

**THE JOHN C. SCHWARTZ PAPERS**

(Mss 385, 4732)

Inventory

Compiled by

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Louisiana and lower Mississippi Valley Collections  
Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library  
Louisiana State University Libraries  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Revised by Tara Zachary, 2000

Revised by Rose Tarbell, 2005

**Summary**

- Size:** 6,885 items, 66 manuscript volumes, and ca. 2.5 linear feet.
- Geographic locations:** Natchez, Mississippi
- Inclusive dates:** 1810, 1848-1932
- Bulk dates:** 1865-1911
- Languages:** English
- Summary:** Manuscript volumes, receipts, correspondence, and legal papers pertaining to the business interests of John C. Schwartz, hardware store and property owner and merchant of Natchez.
- Related collection:** Robert H. Stewart Family Account Books (Mss 404)
- Copyright:** Physical rights are retained by the LSU Libraries. Copyright of the original materials is retained by the creators, or their descendants, of the materials in accordance with U.S. copyright law.
- Citation:** John C. Schwartz Papers, Mss 385, 4732, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, LSU Libraries, Baton Rouge, La.
- Stack location:** A:19-21; J:20-23; R:22, 26; Mss.Mf:S

**Biographical/Historical Note**

J.C. (John Conrad) Schwartz immigrated to America from Prussia in 1839, arriving in Baltimore. He made his way to Natchez, Mississippi, where, in 1863, he purchased a hardware business from Armand Perault, though he had apparently been in Natchez before then. Schwartz married Katherine Eisenhart, also an immigrant from Prussia. He operated the store until his retirement in 1890, at which time he left the business to his son John Edward Schwartz and his son-in-law, Robert Percy Schwartz. He was also president of the Rosalie Cotton Mills, vice-president of the NJ&CRR (probably the Natchez-Jackson and Clinton or Columbus Railroad), and a leader in the community. He also owned land and buildings in Natchez.

After J.C. Schwartz's retirement, the firm's name was changed to Schwartz and Stewart. After John Edward Schwartz's death in 1909, Robert Percy Stewart and his son William Percy Stewart continued to operate the firm under the name Schwartz and Stewart.

**Scope and Content Note**

The collection consists chiefly of manuscript volumes, including 2 cashbooks (1875-1881), 25 daybooks (1865-1891), 12 invoice books (1867-1895), 4 ledgers (1871-1890), and 10 letter books (1885-1898). Unbound materials include correspondence, printed items, legal papers, financial records, and miscellaneous items. Letters are mainly from suppliers of hardware merchandise regarding selection, orders, quotes, and soliciting business. In addition to standard letters, postcards acknowledging receipt of payment and soliciting business are also present. Printed items include price lists and other advertisements, as well as a section from the Natchez Democrat (Jan. 2, 1923) about the history of John C. Schwartz and his businesses. Miscellaneous materials include notes, lists, and orders. Legal papers are comprised of judgments, licenses, deeds of land, and contracts related to Schwartz's acquisitions of land and other businesses. Deeds of Maria Becker and Margaret Postlethwaite (1857-1858) are also included. Financial records include receipts, freight records, and records of cash disbursements (recorded on re-used envelopes). Miscellaneous items within financial records are promissory notes and statements of account. Post-1890 materials within these series are for the firm Schwartz and Stewart.

Volumes 2A, 3A, 30, 39A and 42 available on microfilm at MssMf:S.

**List of Series**

- I. Cashbooks, 1875-1881
- II. Daybooks, 1865-1891
- III. Invoice books, 1867-1895
- IV. Ledgers, 1871-1890
- V. Letter books, 1885-1898
- VI. Correspondence, 1810, 1865-1912, n.d.
- VII. Printed Items, 1872-1932, n.d.
- VIII. Miscellaneous, 1884-1888, n.d.
- IX. Legal papers, 1848, 1852-1888, 1909-1910
- X. Financial Records, 1864-1929

Note: Thirteen volumes and ca. 2 linear feet of materials were added in 1998 to the original donation made in 1936. The 13 volumes were integrated into the existing volume numbering and arrangement. The loose materials from the original donation are filed chronologically and all formats are interfiled. They are located on A:19-21 in 3 boxes. The loose materials received in 1998 were organized into series (correspondence, printed items, miscellaneous, and financial records) and are contained therein.

**Index Terms**

Stewart, R. H., merchant.  
Schwartz, John C.  
Hardware stores--Mississippi--Natchez.  
Merchants--Mississippi--Natchez.  
Stores, Retail--Mississippi--Natchez.  
Natchez (Miss.)--History.

Cashbooks.  
Daybooks.  
Invoices.  
Ledgers.  
Bills of lading.  
Postcards.

**Container List**

<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folders</u>	<u>Description</u>
A:19	1	1-19	Loose items: letters, receipts, orders, price lists, freight receipts, bills of lading and hardware advertisements, 1859-1877.
A:20	2	20-37	Same as above, 1878-1888
A:21	3	38-44	Same as above, 1888-1897

**Series I. Cashbooks, 1863-1881**

J:23	1A	1863-1898	“Receipts in business of J.C. Schwartz.” Details of a stock buyout of A. Perrault, 3/31/1863 and subsequent purchases of cemeteries; list of cash receipts, 3/31/1863 to 10/6/1898; final entry made in red: “Yellow Fever in Natchez.” Formerly Schwartz & Stewart (Mss 4732) ledger 15.
J:23	1B	1864-1875	Includes daily sales, cash receipts, and price lists. Formerly Schwartz & Stewart (Mss 4732) ledger 4.
J:20	1	1875-1877	Cash paid out for expenses, including insurance, labor and journeyman.
J:20	2	1876-1881	Cash collections and sales; also store building expenses

**Series II. Daybooks, 1859-1891**

J:23 Mf:S	2A	1859-1868	Includes list of costs and selling prices of plows and accounts payable; daily sales of candy store (1859-1860); lists division and sale by customer name of hogsheads of sugar, tobacco, and coffee (1862-1863); accounts of merchandise bought from suppliers and manufacturers (1864-1865). Formerly Schwartz & Stewart (Mss 4732) ledger 17.
J:23	1B	1864-1875	Includes daily sales, cash receipts, and price lists. Formerly Schwartz & Stewart (Mss 4732) ledger 4.

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<u>Stack Location</u>	<u>Volume No.</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>
J:20	3	1865-1866	Daily sales and cash receipts.
J:23 Mf:S	3A	1867-1868	Daily sales and cash receipts. Formerly Schwartz & Stewart (Mss 4732) ledger 7.
J:20	4	1868-1869	Daily sales and cash receipts
J:23	4A	1869-1870	Daily sales and cash receipts. Formerly Schwartz & Stewart (Mss 4732) ledger 6.
J:23	4B	1870	Daily sales and cash receipts. Formerly Schwartz & Stewart (Mss 4732) ledger 9.
J:20	5	1875-1876	Daily sales and cash receipts
J:23	5A	1875-1876	Daily sales and cash receipts Formerly Schwartz & Stewart (Mss 4732) ledger 16.
J:20	6	1876-1877	Daily sales and cash receipts
J:20	7	1879-1880	Daily sales and cash receipts
J:20	8	1880	Daily sales and cash receipts
J:20	9	1880-1881	Daily sales and cash receipts
J:20	10	1881-1882	Daily sales and cash receipts
J:20	11	1882	Daily sales and cash receipts
J:20	12	1882	Daily sales and cash receipts
J:20	13	1882-1883	Daily sales and cash receipts
J:20	14	1883	Daily sales and cash receipts
J:20	15	1883-1884	Daily sales and cash receipts
J:20	16	1884	Daily sales and cash receipts
J:20	17	1884-1885	Daily sales and cash receipts
J:20	18	1881	Daily sales and cash receipts
J:20	19	1887	Daily sales and cash receipts
J:20	20	1887-1888	Daily sales and cash receipts
J:20	21	1888	Daily sales and cash receipts
J:20	22	1889	Daily sales and cash receipts
J:20	23	1889-1890	Daily sales and cash receipts
J:20	24	1890	Daily sales and cash receipts

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J:20	25	1890	Daily sales and cash receipts
J:20	26	1890-1891	Daily sales and cash receipts
J:21	27	1891	Daily sales and cash receipts

**Series III. Invoice books, 1867-1895**

J:21	28	1867-1875	Invoices for store merchandise from suppliers.
J:21	29	1880-1882	Invoices for store merchandise from suppliers.
J:23	29A	1884-1885	Shipping receipts pasted into a ledger book. Formerly Schwartz & Stewart (Mss 4732) ledger 5.
J:21 Mf:S	30	1885-1886	Receipts for goods received by Schwartz. Includes notation of vessel shipped on, description of goods, for which customer, and where they lived.
J:23	30A	1886	Shipping receipts pasted into a ledger book. Formerly Schwartz & Stewart (Mss 4732) ledger 1.
J:21	31	1887-1888	Invoices for store merchandise from suppliers.
J:23	31A	1888-1889	Includes alphabetical list of suppliers. Formerly Schwartz & Stewart (Mss 4732) ledger 18.
J:21	32	1889-1890	Invoices for store merchandise from suppliers.
J:21	33	1890	Invoices for store merchandise from suppliers.
J:21	34	1890-1891	Invoices for store merchandise from suppliers.
J:21	35	1891-1892	Invoices for store merchandise from suppliers.
J:22	36	1892-1893	Invoices for store merchandise from suppliers.
J:22	37	1893-1894	Invoices for store merchandise from suppliers.
J:22	38	1894	Invoices for store merchandise from suppliers.
J:22	39	1894-1895	Invoices for store merchandise from suppliers.

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**Series IV. Ledgers, 1871-1890**

J:23 Mf:S	39A	1852-1891	“Account Book of J.C. Schwartz 1860.” Alphabetical list of accounts receivable, 1852 to 1891. Formerly Schwartz & Stewart (Mss 4732) ledger 13.
J:22	40	1871-1872	Daily sales.
J:22	41	1871-1891	Daily sales.
J:22 Mf:S	42	1880	Customer accounts and daily sales; includes index.
J:22	43	1881-1890	Customer accounts and daily sales

**V. Letterbooks, 1885-1898**

J:23	43A	1875-1877	Accounts and copies of letters to merchandise suppliers. Formerly Schwartz & Stewart (Mss 4732) ledger 14.
J:22	44	1885-1886	Copies of letters to merchandise suppliers.
J:22	45	1886-1887	Copies of letters to merchandise suppliers.
J:22	46	1887-1888	Copies of letters to merchandise suppliers.
J:22	47	1891-1892	Copies of letters to merchandise suppliers.
J:22	48	1891-1892	Copies of letters to merchandise suppliers.
J:22	49	1892-1893	Copies of letters to merchandise suppliers.
J:22	50	1894	Copies of letters to merchandise suppliers.
J:22	51	1894-1895	Copies of letters to merchandise suppliers.
J:22	52	1895	Copies of letters to merchandise suppliers.
J:22	53	1897-1898	Copies of letters to merchandise suppliers.

**VI. Correspondence, 1810, 1865-1912, n.d.**

R:26	1	1-21	Letters from suppliers and buyers, 1810, 1865- 1912, n.d.
R:22	1	na	Postcards, 1870-1911

**VII. Printed Items, 1872-1932, n.d.**

R:26	1	22-23	Advertisements and price lists, 1871-1932, n.d.
OS:S	na	Folder 1	<i>Natchez Democrat</i> , January 2, 1923. The Assistant Buyer advertisement, n.d. (2 items)

**VIII. Miscellaneous, 1884-1888, n.d.**

R:26	1	24	Notes, lists, requests for orders,
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**IX. Legal papers, 1848, 1852-1888, 1909-1910**

R:26	1	25	Includes judgments, licenses, deeds, contracts regarding Schwartz's acquisition of land and businesses, 1848 and 1852-1888, 1909-1910
OS: S		Folder 2	Deeds of Maria Becker and Margaret Postlethwait, 1857-1858

**X. Financial Records, 1864-1929, n.d.**

R:26	1	26-35	Receipts, statements, and invoices for merchandise purchased for the store, 1864-1874.
R:26	2	1-18	Receipts, statements, and invoices for merchandise purchased for the store, 1875-1929, n.d.
R:26	2	19-45	Freight records, 1866-1888
R:26	2	46	Financial records – Misc., 1848, 1857-1886, n.d.
R:22	2	na	Cash disbursement notes, 1890, 1894, 1900-1903
OS:S	Na	Folder 3	Freight records, 1881-1886
J:23	Vol.54		Freight records volume, 1881, 1883-1885

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**List of Microfilmed Volumes**

Location: Mf:S

Reel 1          Volumes 2A, 3A, 30, 39A and 42