925, Jan.-1931, May (6 folders)
BOX 4	1931, June-1939, Feb. (6 folders)
BOX 5	1939, Mar.-1952, Dec. (6 folders)
BOX 6	1953, Jan.-1961, May (6 folders)
BOX 7	1961, June-1967, May (6 folders)
BOX 8	1967, June-1969, May
BOX 8	Undated (5 folders)
BOX 8-29	Speeches and Writings File, 1904-1969 Handwritten and typewritten drafts, typescripts and carbon copies, research notes, correspondence and memoranda, and financial and legal records relating to speeches, lectures, articles, books, reviews, and miscellaneous writings by Schmitt. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically thereunder.
BOX 8	Articles
BOX 8	Correspondence
BOX 9	Printed copies, 1915-1961, undated (3 folders)
BOX 9	Autobiographical sketches
BOX 10	Bibliographies

Speeches and Writings File, 1904-1969

Container	Contents
BOX 10	Book reviews
BOX 10	Manuscripts and printed copies
BOX 10	Notes (2 folders)
BOX 10	Cambridge Modern History
BOX 10	Contracts
BOX 10	Correspondence
BOX 10	Outlines
BOX 10	Typescripts
BOX 11	Distribution lists
BOX 11	"Interviewing the Authors of the War," typescript, private printing
BOX 11	Lectures and addresses
BOX 11	Class lecture notes
BOX 11	"Century of Revolution"
BOX 11	"The World War" (2 folders)
BOX 11	Drafts and outlines, 1932-1956, undated (2 folders)
BOX 12	Typescripts of addresses, 1904-1959, undated (4 folders)
BOX 12	Letters to the editor
BOX 13	Manuscript, unpublished master's thesis (3 folders)
BOX 13	Manuscript, Department of State, unpublished, 1946
BOX 13	Chapters 1-14
BOX 14	Chapters 15-21
BOX 14	Publications
BOX 14	<i>The Annexation of Bosnia, 1908-1909</i> (1937)
BOX 14	<i>The Coming of the War, 1914</i> (1930)
BOX 14	Contracts
BOX 14	Correspondence
BOX 14	<i>England and Germany, 1740-1914</i> (1916)
BOX 14	<i>The Fashion and Future of History</i> (1960)
BOX 14	<i>Some Historians of Modern Europe</i> (1942)
BOX 14	Royalty statements
BOX 14	<i>Triple Alliance and Triple Entente</i> (1934)
BOX 14	<i>What Shall We Do with Germany?</i> (1943)
BOX 14	"The World in the Crucible," unpublished
BOX 15-26	Research notes (48 folders)
BOX 27	(2 folders)
BOX 27	"The United Nations Conference on International Organization, San Francisco, California," unpublished typescript
BOX 27	Vol. 1 (2 copies)
BOX 28	Vols. 2-3
BOX 28	Vol. 4 (2 copies)
BOX 29	Vol. 5

Speeches and Writings File, 1904-1969

Container	Contents
BOX 29	Correspondence and memoranda
BOX 29	Research notes (3 folders)
BOX 30-34	Scrapbooks, 1868-1966 Newspaper clippings, invitations, correspondence, postcards, and printed matter. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 30	1868-1938
BOX 30	1905-1906, Oxford University, Oxford, England, memorabilia
BOX 31	1930-1932
BOX 31	1933-1941
BOX 32	1942-1952
BOX 32	1952-1960
BOX 33	1960-1965
BOX 33	1962-1966
BOX 34	1907-1961
BOX 35-63	Miscellany, 1903-1970 Correspondence and memoranda, financial and legal papers, correspondence between others, speeches and writings by others, reports, school notebooks (Oxford University), printed matter, and bibliography card files. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically thereunder.
BOX 35	American Historical Association annual meeting, 1960, Dec.
BOX 35	Account book
BOX 35	Awards
BOX 35	Cards and invitations
BOX 35	Cash account books
BOX 35	Class outline
BOX 35	College instruction
BOX 35	Bibliographies
BOX 35	Syllabuses and class grades
BOX 36	Tests
BOX 36	Term papers (2 folders)
BOX 36	Term paper topics
BOX 36	Condolences, death of Schmitt (2 folders)
BOX 36	Correspondence and memoranda
BOX 36	Correspondence between others
BOX 36	Cosmos Club
BOX 37	Financial records
BOX 37	Fragments
BOX 37	Gifts
BOX 37	Government records and correspondence
BOX 37	Greeting cards (5 folders)

Miscellany, 1903-1970

Container	Contents
BOX 37	Health care plan
BOX 38	Honorary degree, Oxford University, Oxford, England, 1967, June 19
BOX 38	Income tax records
BOX 38	Institute of Politics
BOX 38	<i>Journal of Modern History</i> , bibliography cards (2 folders)
BOX 39	<i>Journal of Modern History</i> (4 folders)
BOX 40	(3 folders)
BOX 40	Life insurance
BOX 40	Literary Society of Washington
BOX 40	Merton College, Oxford University, Oxford, England, septencentenary
BOX 40	Notes (2 folders)
BOX 41	Obituaries
BOX 41	Passports
BOX 41	Pearl Harbor reports
BOX 41	Personal papers, documents, and memorabilia
BOX 41	Poems and rhymes
BOX 41	Printed matter
BOX 41	Articles
BOX 41	1925-1951 (2 folders)
BOX 42	1952-1966, undated (3 folders)
BOX 42	Brochures, circulars, and other items
BOX 42	1928-1967, undated (2 folders)
BOX 43	Undated
BOX 43	Newsletters (4 folders)
BOX 43	Newspaper clippings
BOX 43	1917-1960 (2 folders)
BOX 44	1961-1967 (6 folders)
BOX 45	1968-1969
BOX 45	Undated (3 folders)
BOX 45	Periodicals
BOX 45	Reports, pamphlets, and programs
BOX 45	1917-1951
BOX 46	1952-1963 (5 folders)
BOX 47	1964-1970
BOX 47	Undated
BOX 47	Professional organizations, correspondence and memoranda

Miscellany, 1903-1970

Container	Contents
BOX 47	Property, Alexandria, Va.
BOX 47	Reference sources
BOX 47	Rhodes Scholarship, Oxford University, Oxford, England
BOX 47	Accounts and receipts
BOX 47	Admission records
BOX 47	Biographical record
BOX 47	Cards and invitations
BOX 47	Correspondence and notes
BOX 47	Printed matter (1 folder)
BOX 48	(2 folders)
BOX 48	School notebooks (4 vols.)
BOX 49-53	(30 vols.)
BOX 54	School note cards
BOX 54	Schmitt-Harry Elmer Barnes controversy, <i>Progressive</i> , 1926, Dec. 1
BOX 54	Speeches and lectures by others
BOX 54	Stocks
BOX 54	University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.
BOX 54	Correspondence and memoranda
BOX 54	Lists of graduates
BOX 54	Writings by others
BOX OV 55-OV 63	Bibliography card files