



John Henry Bennett Papers, 1899-1991 SCHS 277.00

Creator: Bennett, John Henry

Description: 4 linear ft.

Biographical/Historical Note: Charleston, S.C. naval officer, forester, and writer. John Henry Bennett (1907-1969) was born in Charleston to the writer John Bennett (1865-1956) and Susan Smythe Bennett (1878-1965). He attended Exeter Academy (N.H.) and Yale University, and then worked for the U.S. Forest Service. During World War II he served in the U.S. Navy and afterwards worked at the Charleston Naval Base. He published one novel, "So Shall They Reap," in 1944.

General Note: Photographs have been removed to the SCHS photograph collection.

Scope and content: Papers consist chiefly of correspondence, the bulk of which (1922-1945) are letters from John Bennett (1865-1956) containing detailed descriptions of events in the Bennett household and in Charleston. Topics include family matters, social events, the arts, politics, and the elder Bennett's literary works and his relationship with the Poetry Society of South Carolina and other Charleston organizations. Forestry-related papers (1934-1940) illustrate John Henry Bennett's work in the U.S. Forest Service in Berkeley and McCormick counties in South Carolina. Other materials include artwork, clippings, ephemera, literary notes and drafts, photographs, and personal reminiscences.

Other members of the Bennett family represented in this collection include John Henry Bennett's mother, Susan Smythe Bennett, his sisters Susan Adger Bennett and Jane McClintock Bennett Wells, and his son, John H. Bennett, Jr. (1945-2000). Also included are reminiscences (ca. 1900) of Dr. William Harleston Huger (1826-1909) as told to Susan Smythe Bennett. Bennett family papers include transcriptions of song lyrics and music collected or composed by John Bennett, Sr. or other Bennett family members, including 19th century songs from Virginia and folk music.

Preferred Citation: Bennett, John, 1907-. John Henry Bennett papers, 1899-1991. (277.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Provenance: Gift of the estate of John H. Bennett, Jr., Harriett P. Rigney, Peter Wright, Alec Smythe, and Langdon Edmunds Opperman.

Detailed collection inventory:

Series outline:

Boxes 1-5

277.01: John Henry Bennett Papers

277.01.01 (C): Correspondence, 1907-65

Box 6

277.01.01 (E): Ephemera

277.01.01 (F): Forestry-related papers

277.01.01 (L): Literary materials

277.01.01 (M): Maps

Box 7

277.02: Bennett Family material

277.02 (C): Clippings

277.02 (E): Ephemera

277.02 (P): Photographs

277.02 (S): Scrapbook, unidentified compiler

277.03: Papers of individual family members

277.03.01: John Bennett (1865-1956)

277.03.01 (A): Artwork

277.03.01 (G): Genealogical Chart

277.03.01 (L): Literary materials

277.03.01 (R): Reminiscences

277.03.02: Susan Smythe Bennett (1878-1965)

277.03.02 (E): Ephemera

277.03.02 (R): Reminiscences

277.03.03: Susan Adger Bennett

277.03.03 (C): Correspondence

277.03.03 (D): Diplomas

277.03.03 (E): Ephemera

277.03.04: Jane McClintock Bennett Wells

277.03.04 (A): Artwork

277.03.04 (R): Reminiscences

277.03.05: John H. Bennett, Jr. (1945-2000)

277.03.05 (C): Correspondence, 1973-1991

277.03.05 (N): Notes for a speech, 1974.

Container listing:

Box 1

277.01: John Henry Bennett Papers

277.01.01 Correspondence, 1907-1991

277.01.01 (C) 1907-17: Correspondence, 1907-17
277.01.01 (C) 1918-21: Correspondence, 1918-21
277.01.01 (C) 1922: Correspondence, 1922
277.01.01 (C) 1923: Correspondence, 1923
277.01.01 (C) 1924: Correspondence, 1924
277.01.01 (C) 1925: Correspondence, 1925

Box 2

277.01.01 (C) 1926: Correspondence, 1926
277.01.01 (C) 1927: Correspondence, 1927
277.01.01 (C) 1928: Correspondence, 1928

Box 3

277.01.01 (C) 1929: Correspondence, 1929
277.01.01 (C) 1930: Correspondence, 1930
277.01.01 (C) 1931: Correspondence, 1931
277.01.01 (C) 1933: Correspondence, 1933
277.01.01 (C) 1934: Correspondence, 1934

Box 4

277.01.01 (C) 1935: Correspondence, 1935
277.01.01 (C) 1936: Correspondence, 1936
277.01.01 (C) 1937: Correspondence, 1937

Box 5

277.01.01 (C) 1938: Correspondence, 1938
277.01.01 (C) 1939: Correspondence, 1939
277.01.01 (C) 1940: Correspondence, 1940
277.01.01 (C) 1942: Correspondence, 1942
277.01.01 (C) 1943: Correspondence, 1943
277.01.01 (C) 1944: Correspondence, 1944
277.01.01 (C) 1945: Correspondence, 1945
277.01.01 (C) 1946-57: Correspondence, 1946-65

Box 6

277.01.01 (E): Ephemera (re: Navy, Yale, College of Charleston, etc.)
277.01.01 (F): Forestry related papers, 1934-1940
277.01.01 (F) 01 (e): Employment papers, 1934, 1940
277.01.01 (F) 01 (r): Reports
277.01.01 (F) 01 (r) 1934: Report on Wambaw Purchase Unit, Berkeley County, 1934
277.01.01 (F) 01 (r) 1940: Reports of forest surveys in Georgia, 1940
277.01.01 (F) 01 (s): Survey, 1936-1937, of land use in McCormick County, Long Cane Unit
277.01.01 (L): Literary materials
277.01.01 (L) 01 (d): Literary draft: Typescript, ca. 100 pages with pencil annotations, of an unpublished novel variously titled "Outlaw Clan" or "Before the Tumult."
See John Bennett Papers, 21/166 through 171, for a complete drafts.

- 277.01.01 (L) 01 (n): Miscellaneous notes, for his historical fiction.
- 277.01.01 (L) 01 (v): Miscellaneous verse
- 277.01.01 (M): Maps
- 277.01.01 (M) 01 (1931) 01: "A familiar Map of portions of Orangeburg & Camden Districts compiled from Maps by Bull & De Brahm, 1757", etc. Drawn by John H. Bennett, 1931. Photocopy only. OVERSIZE.
- 277.01.01 (M) 01 (1931) 02: "Type Map of Wilderness Castle. A Jack-of-Land of about 9 Acres - Formerly part of the Mikell Tract - Now owned by John H. Bennett - James Island S.C. Outline from Plat by A.S.T. Stoney. Drawn by John H. Bennett - Oct. 1931. OVERSIZE.

Box 7

- 277.02 Miscellaneous Bennett Family Materials
- 277.02 (C): Clippings
- 277.02 (E): Ephemera
- 277.02 (P): Photographs (photocopies; originals removed to SCHS photograph collection)
- 277.02 (S): Scrapbook, unidentified compiler
- 277.03 Papers of Individual Family Members, Arranged by Material Type:**
- 277.03.01 John Bennett (1865-1956)
- 277.03.01 (A): Artwork
- 277.03.01 (A) 01: "Egyptian Hieroglyphics to accompany an article for St. Nick. But who was I to be writing about such a learned subject?"; Design for title "Porgy" (2 copies)
- 277.03.01 (A) 03: "Plat, accompanying Indenture made June 26th, 1779, between Col. William Thomson, The Ranger, of Amelia tp., Craven County, Orangeburg District, So. Ca., and Dr. Robert Pringle; conveying 700 acres of land on the North side of the Congaree River, near McCord's Ferry, & exhibiting the McCord Land." Copied by John Bennett, June 23d 1926. Blueprint copy only. OVERSIZE.
- 277.03.01 (A) 04: "Then the Lion leapt from a thorn-bush and sprang at the Unicorn, Who might there have been ended, being quite undefended, Not having re-fastened his horn." Large cut silhouettes of a lion and unicorn mounted on board, n. d. OVERSIZE.
- 277.03.01 (A) 05: "The Land of the Impossible": Large incomplete pen-and-ink illustration on board. Space for text is blocked, but not filled. OVERSIZE.
- 277.03.01 (G): Genealogical Chart, John Bennett (1865-1956), n. d. OVERSIZE.
- 277.03.01 (L): Literary materials
- 277.03.01 (L) 01 (c): "The Canter-Gallop Case" (literary typescript, n. d.)
- 277.03.01 (L) 01 (l): "Ye Very Ancient Ballad of ye Lily Mayde and ye Lyttle Taylor Boye," 1894 (photocopy).
- 277.03.01 (L) 01 (m): Miscellaneous literary materials
- 277.03.01 (L) 01 (n): Notes for literary projects:
- 277.03.01 (L) 01 (n) 01: Typescript notes on Colonial South Carolina
- 277.03.01 (L) 01 (n) 02: Typescript notes for work on Civil War story
- 277.03.01 (R): Reminiscences

“Notes taken while Father talked—February, 1948, S. A. B. & J. McC. W.” (5 p. typescript narrative of John Bennett’s life before 1899); Notes “As taken down by J. McC. W. (1 p. typescript narrative, re: smoking).

277.03.02 Susan Smythe Bennett (1878-1965)

277.03.02 (E): Ephemera

277.03.02 (R): Reminiscences

277.03.02 (R) 01: “Reminiscences of William Harleston Huger, M.D. taken down as he told them by Susan S. Bennett, ca. 1900” (4 p. typescript).

277.03.02 (R) 02: “The Casual Recollections of Susan Smythe Bennett begun on V-E Day 1945” (29 p. typescript); “Further Recollections” (12 p. typescript, July 1945).

277.03.03 Susan Adger Bennett:

277.03.03 (C): Correspondence, 1965-1981

277.03.03 (D): Diplomas (all OVERSIZE):

277.03.03 (D) 01: Susan Adger Bennett, from House in the Pines: completion of college preparatory course, 12 June 1928.

277.03.03 (D) 02: Susan Adger Bennett, from College of Charleston, BA, May 1934.

277.03.03 (D) 03: Susan Adger Bennett, from Rice Business College, 1 October 1935.

277.03.03 (D) 04: Susan Adger Bennett, from De Fabritiis Studio for Singers of Charleston, S.C.: Certificate of completion of the “Normal Course for Teacher of Singing,” 25 June 1942.

277.03.03 (E): Ephemera

277.03.04 Jane McClintock Bennett Wells:

277.03.04 (A): Artwork: Colored pen and magic marker drawing of “Oaxaca” (native Mexican. or Latin American figures) signed “Merry Christmas” by J. McC. B. Wells, 1980. OVERSIZE

277.03.04 (R): Reminiscences, 1978.

277.03.05 John H. Bennett, Jr. (1945-2000):

277.03.05 (C): Correspondence, 1973-91

277.03.05 (N): Notes for a lecture on S.C. writers, given at Univ. of South Carolina, 1973.

Note:

In his letters to his son, John Bennett (1865-1956) chastised John Henry for neglecting to date his letters. To aid the dating of his correspondence, therefore, the following is a list of addresses (by date range) of materials sent to John Henry Bennett. This list does not include brief vacations or other periods at home or visiting friends or relatives.

Aug. 1910	Many Pines, East Flat Rock, N.C.
July-Aug. 1917	“ “
July 1919	“ “
Aug. 1920	Camp Transylvania, Brevard, N.C.
July-Aug. 1921	“ “
Sept. 1922-June 1924	Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, N.H.
Jan. 1925-March 1930	Yale Univ., New Haven, Conn. (except June-Aug. 1929 c/o U.S. Forest Service Service, Lynchburg, Arcadia, and Natural Bridge, Va.)

March-May 1930	Yale Forestry Camp, Urania, Va.
June-July 1930	c/o E.A. Holbrook, Vanceborough, Maine.
Aug. (1930?)-Nov. 1933	USFS Witherby, S.C.
Dec. 1933-Jan. 1934	Columbia, S.C.
Aug. 1934	USFS Witherby, S.C.
Sept. 1934	USFS Atlanta, Ga.
Nov. 1934	USFS Newbern, N.C.
Jan.-Feb. 1935	USFS Fulton, Ala.
March 1935	USFS Grove Hill, Ala.
March-May 1935	USFS Andalusia, Ala.
May 1935-Aug. 1936	USFS Hot Springs, Ark.
Aug.-Nov. 1936	USFS Baton Rouge, La.
Dec. 1936-Jan. 1937	USFS Morganza, La.
July-Aug. 1937	USFS Greenwood, S.C.
Sept. 1937	USFS Bradley, S.C. and Columbia, S.C.
Sept. 1937	USFS Cleveland, Tenn.
Oct. 1937-Aug. 1938	USFS Columbia, S.C.
Aug. 1938	USFS Cleveland, Tenn.
Dec. 1939	USFS Tellico Plains, Tenn.
May-July 1943	NavResLab, Anacostia, Washington, D.C.
Oct.-Dec. 1944	NTS, Gulfport, Miss (from enlisted ranks to LTJG in Nov.)
Dec. 1944-Jan. 1945	Idn. Manager, 8ND, New Orleans, La.
Feb.-July 1945	Radio Mat'l Ofc, SupShips, Houston, Tx. (Brown Shipbuilding Co.)
Aug.-Oct. 1945	Naval Training Center (TTY School), San Diego, Ca.