

SCHUSTER

An English family of German origin. The founder of the Frankfurt mercantile family of Schuster was **Judel Joseph Schuster** (d. 1782), who started a cotton-goods business in 1750. It was enlarged by his son, **Samuel Judah**, who in 1786 established the firm of Gebrueder Schuster. By the time Samuel Judah's eldest son, **Joseph Samuel** (1785–1858), became the head of the firm, it was doing a considerable amount of trade with England, and violated the restrictions imposed by Napoleon when he occupied Frankfurt.

As a result of the penalties imposed, the Schusters decided to leave Germany. Two of Joseph Samuel's brothers, Leo and Samuel, emigrated to England in 1808, while the youngest brother **Henry** moved to Brussels, although his son **Louis** followed his uncles to England. Joseph Samuel stayed behind to wind up the business and in the event remained in Frankfurt and carried on Gebrueder Schuster as a banking house. Joseph Samuel's son, Francis Joseph Schuster (1823–1906), was a citizen of considerable standing in Frankfurt, where among his activities was directorship of the Municipal Bank. In 1869, not wishing to become a Prussian citizen after the city's annexation, he too decided to emigrate to England. Like his uncles before him, he started his new life in Manchester and then moved to London, where he became a partner in the firm of Schuster, Son and Co., merchants and bankers.

Francis Joseph's three sons were Ernest Joseph Schuster (1850–1924), Sir Arthur Schuster (1851–1934), a noted mathematical physicist, and Sir Felix Schuster (1854–1936; see below). It is not known if they abandoned Judaism before leaving Germany, but none of them had any connection with the Jewish community in England.

Ernest Joseph was a partner in the family firm for many years before becoming a member of the bar. He was an authority on international law and lectured for the Institute of Bankers and the London School of Economics.

Felix Schuster, the youngest of Francis Schuster's three sons, became a leading figure in British banking and played an important part in the direction of the country's finances during World War I. He joined the family firm at the age of 19 and was a partner at 24. Part of the business was taken over in 1887 by the Union of London and Smith's Bank, of which he was governor from 1895 until, in 1918, it merged with the National Provincial Bank. Sir Felix – he had been created a baronet in 1906 – became a director and one of the two alternating chairmen of the great new concern. Among the many public offices he held was membership of the Council of India (1906–16).

Another member of the family to achieve distinction was Claude Schuster, first baron Schuster (1869–1956), a grandson of Leo Schuster. A barrister educated at Winchester and Oxford, he was head of the legal branch of the Board of Education and several other governmental bodies, and from 1915 to 1944 was clerk of the crown in Chancery and permanent secretary to the Lord Chancellor. In 1944–47, he was head of the Allied Control Commission in Austria. He was knighted in 1913 and made a peer in 1944. Ernest Schuster's son, Sir George Ernest Schuster (1881–1982), educated at Charterhouse and Oxford, was a major figure in the British administration in India, serving as finance minister in the Viceroy's Council in 1928–34. From 1938 to 1945, he was a Liberal National member of Parliament. In 1961, he was one of the founders of Voluntary Service Overseas and was later involved in the creation of Atlantic College. His autobiography, *Private Work and Public Causes* (1979), appeared when he was 98.

Judel Joseph Scuster (d.1782 - 1750 set up a cotton business)

Samuel Judah Schuster (1786 - Gebrueder Schuster)

Joseph Samuel Schuster (1785-1858 - eldest son: trade with England) + brothers Leo & Samuel (to England 1808)
+younger brother **Henry** to Brussels (son was Louis)

+Joseph Samuel

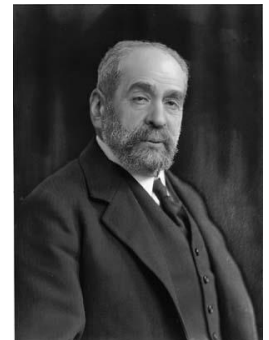
Leopold Schuster (1791-27 February 1871) was a German-born British cotton trader turned merchant banker. The son of a cotton merchant, he moved to England in 1808, and in 1820 formed the trading company Leo Schuster, Brothers & Co., cotton merchants based in Manchester, Bradford and Liverpool. In 1855 he moved to London, and formed the merchant bank *Schuster Sons & Co.* in Cannon Street, City of London. Through this he became involved in financing various railway ventures, and was Chairman of the London and Brighton Railway.

Sir Arthur Schuster (1851-1934) was born in Frankfurt on 12 September 1851. Following their marriage in 1849 his parents converted from Judaism to Christianity. Their 4 children were baptized in 1856 and brought up in that faith, although Arthur Schuster apparently had little subsequent interest in religion. In 1869 his father moved with his family to take up a position in the family textile business which had transferred to Manchester, then centre of the cotton trade. Professor of Physics at Manchester University from 1888 to 1907, was a scientist of wide repute, holding doctorates at Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester, St. Andrews, Heidelberg and Geneva. Born in Frankfurt, he became Secretary of the Royal Society and was knighted in 1920.

(v. Oxford DNB)



Sir Felix Schuster (1854-1936) was a British banker of London, member of the Council of India, chairman of the Central Association of Bankers, and was made a Baron in 1906. He was one of the leading financial experts of the time and wrote on banking and foreign trade. He also served on several government commissions. Amongst his many accomplishments, he took up mountaineering, and belonged to the generation of mountaineers which succeeded the pioneer climbers. He became a prominent official of the Alpine Club, visited the Alps regularly. Interestingly, Louis died in the Swiss Alps in 1882. (v. Oxford DNB)



Ernest Joseph Schuster (1850-1924). entered the family firm of Schuster, Son & Co, Bankers and Merchants, of Cannon Street, at the age of 27. But the Law appealed more to him and in 1889 he gained the degree of LL.D. at the University of Munich. In 1890 he was called to the Bar by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn. He acquired a practical and theoretical knowledge of Economics, giving lectures at the Institute of Bankers and the LSE. In 1922, he became K.C.

The SCHUSTER Pedigree

Juda Joseph SCHUSTER

born c. 1723

married Hebele Haas

died c. 1782

1 son Samuel Juda (1747-1805)

Samuel Juda SCHUSTER

born c.1747 • Frankfurt am Main, Hessen, Germany

marriage c. 1782 • Frankfurt am Main, Hessen, Germany, to Jette Hamburg (1753-1840)

died 17 Jan 1805 • Frankfurt am Main, Hesse, Germany

6 sons: Juda Samuel (1783-1838); Moritz Samuel (1788-1947); Joseph Samuel (1785-1858); Leopold (1792-26 Feb 1871, Surrey); **Henry** (16 Jan 1794-2 Jul 1872); Samuel (5 Feb 1805-29 Aug 1868, Lancs.).

Henry SCHUSTER

born 16 Jan 1794 • Frankfurt am Main, Hessen, Germany

marriage 27 Sept 1826 • Rotterdam to Paulina Henrica Levyssohn (1798-1827)

1 daughter Elizabeth born 1827

died 2 Jul 1872

marriage Adelaide Trostorff c.1834

1 son **Louis Schuster**

Juda Joseph SCHUSTER

Samuel Juda SCHUSTER

