



Century Club records, 1895-2016
SCHS Call # 278.00

Creator: Century Club (Charleston, S.C.)

Description: 4.5 linear ft. (11 boxes)

Biographical/Historical note: The Century Club of Charleston, S.C. was organized in early 1895 as the Woman's Reading Club, with the purpose of fostering discussions of literature, art, music, history, and current events. The name of the organization was changed to the Century Club in late 1896, following the example of the New Century Club of Philadelphia. Each year a theme was chosen and members presented papers at the club's monthly meetings from November through May. The club's yearbooks, published annually from 1895, include the titles of papers presented at its meetings. The club was active in promoting women's issues in early 20th century Charleston. It was a charter member of the South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs, which was organized in 1898, and the Charleston Federation of Women's Clubs, organized the following year. Louisa B. Poppenheim (1868-1957) figures prominently among the early records of the Century Club, having made important contributions to the development of each of these women's organizations.

Scope and content: Materials in this collection include administrative records (1895-2016), including a constitution, by-laws, minutes, president's reports, and a treasurer's book; a collection of papers presented at meetings (1931-1996); clippings; and commemorative essays and verse written for the club's anniversaries. Printed yearbooks (1895-1996) are also included.

Preferred citation: Century Club (Charleston, S.C.). Century Club records, 1895-1997. (278.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Note: Related photographs in SCHS visual materials collection.

Search terms:

Poppenheim, Louisa Bouknight, 1868-1957.
Century Club (Charleston, S.C.) -- Records and correspondence.
Book clubs -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Books and reading -- South Carolina -- Charleston -- Societies, etc.
Women -- South Carolina -- Charleston -- Books and reading.
Women -- South Carolina -- Charleston -- Intellectual life.
Women -- South Carolina -- Charleston -- Societies and clubs.
Charleston (S.C.) -- Intellectual life.
Clippings.
Essays.

Minutes.
Poems.
Reports.
Yearbooks.

Series Outline:

- 278.01: Administrative Records (in original order), 1895-1990*
- 278.01 (C): Constitution, By-Laws, and Names of Members through 1960 Box 1-3
- 278.01 (M): Minutes, 1895-1990
- 278.01 (P): President's Reports, 1898-1990 (incomplete) Box 4
- 278.01 (T): Treasurer's Book, 1943-60
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- 278.02: Items grouped by material type, 1905-97*
- 278.02 (A): Anniversary materials, 1905-95
- 278.02 (C): Clippings and Ephemera
- 278.02 (F): Federation of Women's Clubs
- 278.02 (P): Papers presented at meetings, 1931-96 Box 5
- 278.02 (Y): Yearbooks, 1895-1997 Box 6
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- 278.03: Items grouped by material type, 1930-2016*
- 278.03 (A): Agendas, Attendance Records and Annual Reports Box 7
- 278.03 (C): Constitution and Correspondence Box 7
- 278.03 (M): Membership, Minutes and Misc. Box 7-9
- 278.03 (P): Papers presented at meetings and Pres. Record Book Box 9-10
- 278.03 (R): Reciprocity Tea Records Box 10

Container listing:

278.01 Administrative Records

BOX 1

- 278.01 (C): Constitution, By-Laws, and Names of Members through 1960
- 278.01 (M): Minutes, 1895-1990
- 278.01 (M) 1895-1901: Minutes, 1895-1901
- 278.01 (M) 1901-8: Minutes, 1901-8
- 278.01 (M) 1908-18: Minutes, 1908-18
- 278.01 (M) 1918-24: Minutes, 1918-24

BOX 2

- 278.01 (M) 1924-35: Minutes, 1924-35
- 278.01 (M) 1935-44: Minutes, 1935-44
- 278.01 (M) 1944-52: Minutes, 1944-52
- 278.01 (M) 1952-65: Minutes, 1952-65

BOX 2a

- 278.01 (M) 1951-53: Minutes, 1951-53
- 278.01 (M) 1951-53: Minutes, 1965-67
- 278.01 (M) 1951-53: Minutes, 1967-70
- 278.01 (M) 1951-53: Minutes, 1970-73

BOX 3

- 278.01 (M) 1973-75: Minutes, 1973-75
- 278.01 (M) 1975-78: Minutes, 1975-78
- 278.01 (M) 1978-81: Minutes, 1978-81
- 278.01 (M) 1981-84: Minutes, 1981-84
- 278.01 (M) 1984-86: Minutes, 1984-86
- 278.01 (M) 1986-88: Minutes, 1986-88
- 278.01 (M) 1988-90: Minutes, 1988-90

BOX 4

- 278.01 (P): President's Reports, 1898-1990 (incomplete)
- 278.01 (T): Treasurer's Book, 1943-1960

278.02 Items arranged by material type

- 278.02 (A): Anniversary Materials (including essays, commemorative speeches, , etc.)
- 278.02 (A) 1905: 10th Anniversary
- 278.02 (A) 1908: "A History of the Century Club," by Mary B. Poppenheim, February 1908.
- 278.02 (A) 1916: 21st Anniversary (including "Century Club Limericks")
- 278.02 (A) 1920: "Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Century Club," by Louisa B. Poppenheim, May 1920.
- 278.02 (A) 1925: 30th Anniversary
- 278.02 (A) 1930: 35th Anniversary
- 278.02 (A) 1938: "The Century Club of Charleston," by Louisa B. Poppenheim, January 1938.
- 278.02 (A) 1975: 80th Anniversary: "A History of the Century Club of Charleston, S.C.," by Lucy Poulnot Burns, March 1975.
- 278.02 (A) 1985: "The Century Club of Charleston, S.C., the 90th Birthday: A Resume of Its First Years," by Jane Gaston Mahler, January 1985.
- 278.02 (A) 1995: Centennial Anniversary: Reports given by members during 1995-96 meetings recapping significant Century Club minutes and world events, 1895-1995.
- 278.02 (C): Clippings and Ephemera
- 278.02 (F) Federation of Women's Clubs (national, state, city): materials relating to the Century Club of Charleston, S.C.
- 278.03 (F) 01 (e): Ephemera
- 278.03 (F) 01 (s): Scrapbook: "County Council and Century Club of Charleston, S.C." (1954-56), submitted to the South Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs "Community Achievement Contest," 1956. OVERSIZE.

BOX 5

278.02 (P): Papers presented at meetings, 1931-1996
278.02 (P) 1930s: Papers, 1930s
278.02 (P) 1940s: Papers, 1940s
278.02 (P) 1950-60s: Papers, 1950s and 1960s
278.02 (P) 1970s: Papers, 1970s
278.02 (P) 1980-84: Papers, 1980-84
278.02 (P) 1985-87: Papers, 1985-87
278.02 (P) 1988: Papers, 1988
278.02 (P) 1989: Papers, 1989
278.02 (P) 1990: Papers, 1990
278.02 (P) 1991: Papers, 1991
278.02 (P) 1992: Papers, 1992
278.02 (P) 1993: Papers, 1993
278.02 (P) 1994: Papers, 1994
278.02 (P) 1995-96: Papers, 1995-96
278.02 (P) n. d.: Papers, undated

BOX 6

278.02 (Y): Yearbooks, 1895-1997 (Note: 1895 yearbook = cover only)

Century Club Records accrual, 2016

BOX 7

278.03 (A) 01: Agendas and attendance records, 1984-2009.
278.03 (A) 02: Annual reports, 1984-1994.
278.03 (C) 01: Constitution, 1970s.
278.03 (C) 02: Correspondence, 1974-1016. Includes a letter, 1994, from Margaret Thatcher's office.
278.03 (M) 01: Membership records, 1990s-2000s, including obituaries and biographical information.
278.03 (M) 02: Minutes, 1991-May 2006.

BOX 8

278.03 (M) 02: Minutes, October 2006-May 2016.
278.03 (M) 03: Miscellaneous items, including a club history, 1975; papers relating to Carolina Day, 1995-2006; a recipe for Century Club punch; a booklet (1992?), "Here and There," about the Guinea Health Project; a book of poems, "Reflections" (2000), by Miriam B. Keeler and George E. Keeler; and the Woman of the Year Award, 1978.

BOX 9

278.03 (M) 03: Miscellaneous items, including centennial celebration papers; and a 2016 financial report.
278.03 (P) 01: Papers presented at meetings, 2000-2016 (and undated).
278.03 (P) 02: President's record books, 1983-1996.

BOX 10

278.03 (P) 02: President's record book, 1996-1999.

278.03 (R) 01: Reciprocity Tea records, 1930-2014: includes a guest book, 1930-1998; notes; etc.

Photographs

Photographs of the Century Club's 90th anniversary celebration (1985) and centennial anniversary celebration (1995) were removed from this collection and cataloged separately.