

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION  
ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # \*89 M 31

Location 5-c-6

Title SCHOLER, GUSTAV (1851-1928). PAPERS.

Approximate inclusive dates 1855-1929; bulk dates, 1887-1920

Date of receipt December 1929; 1935..

Received from Emma Scholer (Mrs. Gustav Scholer)  
via Richard Helbig

Volume on arrival unknown

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 4 AB, 2 FB, 1 photo FB, 1 flat package, ½ AB (restricted)  
(3 l.f.)

Condition Fair. Some material is brittle. Newspaper clippings should be photocopied.  
Many photographs are mounted to acidic board.

Restrictions Patient records/correspondence less than 75 years old are closed.

Description

See attached sheets

Special Formats  Photographs  Maps  Audio Tapes  Films  Graphics  
 Artifacts  Machine-readable records  
 Other (list) \_\_\_\_\_

Temporary catalog card added entries

See attached sheet

Accessioned by CF

Date March 28, 1989

## GUSTAV SCHOLER PAPERS

### Biographical Note

Gustav Scholer (1851-1928) was a German-American physician who served as coroner of the City of New York. He was born in Germany, the son of Jacob Scholer, June 25, 1851. Jacob, who had been imprisoned for his revolutionary activities in 1848 and 1849, immigrated to the United States in 1853, attaining U.S. citizenship in 1860. Gustav, however, was not allowed to accompany him, as he suffered in 1853 from measles. He remained, instead, in Baden, until 1865, when he then immigrated to the United States. He was naturalized in 1872, when he turned 21 years of age.

Soon after his arrival in America, Gustav began work at his father's printing shop at 8 Eldridge Street on the Lower East Side of New York. He attended the Wilson and Kellogg Mathematical and Classical School and became a master of physical culture at the New York Turn Verein, a German-American organization with which he maintained a lifelong association. He may also have worked for a period in the millinery business. Eventually, he attended Columbia College and the Medical College of New York University, from which he graduated in 1885.

Sometime after receiving his medical degree, he began a private practice, which he operated out of his home, first at 311 West 48th Street and after 1906 at 10 Jumel Terrace. He also worked for various hospitals and held public health positions. From 1887 to 1901, he was an examining surgeon for the U.S. Bureau of Pensions. He was appointed a deputy coroner in 1886 and in 1902 was chosen coroner, a post he held until 1905. As coroner, he supervised the temporary morgue that accommodated the more than 1,000 victims of the General Slocum Steamboat Disaster in June 1904.

Scholer was also the director of the Washington Heights Hospital and served as an ambulance surgeon for that institution as well as for Bellevue Hospital. He specialized in the treatment of nervous diseases and insanity and served as a member of the Board of Managers of Manhattan State Hospital (now Manhattan Psychiatric Center), Ward's Island, from 1908 until his death. He was secretary of the Board of Managers for the last 17 years of his service. He traveled extensively in Europe and the United States, visiting institutions for the insane.

He was active in many German-American and civic organizations. Some of these were: the New York Turn Verein; the Arion Society of New York, of which he was president; the Verein der Deutschen Patrioten von 1848-1849; the Carl Schurz Monument Unveiling Committee, of which he was chairman; the German Republican County Committee, of which he was president; the West-Side Taxpayers' Association; and the National Liberal Immigration League. He also participated in relief efforts on behalf of German and Austrian civilians at the beginning of World War I, although he served as a contract surgeon in the U.S. Army once the United States entered the war.

Because of the anti-German sentiment engendered by the war and his own advanced age and ill health, Scholer was less influential in New York City affairs in the 1920s. He remained, however, revered in the German-American community. He died at his Jumel Terrace home at the age of 77, December 1, 1928.

SOURCES: The collection; New Yorker Staats-Zeitung (December 2, 1928); New Yorker Herold (December 3 and 4, 1928); Trow's New York City Directory (1879)

## GUSTAV SCHOLER PAPERS

### Description

The papers of Gustav Scholer span the years 1855 to 1929, with gaps, the bulk being from 1887 to 1920. They consist of handwritten, typewritten, and printed documents, including correspondence, minutes, reports, certificates, medical records, notebooks, leaflets, newspaper clippings, writings, photographs, and artifacts. Most of the papers are Gustav's professional and social papers, which document his work as a physician and his participation in German-American societies. There are also a very few of Jacob Scholer's papers, which are among the earliest documents in the collection, and organizational records of the Verein der Deutschen Patrioten von 1848-1849. Much of the collection is in German, some of it in German script. The rest is mainly in English. There are a few odd documents in Eastern European languages.

The collection is organized into twelve series as follows:

#### I) Letters, 1870-1929, n.d. (with gaps)

These are letters received by Scholer and some replies, arranged chronologically. Many are written to and by Scholer in his capacity as coroner and as a manager of Manhattan State Hospital. Others relate to his organizational activities, in particular, the Carl Schurz Monument Unveiling Committee, the National Liberal Immigration League, and efforts to aid Germans and Austrians during World War I. A signed typed letter from William McKinley dated July 17, 1896, prior to his election to the presidency, thanks Scholer for the support of the German Republican County Committee. There is one lengthy letter in German script that postdates Gustav's death.

#### II) Coroner Records, 1886-1905

These are records kept by Scholer while he served as deputy coroner and coroner of the City of New York. There are autopsy reports, clippings, letters, and unclaimed effects of diseased individuals.

#### III) Manhattan State Hospital Records, 1908-1923

These include:

- a) Minutes of Regular Meetings of the Board of Managers, 1908-1918
- b) Accident Reports, 1911-1914, 1916-1919, which are reports of accidents and deaths of staff members and patients at the facility.
- c) Typhoid Epidemic Reports, 1917, which are reports issued concerning the epidemic at the hospital
- c) Assorted Documents, 1909-1923, which comprise certificates of lunacy, budget statistics, and legal documents.

#### IV) U.S. Bureau of Pensions Records, 1887-1901

These are manuscript books of statistics on U.S. servicemen compiled by Scholer from physical examinations. They include the serviceman's name, company, regiment, residence, pension status, vital information, and comments. There is a name guide to some of the books.

GUSTAV SCHOLER PAPERS

Description, continued

V) Vital Records, 1890-1923

These include:

- a) Birth Certificate Stubs, 1890-1902
- b) Death Certificate Stubs, 1890-1923

These stub booklets are Scholer's records of certificates issued as attending physician.

VI) Other Medical Records & Papers, ca. 1883, 1920-1928

These include:

- a) Medical School Notebook, ca. 1883, which contains Gustav's notes from classes at New York University Medical School
- b) Physician's Record of Prescriptions, 1920-1922, a book kept by Scholer in compliance with the National Prohibition Act. It includes the names of individuals and the drugs and spirits prescribed to them.
- c) Notes for Nursing Lectures on Mental & Nervous Diseases, 1924-1928, which are Scholer's notes for lectures given at Columbus Hospital (now Cabrini Medical Center). There are also some sample examinations.

VII) New York Turn Verein Papers, 1855-1924

These include Scholer's correspondence and papers as a member of the organization. There are also pages of a scrapbook regarding Franz Sigel and the founding and history of the Turn Verein. The latter includes a draft charter, letters, clippings, and photographs.

VIII) Societies & Clubs, 1870-1918, and Jacob Scholer's Papers, 1858, 1860, n.d.

These are papers related to Gustav's membership in various organizations. Included are papers pertaining to the Erste Carneval Sitzung of the Arion Society in 1914. Jacob's few papers relate mainly to German-American societies.

IX) Verein der Deutschen Patrioten von 1848-1849, 1882-1914

These records include:

- a) Minutes, 1893-1911
- b) Membership Records, 1883-1885, 1889, 1893-1907
- c) Cash Book, 1874-1911
- d) Day Book & Account of Death Fund, 1897-1910
- e) Other Records, 1882-1910

GUSTAV SCHOLER PAPERS

Description, continued

X) Writings & Transcripts, 1886, 1910, n.d.

This series includes the following:

- a) "U.S. Polaris Expedition nach dem Nordpol, July 3, 1871-September 30, 1873. Aus hinterlassenen Schriften von Dr. Joseph B. Mauch gesammelt von Dr. Gustav Scholer."
- b) "Notes by J. B. Mauch on Professor Sands's lectures on surgery," 1886.
- c) Abstract of a manuscript of Dr. Joseph B. Mauch, written by Lt. Alois Fischer and Dr. Gustav Scholer on board the steamer Friedrich der Grosse in route from New York to Europe, June 11-25, 1910.
- d) "Das Leben der Esquimaux."

XI) Photographs, ca. 1904-1916

There are photographs of disasters Scholer attended as coroner, including the General Slocum Steamship Disaster, as well as ones of the Washington Heights Ambulance Service, New York Turn Verein members, nurses at Staten Island, Manhattan State Hospital, Scholer at the morgue, and Franz Sigel's birthplace in Germany.

XII) Printed Matter, various dates

This includes handbills, concert programs, public health literature, newspaper clippings, and other printed ephemera.

GUSTAV SCHOLER PAPERS

Container List

<u>Container</u>	<u>Contents</u>
Box 1	I) Letters, 1870-1913
Box 2	I) Letters, 1914-1929, n.d. II) Coroner Records, 1886-1904
Box 3	II) Coroner Records, 1905 III) Manhattan State Hospital Records IV) U.S. Bureau of Pensions Records V) Vital Records
Box 4	VI) Other Medical Records & Papers VII) New York Turn Verein Papers VIII) Societies & Clubs and Jacob Scholer's Papers X) Writings & Transcripts
Box 5	IX) Verein der Deutschen Patrioten
Box 6	X) Photographs
Box 7	XII) Printed Matter
package	X) Photographs
restricted box	Closed Papers removed from series I, III, and VI