



Alice Ravenel Huger Smith papers, 1905-1974

SCHS 1173.00

Containers 21/48-56, 33/29, 42/221

Creator: Smith, Alice Ravenel Huger

Description: 6.5 linear ft.

Biographical/Historical Note: Charleston, S.C. artist and writer. Smith gained fame for her watercolor paintings of South Carolina lowcountry scenes. She was the daughter of Daniel Elliott Huger Smith (1846-1932), a Charleston cotton broker, author, and rice plantation owner whose books "The Dwelling Houses of Charleston" (1917) and "The Life of Charles Fraser" (1924) she co-authored and illustrated. She also illustrated "The Carolina Low-Country" and "A Carolina Rice Plantation of the Fifties" by Herbert Ravenel Sass. She died in 1958.

Scope and Content: Papers consist of artwork, writings, correspondence, notes, printed material, and other items.

Artwork (1905-1956) includes pencil drawings (oversized) of plantation houses and scenes, including drawings for "A Woman Rice Planter"; prints, including reproductions of some of Smith's watercolor paintings and drawings; and a portfolio of prints of her drawings of the Pringle House (Charleston, S.C.). Related items include notices of exhibitions, catalogs, and other printed material concerning Smith's work; photographs of her watercolors; notes on painting; and a volume containing an index of her works which were sold.

Writings (1917-1950) include Smith's reminiscences; drafts of articles on the artist Charles Fraser and the doors, gates, and stairways of Charleston; a manuscript of a children's story; galley proofs of Smith's "Dwelling Houses of Charleston," with related reviews, correspondence, and a scrapbook; and magazine articles by Smith.

Correspondence (1908-1958) concerns Smith's art and her many exhibitions, her writings, her interest in nature and the preservation of Charleston and lowcountry architecture, Charles Fraser, Charleston history, and other matters. Correspondents include R.T.H. Halsey of the Metropolitan Museum (New York, N.Y), Helen Hyde (etcher and wood-block printer), Bertha Jaques (etcher), Yates Snowden, Owen Wister, Elizabeth O'Neill Verner, various publishers, art dealers, galleries, and art associations, and many others. Included is a volume containing letters about "A Carolina Rice Plantation in the Fifties," a book illustrated by Smith.

Other items include copies of books which Smith illustrated or co-authored; lists of visitors to her Charleston studio; two artist's copybooks containing sketches and colored prints; Robert Cuthbert's research notes (1974) about her papers; and biographical material on Smith including a pamphlet, clippings, articles, and photographs.

Preferred Citation: Smith, Alice R. Huger, (Alice Ravenel Huger), b. 1876. Alice Ravenel Huger Smith papers, 1905-1974. (1173.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Search terms:

Fraser, Charles, 1782-1860.

Smith, Alice R. Huger (Alice Ravenel Huger), b. 1876.

Women artists -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
 Women authors, American -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
 Dwellings -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
 Plantation life -- South Carolina -- Pictorial works.
 Charleston (S.C.) -- History.
 Charleston (S.C.) in art.
 South Carolina -- History -- 1865-
 South Carolina in art.
 Clippings.
 Drafts (documents)
 Drawings.
 Letters (correspondence)
 Manuscripts.
 Photographs.
 Prints.
 Writings.
 Artists.
 Authors.

Container summary:

21/048	Outgoing letters, 1914-1954 (0.5 linear ft.)
21/048-051	Incoming letters, 1908-1950 (1.5 linear ft.)
21/057-059	Research notes and books, 1913-1974 (1.25 linear ft.)
21/055-056, 33/29, and 42/221	Artwork, 1905-1956 (ca. 3 linear ft.)

Detail Container listing:

21/48/1-49 Smith, Alice R.H., 1876-1958

Outgoing letters, 1914-1954. ½ ft.

Charleston artist. Outgoing letters (1914-1954) of A.R.H. Smith regarding her art, her many exhibitions and the publications of Dwelling Houses of Charleston and many other articles and books; her interest in nature and preserving the Lowcountry and Charleston architecture in her paintings. Letters to Richard TH Halsey, Harper & Brothers, Bertha E. Jacques, Leila Mechlin, American Federation of Arts, J.B. Lippincott and Co. (1916-1921), O'Brien Art Gallery, Chicago IL; Orlando Art Association, Virginia Robie, Frederick F. Sherman, USC press, Elizabeth O'Neil Verner and many other people and art associations. Also a letter to Ruby W. Newby regarding her artistic development and a list of objects A.R.H. Smith tried to sell for Elizabeth W.A. Pringle. Alphabetically arranged. Permission needed.

21/49-51 Smith, Alice R.H., 1876-1958

Incoming letters 1908-1950. 1 ½ ft.

Charleston artist. Letters (1908-1950) to A.R.H. Smith regarding her artwork, exhibitions, books, and writings on Charles Fraser, Charleston history, and their work at the Dwelling Houses of Charleston and a Carolina Rice Plantation in the fifties. Correspondents include Leila Machlin of the American Federation of Artists, Martha Foote Crowe, Colliers Magazine, Jeanelle Dennis, R. Gordon Dunthorne, Frederick W. Goodin, Richard TH Halsey, Harpers & Brothers, etcher and woodblock printer Helen Hyde; etcher Bertha E. Jacques (many letters); Louis Lawson, JP Lippincott Co; Frank J. Mather, ed. Art In America, Marietta Neff, Frederick F. Simpson, various Smith family members, Yates Snowden, Southern Arts Association and University of SC press regarding Mason Smith. Letters from various Art Associations in Ann Arbor, MI, Albany, NY, Newport RI, Mississippi, Nashville, TN, Charleston, Gainesville FL, Milwaukee WN, Chicago IL, and New York, NY. Alphabetically arranged.

21/52-54 Smith, Alice R.H., 1876-1958

Writings, 1917-1950. 1 ¼ ft.

Charleston artist. Writings, artwork for publication, and miscellany of A.R.H. Smith. Galley and page proofs, reviews, contract, letter book and scrapbook regarding "Dwelling Houses of Charleston" (1917) by ARHS and Daniel RH Smith; letter book regarding Smith's "A Carolina Rice Plantation in the Fifties" (1936); Reminiscences of Smith (unpublished) with two drafts, regarding her life and art. Drafts, 1950, and printed articles on Charles Fraser, the doors, gates, and stairways of Charleston; a ms. of a children's story; and other magazine articles. Biographical material, many clippings, photographs. Articles on ARHS or articles with her artwork.

21/55-56, 33/29, 42/221 Smith, Alice R.H., 1876-1958

Artwork, 1905-1956. Approx. 2 ft.

Charleston artist. Notices of exhibitions, catalogues, and other printed material regarding Smith's exhibitions in Charleston, Chicago IL; New York, NY; Philadelphia PA; Washington DC; and with the Southern Art Association and many other towns where her artwork was displayed. Index of Smith's artwork sold. Letters (1905-1915) from letter book regarding Smith's artwork including letters from Own Wister. Printed of A.R.H. Smith from the drawings for "A Woman Rice Planter", by Patience Pennington (EWA Pringle), misc. drawings, prints, etching, notes on painting, landscape scenes of Middleton Gardens, a list of paintings and drawings, material regarding her gallery in Charleston and misc. information on book binding and printed oversized material (33/29) includes portfolio of 20 drawings of the Pringle House, King St., Charleston, photographs of watercolors by Smith and (42-221) sketches and drawings of Smith of Eldorado Plantation, Co.; Charleston scenes, Mulberry Plantation, Berkeley Co; and more drawings from "A Woman Rice Planter." Permission needed.

21/57-59 Smith, Alice R.H., 1876-1958

Research notes & books, 1913-1974. 1 ¼ ft.

Charleston artists. Research notes and index cards of Robert Cuthbert regarding the papers of A.R.H. Smith. Books of A.R.H. Smith with regard to artwork and writing. Books include "Alice Ravenel Huger Smith of Charleston, SC: An Appreciation on the Occasion of her 80th Birthday." A Charleston Sketchbook (1796-1806); Charles Fraser with introduction by Smith; Charles Fraser by Smith and Daniel H. Smith; Mason Smith family letters; a Charlestonian Recollections 1846-1913 by DEH Smith preface by A.R.H. Smith; the Port O'Dreams and other poems inscription to A.R.H. Smith; a "Woman Rice Planter" by Patience Pennington with drawings by A.R.H. Smith; "Adventures in Green Places" by Herbert R. Sass illustrated by Smith, the "Carolina Lowcountry" and "A Carolina Rice Plantation in the Fifties".