

Haverford College Library
Special Collections

Finding Aid for the RICHARD MEAD ATWATER PAPERS,
1862-1922

Collection No. 950

Ca. 20 items

©April, 2001

Gift of Sarah A.G. Smith, December, 1982

RESTRICTIONS

No restrictions

RELATED MATERIALS

Papers of Edward Wanton Smith, coll. no. 955.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Richard Mead Atwater (1844-1922) was the son of Stephen Atwater and Mary Weaver, both of whom were Quaker. R.M. Atwater graduated from Brown University in 1865, later received an M.A. He then worked for Robert Pearsall Smith in his glass company. In 1867, he m. Abby Sophia Greene (1844-1935) with whom he had 9 children. Atwater continued in business manufacturing chemical glassware and patented some related articles for the chemical trade. He studied glass manufacture in Europe. He worked for the Semet Solvay Company for eight years, then took up business in Paris, where he developed a friendship with the artist, Ogden Wood. He and Sophia traveled across Europe, and returned back to the U.S. in 1906 to live in Brandywine, PA and vacationing at Sea Isle.

(Information from: Richard Mead Atwater and Abby Sophia Green Atwater. [Jamestown, R. I. : Atwater Family Reunion, 1978])

SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

Biographical and autobiographical information relating to Richard Mead Atwater (), including a diary kept while he was a student at Providence Friends School in 1862.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

1. "The Religious and Spiritual Experience", autobiographical remarks written in 1917; biographical sketch written for National Cyclopedia of American Biography, 1899.
2. Club memberships of R.M. Atwater and letters re, including one by Caroline Hazard. 6 items.
3. Diary, 1862, of R.M. Atwater during senior year at Providence Friends Boarding School.
4. Letters re Brown University from which R.M. Atwater graduated in 1865 including from Caroline Hazard, W.H.P. Faunce (pres., Brown U.), William R. Harper (pres., U. of Chicago) and a printed letter from J.G. Whittier favoring coeducation at Brown (1881).

MATERIALS REMOVED

Removed to Quaker Collection: Genealogy of Richard Mead Atwater and Abby Sophia Greene Atwater; Proceedings of the First Atwater Family Reunion - North Carolina Branch, with an article by R.M.A., "The Atwaters as Quakers", ca. 1920.