



Poetry Society records, 1922-2004 SCHS 399.00

Creator: Poetry Society of South Carolina.

Description: 4.5 linear ft.

Biographical/Historical note: The Poetry Society of South Carolina was founded in 1921 by John Bennett (1865-1956), Hervey Allen (1889-1949), Dubose Heyward (1886-1940), Laura Bragg, Helen von Kolnitz Hyer, and Josephine Pinckney (1895-1957). Featuring lectures, poetry contests, and prizes, the Society helped to encourage South Carolina poets and to stimulate the Charleston Renaissance. Writers who have served as guest lecturers for the society include Gertrude Stein, Thornton Wilder, Sherwood Anderson, Robert Frost, and Carl Sandburg.

Scope and content: Records contain correspondence, administrative records, program material, and publications produced by the Poetry Society of South Carolina between 1922 and 2004. The bulk of the materials date from 1980-1999.

Clippings (1966-1994) consist of articles and other items announcing Poetry Society events, competitions, and lectures as well as items relating to South Carolina writers.

Correspondence (1940-2005) contains letters, cards, and other items to and from members of the Poetry Society in regard to the organization, finances, and membership of the Society. The administration of the Society is also documented by evolving editions of the Society's constitution and bylaws (1986-1999) as well as by executive board minutes (1965-1998), financial records and grant materials (1984-1997), and treasurers' reports (1986-2001). Membership materials (1982-2002) such as member lists and membership applications are also available.

Meeting minutes and notices (1983-2000) provide insight into the activities of the Society, as do materials related to the numerous annual prizes and competitions offered by the Society. Records relating to prizes and competitions (1922-2004) form the bulk of the collection and contain correspondence, submissions, and entry guidelines and rules related to annual competitions such as the Spring Forum as well as memorial prizes such as the John Andrew Hamilton Prize and the Kinloch Rivers Memorial Chapbook Competition. The Skylark Prize, a poetry competition for elementary and high school students named for John Bennett's book "Master Skylark" is also documented (1990-1998). Programs (1982-1998) contain both programs and agendas from Poetry Society events and correspondence and other materials

Publications consists of poetry collections and anthologies collected and published by the Poetry Society including "In Memory of John Henry Bennett, Jr. April 26, 1945-November 19, 2000" and "A Retrospective Reflecting More Than Seven Decades of Verse Honored by the Poetry Society of South Carolina (1996), the seventy-fifth anniversary anthology published by the Society. Drafts and correspondence regarding the publication of these anthologies is also

included. Poetry Society publications also include newsletters (1992-1998) and annual yearbooks (1971-2004) featuring prizewinning poems. The library has other Poetry Society yearbooks at PAM 811.06 1921-1970 (with a gap from 1934 to 1947). One scrapbook (1970-1972) has been disbound and contains clippings, meeting minutes, and competition information.

Preferred citation: Poetry Society of South Carolina. Poetry Society records, 1922-2004. (399.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Accession Note: Harriet Popham Rigney; gift; March 2005.

Search terms:

Bennett, John, 1865-1956.
Bennett, John Henry, 1945-2000.
Poetry Society of South Carolina.
Poetry Society of South Carolina -- Records and correspondence.
Arts -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Authors, American -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Poetry -- Competitions.
Poets -- South Carolina.
Charleston (S.C.) -- Intellectual life.
Clippings.
Financial records.
Letters (correspondence)
Minutes.
Poems.
Programs.

Series Outline:

399.01.(C) 01	Clippings
399.01.(C) 02	Constitution and Bylaws
399.01.(C) 03	Correspondence
399.01.(E) 01	Executive Board:
399.01.(E) 01.01	Minutes
399.01.(E) 01.02	Nominating Committee
399.01.(E) 01.03	Officers
399.01.(F) 01	Financial Records:
399.01.(F) 01.01	General
399.01.(F) 01.02	Grants
399.01.(F) 01.03	Treasurer's Reports
399.01.(M) 01	Meetings:
399.01.(M) 01.01	Minutes
399.01.(M) 01.02	Notices
399.01.(M) 02	Membership
399.01.(P) 01	Prizes and Competitions
399.01.(P) 02	Programs
399.01.(P) 03	Publications
399.01.(S) 01	Scrapbook [disbound]

399.01.(S) 02 South Carolina Academy of Authors
399.01.(M) 03 Miscellaneous

Container List:

Box 1:

399.01.(C) 01 Clippings, 1966-1994, n.d.
399.01.(C) 02 Constitution and Bylaws, 1986-1999, n.d.
399.01.(C) 03 Correspondence:
1940-1978
1983-1986
1989-1991
1992-1993
1994-1995
1996-2005, n.d.
399.01.(E) 01 Executive Board:
399.01.(E) 01.01 Minutes:
1965, 1985-1989
1990-1992
1993-1998
399.01.(E) 01.02 Nominating Committee, 1982-2001
399.01.(E) 01.03 Officers, 1990-2001

Box 2:

399.01.(F) 01 Financial Records:
399.01.(F) 01.01 General, 1984-1998
399.01.(F) 01.02 Grants, 1984-1997
399.01.(F) 01.03 Treasurer's Reports, 1986-2001
399.01.(M) 01 Meetings:
399.01.(M) 01.01 Minutes, 1983-1990
399.01.(E) 01.02 Notices, 1986-2000
399.01.(M) 02 Membership, 1982-2002, n.d.
399.01.(P) 01 Prizes and Competitions:
399.01.(P) 01.01 General, 1922-1998, n.d.
399.01.(P) 01.02 Autumn Competition, 1986-1993
399.01.(P) 01.03 Hamilton (John Andrew) Poetry
Prize:
1993
1995
399.01.(P) 01.04 News & Courier, Post & Courier
Prize, 1983-1993
399.01.(P) 01.05 Ravenel Travel Agency Prize, 1992-
1993
399.01.(P) 01.06 Rivers (Kinloch) Memorial
Chapbook Competition, 1993-2004
399.01.(P) 01.07 Rutledge, Archibald Prize, 1986-
1992

Box 3:

399.01.(P) 01.08 Skylark Prize, 1990-1998
399.01.(P) 01.09 Society Prize, 1996-1999
399.01.(P) 01.10 Spring Forum:

	399.01.(P) 01.10.01	General: 1957-1967 1968-1981 1984-1990 1991-1999
	399.01.(P) 01.10.02	Submissions
	399.01.(P) 01.11	Winter Competition, 1957-1996
	399.01.(P) 02	Programs:
	399.01.(P) 02.01	General: 1982-1988 1989-1999
Box 4:	399.01.(P) 02.02	Piccolo Spoleto, 1991-1998
	399.01.(P) 03	Publications:
	399.01.(P) 03.01	“A Conversation of Poets: Love”
	399.01.(P) 03.02	<i>In Memory of John Henry Bennett, Jr. April 26, 1945 – November 19, 2000</i>
	399.01.(P) 03.03	<i>A Mixture of Time: Anthology of Poetry by Kinloch Rivers, 1991</i>
	399.01.(P) 03.04	Newsletters, 1992-1998
	399.01.(P) 03.05	<i>Poems of An Octogenarian</i> , 1991, James Bliss Cartwright
	399.01.(P) 03.06	<i>A Retrospective Reflecting More Than Seven Decades of Verse Honored By the Poetry Society of South Carolina</i> , 1996:
	399.01.(P) 03.06.01	General
	399.01.(P) 03.06.01	Draft
	399.01.(P) 03.07	Yearbooks: 1971-1992 1993-1994 1995, 1998 1999-2000 2001-2002 2003-2004
Box 5:	399.01.(S) 01	Scrapbook [disbound]
	399.01.(S) 02	South Carolina Academy of Authors, Charleston Writer’s Conference, 1993-1998
	399.01.(M) 03	Miscellaneous