

**HART, EDWARD, PAPERS,
ca. 1914-1922 (bulk undated)**

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LAFAYETTE COLLEGE**

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The following is paraphrased and quoted from Roger A. Egolf, "The History of Chemical Education at Lafayette College," *Bull. Hist. Chem*, 30.1 (2005): 45-46.

Edward Hart was born in Doylestown, PA, on November 18, 1854. Hart came to Lafayette in 1874 as Prof. Thomas Messinger Drown's assistant in chemistry. Hart had no undergraduate degree, but in 1874 Lafayette awarded him an honorary B.S. In 1875, he was appointed Tutor in Chemistry. From 1876 to 1878, he held a fellowship at Johns Hopkins, and in 1879 he was awarded that university's first Ph.D. in chemistry. Hart returned to Lafayette as Adjunct Professor of Chemistry in 1878 and was named Adamson Professor in 1882. In 1882, he founded the *Journal of Analytical and Applied Chemistry*; he was also editor of the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* from 1892 to 1901. Hart won the John Scott Medal of the Franklin Institute for the invention of a wax-lined bottle for storing hydrofluoric acid. He also invented the Hart condenser, used during World War I for condensing nitric acid. A low point in Hart's life and the College's occurred on June 4, 1879, when one of his students put a hot retort and oily coveralls into his lab drawer, causing the fire that destroyed Pardee Hall.

After his retirement from Lafayette in 1916, Hart became Vice-President and General Manager of the Clinchfield Products Company at Johnson City, TN. Returning to Easton in 1918, he founded Hart Laboratories. (Earlier, Hart had co-founded the Baker and Adamson Chemical Company.)

On the 50th anniversary of his association with Lafayette, Hart was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. Hart died in his home in Easton on June 6, 1931.

Hart published textbooks in Chemistry and in Chemical Engineering as well as numerous essays, including "Twenty-Five Year's [sic] Progress in Analytical Chemistry" (1894), "Random Recollections of an Old Professor" (1922), and "Three Men of Lafayette (Drs. Drown, Green, and McMurtrie) (1925). In 1980, Hart's son, George Hart, published *Edward Hart, A Biography: A Biographical Narrative of the Life and Times of Edward Hart: Chemist, Engineer, Educator, Philosopher*.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Hart papers (1 box; .25 linear ft.) consist of manuscripts of articles and speeches donated to the College by George Hart on December 2, 1980. While some documents date ca. 1914-1922, the bulk of the collection remains undated.

INVENTORY

Box 1 of 1

Folder

- 1 The Utilization of Waste, n.d.
- 2 The Printing Game, n.d.
- 3 Solution for College Funds, n.d. (during McCracken administration?)
- 4 Read before the Bethlehem Rotary Club, June 12, 1918
- 5 For the Burd School Meeting, 1921
- 6 Opening of Auto Show, n.d.
- 7 Philosophy, Rotary Club, n.d.
- 8 Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen of the Council, n.d. (wartime)
- 9 Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen of the Council [garbage collection], n.d. (wartime)
- 10 Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen of the Council [garbage collection], n.d. (wartime)
- 11 Address before the Chemical Society of Lafayette College, 1914-15
- 12 Introducing a Course of Lectures by E. C. Bingham, February 12, 1918
- 13 Early Forges and Furnaces of Pennsylvania, Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society, September 20, 1921
- 14 For School Bond Issue [12th Street High School?], n.d.
- 15 Unfinished—[Prussians], n.d. (wartime)
- 16 Old Time Farmers, Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society, December 15, 1921
- 17 [Pigs and the Kaiser], n.d. (wartime)
- 18 The Pennsylvania Counties, Bethlehem Thursday Evening Club, January 9, 1922
- 19 Opening Address, Northampton County Motor Club [taxes], February 21, 1922
- 20 The History of Chemistry (2nd lecture of series), December 6, 1921
- 21 More on Pigs—Very Funny!, Rotary, n.d.
- 22 The Story of a Sinner [autobiographical?], n.d.
- 23 [A Municipal Piggery] [report to some committee], n.d.
- 24 Scrap