



ArchivesSpace

a community served by †Lyrasis

C. H. Detwiler Columbia 1885 collection 5960404

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 14, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Scope and Content	4
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	4
Controlled Access Headings	5
Collection Inventory	5
Series 1: Student Papers	5
Subseries A: Drawings	5
Subseries 2: Books	8
Subseries 3: Class Papers and Notes	10
Subseries 4: Memorabilia	12
Series 2: Professional Papers	14
Subserie A: Drawings	14
Subseries B: Specifications	16
Subseries C: Office Papers	16
Series 3: Personal Papers	17
Subseries A: Childhood Drawings	17
Subseries B: Diaries	18
Subseries C: Memorabilia	18

Summary Information

Repository:	Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library
Creator:	Detwiller, C. H (Charles H.)
Title:	C. H. Detwiller Columbia 1885 collection
ID:	5960404
Date [inclusive]:	1874-1940
Date [bulk]:	1881-1885
Physical Description:	1 document box
Physical Description:	1 manuscript box
Physical Description:	1 print box
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

C.H. Detwiller Columbia 1885 Collection. Located in Dept. of Drawings & Archives, Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library, Columbia University, New York, NY.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Born in 1863, Charles H. Detwiller was in the first class of architecture students in the School of Mines at Columbia University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1885. As a practicing architect, Detwiller maintained offices in New York City and New Jersey for several decades, establishing a brief partnership in the 1890s with architect George E. Melendy. Detwiller died in New Jersey in 1940.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Content

This small collection contains primarily Detwiller's student drawings, notes, course materials, books, class photographs, and graduation announcements from the period of his study at Columbia University from 1881 to 1885. These materials are supplemented by a small group of Detwiller's childhood sketchbooks, drawings and office papers created by Detwiller during his practice as a professional architect, and other scrapbooks and ephemeral items relating to Detwiller's family and personal interests, spanning the years 1874 to 1940.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

This material is arranged in three series: Student Papers; Professional Papers; and Personal Papers. Series are further described by subseries; the arrangement of materials within each subseries is described at the beginning of each subseries inventory.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library

Revision Description

File created. File revised. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2009-02-11 2009-11-17 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection is available for use by appointment in the Department of Drawings & Archives, Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, Columbia University. For further information, please email avery-drawings@library.columbia.edu.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Permission to publish must be obtained in writing from the Director, Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library, Columbia University, 1172 Amsterdam Ave., MC 0301, New York, NY 10027.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Source of acquisition--Gift of Frederic Detwiller. Accession number--2006.012.

Processing Information

Papers Processed Annemarie van Roessel 09/30/06.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Architecture -- United States -- Designs and plans
- Architecture -- Study and teaching
- Schools of architecture -- New York (State) -- New York
- architectural drawings (visual works)
- Photographs
- Programs (documents)
- Diaries
- Scrapbooks
- Architects
- Columbia University. School of Mines
- Columbia University. School of Architecture
- Columbia University -- Alumni and alumnae
- Detwiller & Street (New York)

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Student Papers

Subseries A: Drawings

Scope and Contents

These materials include loose drawings and two sketchbooks created during the period of Detwiller's study at Columbia University between 1881 and 1885.

Arrangement

This material is arranged chronologically.

Title/Description	Instances
Colorado State Capitol, competition. Design sketches, elevations and sections., circa 1883 <u>Physical Description:</u> 2 items	box 2
Scope and Contents Ink on tracing paper.	
Barnyard problem. Plan and elevations., 1884 Mar 03 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 item	box 1
Scope and Contents Ink and colored ink on paper.	
Chapel, Plate VII, Perspective., 1884 Apr 16 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 item	box 1
Scope and Contents Graphite, ink, and watercolor on paper.	
Sketchbook., 1884 May-1885 May <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 item	box 3
Scope and Contents Bound sketchbook. Scope and Contents Inscribed on front leaf "Chas. H. Detwiller / May 1884."	
Problem: Loggia and Fountain. Plan, elevation, and section., 1884 Nov 26 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 item	box 1
Scope and Contents Graphite, ink and watercolor on paper.	
History of Design problem: Temple of Themis., 1884 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 item	box 1

Scope and Contents

Graphite, ink and watercolor on tracing paper,
mounted on board.

Reservoir Fountain. Elevation, section, detail., 1885 Jan 20 box 1

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Ink and watercolor on paper.

Chateau de Marly-le-Roy, Place de Vendôme, St. Françoise Venise., 1885 Mar 26 box 1

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Ink on tracing paper.

Scope and Contents

Noted "L'art pour tous, 1865-6."

Chateau de Vitré. Perspective., 1885 Apr 16 box 1

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Ink on tracing paper, mounted on board.

Problem: A Billiard Room and Boat House. Plans, elevation, section., 1885 May 16 box 1

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Graphite, ink and watercolor on paper.

Problem: A Billiard Room and Boat House. Elevation., 1885 May 18 box 1

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Graphite, ink and watercolor on paper.

Greek figure studies. [1 of 2], circa 1880-1885 box 1

Physical Description: 8 items

Scope and Contents

Graphite on paper.

Greek figure studies. [2 of 2], circa 1880-1885

Physical Description: 7 items box 1

Scope and Contents

Graphite on paper.

Sketchbook., circa 1885 box 1

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Bound sketchbook.

Scope and Contents

Drawings are primarily ink on tracing paper, some in watercolor. Most tipped in, some loose. Includes images of Hagia Sophia (Istanbul); Church (Cordova, Spain); Fort (St. Augustine, Florida); Chapel of St. Bernard (Fontaine-les-Dijon, France).

Subseries 2: Books

Arrangement

This material is arranged chronologically.

Title/Description	Instances
<p>Viollet-le-Duc, Eugène-Emmanuel. Discourses on Architecture. 2 volumes. Boston: James R. Osgood & Co., 1875</p>	<p>box 3</p>
<p><u>Physical Description</u>: 2 items</p>	
<p>Scope and Contents</p>	
<p>Bound volumes.</p>	
<p>Scope and Contents</p>	
<p>Inscribed "Chas. H. Detwiller Feb. 1884."</p>	
<p>Smith, Walter. Teacher's Manual for Freehand Drawing in the Intermediate Schools. Boston: L. Prang & Co., 1877</p>	<p>box 3</p>
<p><u>Physical Description</u>: 1 item</p>	
<p>Scope and Contents</p>	
<p>Bound volume.</p>	
<p>Palliser's American Cottage Homes. Bridgeport, CT: Palliser & Co., 1878</p>	<p>box 1</p>
<p><u>Physical Description</u>: 1 item</p>	

Scope and Contents

Bound volume.

Scope and Contents

Inscribed "Chas. H. Detwiller."

Tuthill, William B. Practical Lessons in Architectural Drawing. New York: William T. Comstock., 1881 box 3

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Bound volume.

Scope and Contents

Inscribed "Charles H. Detwiller."

Parker, John Henry. Concise Glossary of Terms Used in Greek, Roman, Italian and Gothic Architecture. London: Parker & Co., 1882 box 3

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Bound volume.

Scope and Contents

Inscribed "Chas. Detwiller August 1885."

Von Reber. H. History of Ancient Art. New York: Harper & Bros., 1882 box 3

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Bound volume.

Scope and Contents

Inscribed "Chas. H. Detwiller Columbia College School of Mines 1885, 97 Nassau St., 1885."

Ferguson, James. History of Architecture in All Countries. 2 volumes. Boston: S. E. Cassino., 1883 box 3

Physical Description: 2 items

Scope and Contents

Bound volumes.

Scope and Contents

Inscribed "Chas. H. Detwiller 1885, 97 Nassau St.
New York."

Subseries 3: Class Papers and Notes

Arrangement

This material is arranged chronologically.

Title/Description	Instances
<p>Columbia College, School of Mines, annual examination schedule., 1882 May-1882 Jun <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 item</p>	box 2
<p>Scope and Contents</p>	
<p>Printed paper.</p>	
<p>School of Mines, Columbia College, Course in Architecture, Memoirs. For second, third, and fourth class students., 1883 Jun <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 item</p>	box 2
<p>Scope and Contents</p>	
<p>Printed paper.</p>	
<p>Scope and Contents</p>	
<p>Includes holograph class notes on verso.</p>	
<p>School of Mines, Columbia College, Scheme of Attendance, First Session. For first, second, and third class students., 1883 Oct <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 item</p>	box 2
<p>Scope and Contents</p>	
<p>Printed paper.</p>	
<p>School of Mines, Columbia College, Scheme of Attendance, Second Session. For first, second, third, and fourth class students., 1884 Feb <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 item</p>	box 2
<p>Scope and Contents</p>	
<p>Printed paper.</p>	
<p>School of Mines, Columbia College Course in Architecture, Memoirs. For second, third and fourth class students., 1884 Jun</p>	box 2

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Printed paper.

Scope and Contents

Includes manuscript note from William R. Ware to CHD on recto.

"The Beginnings of Greek Art," class notes., circa 1884-1885 box 2

Physical Description: 6 pages

Scope and Contents

Ink on paper.

"Hist. of Orn.," class notes., circa 1884-1885 box 2

Physical Description: 4 pages

Scope and Contents

Ink on paper.

"Origin of the Gk Corinthian Order," class notes., circa 1884-1885 box 2

Physical Description: 2 pages

Scope and Contents

Ink on paper.

"Theory of Arch.," class notes., circa 1884-1885 box 2

Physical Description: 3 pages

Scope and Contents

Ink on paper.

Notes on Architecture., 1885 Jan box 2

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Bound notebook.

Primary Colors, Secondary Colors, Tertiary Colors., undated box 2

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Printed paper.

Subseries 4: Memorabilia

Physical Description: 11 items

Scope and Contents

This subseries includes class pictures, commencement materials, 50th anniversary photos and portraits of two professors.

Title/Description	Instances
Columbia College, School of Mines, Architecture Department, Classes of 1885, 1886, 1887, portrait., circa 1885	box 2
<u>Physical Description</u> : 1 item	
Scope and Contents	
Sepia photographic print.	
Scope and Contents	
Includes identification of figures on verso.	
Columbia College, School of Mines, Class of 1885, portrait., circa 1885	box 2
<u>Physical Description</u> : 1 item	
Scope and Contents	
Sepia photographic print.	
Graduating Classes, School of Arts and Mines, Columbia College, Commencement Invitation., 1885 Jun10	box 2
<u>Physical Description</u> : 1 item	
Scope and Contents	
Printed paper.	
Columbia College, Schools of Arts, Mines, and Political Science, 131st Commencement Program., 1885 Jun 10	box 2
<u>Physical Description</u> : 1 item	
Scope and Contents	
Pamphlet.	

Scope and Contents

Commencement took place at the Academy of Music,
New York City..

School of Mines, Graduation Dinner, program (recto) and menu (verso)., 1885 Jun 10 box 2

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Printed paper.

Columbia University, School of Mines, Class of 1885. 50th Anniversary portrait., 1935 Jun box 2

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Gelatin silver photographic print.

Scope and Contents

Shown at formal dinner.

Columbia University, School of Mines, Class of 1885. 50th Anniversary portrait., 1935 box 2

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Gelatin silver photographic print.

Scope and Contents

Shown in front of School of Engineering.

Rood, Ogden N. Portrait., undated box 2

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Printed paper.

Scope and Contents

Professor of Physics, Columbia College, 1864-1902.

Ware, William R. Portrait., undated box 2

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Printed paper.

Scope and Contents

Professor, Columbia College, School of Architecture.

"A Fellow, A Fella, and A Feller," cartoon., undated box 2

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Printed paper.

Central Railroad of New Jersey, Local Timetable for
Passenger Trains., 1881 May 30 box 2

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Printed paper.

Scope and Contents

With holograph notes.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Professional Papers

Subserie A: Drawings

Scope and Contents

Materials include renderings for various New Jersey projects, including Detwiller's own residence.

Arrangement

These materials are arranged alphabetically

Title/Description	Instances
Detwiller, Charles H., residence, "Bay Manor." Jersey City, NJ. Plans., circa 1900 <u>Physical Description:</u> 3 items Scope and Contents Graphite and ink on linen.	box 1
Detwiller, Charles H., residence, "Bay Manor." 76 Danforth Ave., Jersey City, NJ. Plans., circa 1900 <u>Physical Description:</u> 2 items Scope and Contents Blueprint on paper.	box 1

Scope and Contents

Copies of linens listed in previous record.

Jersey City Library, competition entry. Front elevation.,
1898 drawer
179a

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Ink on paper, mounted on foamcore.

Scope and Contents

Detwiller & Melendy, architect.

Hassell, James R., Conservatory. 731 W. Seventh Ave.,
Plainfield, NJ. Elevation., circa 1902 box 1

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Blueprint and colored pencil on paper, mounted on
linen.

Scope and Contents

CHD, architect.

Jersey City Library, competition entry. Front elevation.,
1897 drawer
179a

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Ink on paper.

Jersey City Library, competition entry. Floor plans., 1897 drawer
179a

Physical Description: 2 items

Scope and Contents

Ink on paper.

Library, unidentified location. Presentation drawing,
perspective., circa 1890s box 2

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Printed paper.

Scope and Contents

With business card for Frederick B. Whyte, architect.

Subseries B: Specifications

Scope and Contents

Materials for the Henry T. Lilliendahl residence in Jersey City.

Title/Description	Instances
Lilliendahl, Henry T., residence. Jersey City, NJ. Specifications for carpenter's labor and materials., undated <u>Physical Description</u> : 21 pages	box 2
Scope and Contents	
Typescript carbon, with ink annotations.	
Lilliendahl, Henry T., residence. Jersey City, NJ. Specifications for mason's labor and materials., undated <u>Physical Description</u> : 10 pages	box 2
Scope and Contents	
Typescript carbon, with ink annotations.	

Subseries C: Office Papers

Scope and Contents

Materials include Detwiller's architectural license and registration as well as the article of agreement for the Detwiller & Melendy firm.

Arrangement

These materials are arranged alphabetically.

Title/Description	Instances
Architectural license, State of New Jersey., 1902 Jul 05 <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 item	box 1
Scope and Contents	
Printed paper.	
Article of Agreement between Charles H. Detwiller and George E. Melendy., 1892 Oct 01 <u>Physical Description</u> : 3 pages	box 2
Scope and Contents	
Typescript carbon, signed.	

Scope and Contents

Establishes a co-partnership between Detwiller and Melendy for period of one year and seven months.

Butler, W. F. Ventilation of Buildings. New York: D. Van Nostrand., 1885 box 3

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Bound volume.

Scope and Contents

Inscribed by CHD March 1886. Van Nostrand was a Jersey City neighbor and friend of CHD.

New Jersey State Board of Architects, architectural registration card., 1931 Jun 04 box 2

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Printed paper.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Personal Papers

Subseries A: Childhood Drawings

Scope and Contents

Materials include two sketchbooks and loose drawings done between 1874-1879.

Arrangement

These materials are arranged chronologically.

Title/Description	Instances
-------------------	-----------

[Sailing Ship.], 1874 Nov 16	box 1
------------------------------	-------

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Graphite on paper.

Scope and Contents

Inscription and date on verso.

Drawing Book #1., 1874 Dec-circa 1875 box 3

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Bound sketchbook, with brown marbled cover.

Scope and Contents

Includes drawing exercises of such subjects as New York Harbor and Newark Bay scenes, sailing ships, animals, and the Detwiller residence in Jersey City, NJ.

Drawing Book #2., 1876 Dec-circa 1879 box 3

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Bound sketchbook, with green marbled cover.

Scope and Contents

Includes Declaration of Independence, sailing ships, plans of Detwiller residence, Jersey City, NJ.

Central Railroad of New Jersey, Engine no. 96., 1879 drawer

Physical Description: 1 item

179a

Scope and Contents

Graphite on paper.

Subseries B: Diaries

Title/Description	Instances
Brief diary., 1876-1887	box 3
<u>Physical Description</u> : 1 item	
Scope and Contents	
Bound diary.	
Scope and Contents	
Includes entries about Columbia classes, pleasure activities, newsworthy events, and opening of Brooklyn (East River) Bridge in 1883.	

Subseries C: Memorabilia

Title/Description	Instances
Charles H. Detwiller on horse, "Dexter.", circa 1880	box 2
<u>Physical Description</u> : 1 item	

Scope and Contents

Gelatin silver photographic print.

Travel sketch, Sugar Mill Ruin, New Smyrna, Florida.,
circa 1890-1910 box 1

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Watercolor on paper.

Scrapbook., circa 1875-1940 box 1

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Bound scrapbook.

Scope and Contents

Includes letterhead for Detwiller & Melendy;
article about Jersey City Woman's Club, designed
by Detwiller; wedding and social invitations and
notices, obituaries, Columbia University ephemera.

Detwiller & Street. Price List of the Brilliant Excelsion
Fireworks., circa 1883-1885 box 1

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Cyanotype on paper.

Scope and Contents

Includes view of Brooklyn Bridge opening
celebration fireworks display on last page.

Detwiller, Jacob J., Residence. Danforth Avenue,
Greenville [Jersey City], New Jersey., circa 1890-1910 box 1

Physical Description: 1 item

Scope and Contents

Sepia albumen print on paper.

Scope and Contents

With manuscript note, "Old Detwiler Homested,
Danforth Ave., Green Ville, NJ. (now part of Jersey
City). Picture taken about 1880-1900. J. J. Detwiller

on porch. Tower was lookout to "The Bay." Later
contained mineral collection.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)