



**Society for the Preservation of Spirituals records, 1922 -
SCHS Call # 1304.00
Containers: 28 /712-720b**

Creator: Society for the Preservation of Spirituals

Description: 4.5 linear feet, 3 vols.

Biographical/Historical note: The Society for the Preservation of Spirituals was organized in Charleston, South Carolina on April 9, 1923 for the purpose of preserving the religious folk songs of slaves and to use revenues raised to provide assistance to African-Americans. Their major activity was to perform concerts of spirituals sung in Gullah.

Scope and Content: Records consist of business, committee, and performance records, correspondence, scrapbooks, clippings, and photographs documenting the group's annual concerts in Charleston, South Carolina, as well as occasional concerts around South Carolina and the eastern seaboard. Other activities documented include the publication of "The Carolina Low Country" (1931), a book about the history and culture of the South Carolina Low Country and the origins and context of spirituals; and the society's efforts to provide assistance to aged and indigent African Americans.

Minute books contain minutes of the Executive Committee (1951-1973), annual meetings (1952-1973), regular meetings (1951-1974), treasurers' reports (1956-1973), lists of officers and committee chairs (1949-1974), membership lists (1928-1971, n.d.), attendance records (1957-1973), and other membership information (1929-1973, n.d.).

Also included is a copy of the society's constitution; general correspondence (1924-1973) as well as correspondence (1929-1930) concerning concert trips; records of the committee pertaining to the National Federation of Music Clubs (1929-1930); correspondence of the Sound Recording Committee (1936-1941); records of the Costume Committee (1968-1969); correspondence, accounts, and other material (1930-1951) concerning the publication of "The Carolina Low Country"; and information on charity cases (1929-1939).

Performance records (1923-1991) include programs (1923-1990); record album inserts; handbills and broadsides; concert schedules and statistics (1923-1969); and cards used for introducing songs of the programs. Other items include clippings; Gullah poems; songbooks; nine scrapbooks (1924-1988); and photographs, including framed and autographed photos (1935) of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt inscribed to the society.

Preferred citation: Society for the Preservation of Spirituals (Charleston, S.C.). Society for the Preservation of Spirituals records, 1922- (1304.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

Detailed Description of Collection:

Series Outline:

- Series 1: Business records
- Series 2: Correspondence
- Series 3: Committees and special projects
- Series 4: Charitable work
- Series 5: Performance records
- Series 6: Scrapbooks
- Series 7: Newspaper clippings
- Series 8: Articles
- Series 9: Photographs
- Series 10: Miscellaneous items
- Series 11: Oversize materials
- Series 12: Additions

Container List:

Box 28/712

Series 1: Business Records, 1923-1974

Constitution

28/712/1 Constitution (1924) and organizing minutes (1928)

Minute Books, 1923-1951

- 28/712/2 Minute Book, 1923 (April – December)
- 28/712/3 Minute book, 1924-1925
- 28/712/4 Minute book, 1926-1927
- 28/712/5 Minute book, 1928
- 28/712/6 Minute book, 1929
- 28/712/7 Minute book, 1930
- 28/712/8 Minute book, 1931
- 28/712/9 Minute book, 1932
- 28/712/10 Minute book, 1933
- 28/712/11 Minute book, 1934-1935
- 28/712/12 Minute book, 1936
- 28/712/13 Minute book, 1937
- 28/712/14 Minute book, 1938-1940
- 28/712/15 Minute book, 1941
- 28/712/16 Minute book, 1942-1943
- 28/712/17 Minute book, 1944-1945
- 28/712/18 Minute book, 1947-1949
- 28/712/19 Minute book, 1950-1951 (January)

Minutes, Executive Committee, 1951-1973

- 28/712/20 Minutes, Executive Committee, 1951-1959
- 28/712/21 Minutes, Executive Committee, 1960-1964
- 28/712/22 Minutes, Executive Committee, 1965-1969
- 28/712/23 Minutes, Executive Committee, 1970-1973, undated

Minutes, Annual Meetings, 1952-1973

- 28/712/24 Minutes, Annual Meetings, 1952-1973

Minutes, Regular Meetings, 1951-1974

- 28/712/25 Minutes, Regular Meetings, 1951-1959
- 26: Minutes, Regular Meetings, 1960-1968
- 28/712/27 Minutes, Regular Meetings, 1969-1974, undated

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Treasurers' Reports, 1956-1973

- 28/713/1 Treasurers' Reports, 1956-1973

Officers, 1949-1974

- 28/713/2 Lists of officers and committee chairs, 1937-1974

Membership information, 1928-1973

- 28/713/3 Membership lists, 1928-1971, undated
- 28/713/4 Attendance records, 1957-1973
- 28/713/5 Membership information, 1929-1973, undated

Series 2: Correspondence, 1924-1973

General

- 28/713/6 Correspondence, 1924
- 28/713/7 Correspondence, 1929
- 28/713/8 Correspondence, 1930(January-June)
- 28/713/9 Correspondence, 1930 (July-December)
- 28/713/10 Correspondence, 1931 (January-March)
- 28/713/11 Correspondence, 1931 (June-December, undated)
- 28/713/12 Correspondence, 1934-1935
- 28/713/13 Correspondence, 1936 (January-March)
- 28/713/14 Correspondence, 1936 (April-May)
- 28/713/15 Correspondence, 1936 (June-December)

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- 28/714/1 Correspondence, 1937(January-March)
- 28/714/2 Correspondence, 1937 (April-December)
- 28/714/3 Correspondence, 1937 undated
- 28/714/4 Correspondence, 1938

- 28/714/5 Correspondence, 1937-1939, undated
- 28/714/6 Correspondence, 1945, 1948, 1949
- 28/714/7 Correspondence, 1952-1955
- 28/714/8 Correspondence, 1956
- 28/714/9 Correspondence, 1957
- 28/714/10 Correspondence, 1958
- 28/714/11 Correspondence, 1950
- 28/714/12 Correspondence, 1960
- 28/714/13 Correspondence, 1961
- 28/714/14 Correspondence, 1962
- 28/714/15 Correspondence, 1963 - 1964
- 28/714/16 Correspondence, 1965-1966
- 28/714/17 Correspondence, 1967
- 28/714/18 Correspondence, 1968

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- 28/715/1 Correspondence, 1969-1970
- 28/715/2 Correspondence, 1971
- 28/715/3 Correspondence, 1972
- 28/715/4 Correspondence, 1973
- 28/715/5 Correspondence, undated

Topical

- 28/715/6 Concert trips to New York and Philadelphia, 1929-1930 [Alfred Huger]
- 28/715/7 Concert trips to New York and Philadelphia, 1929-1930 [Katherine Hutson]
- 28/715/8 Concert trips other than N.Y. and Philadelphia, 1929-1930 [Exec. Sec.]

Series 3: Committees and special projects

Committees

- 28/715/9 National Federation of Music Clubs correspondence, 1929-1930
- 28/715/10 Sound Recording Committee correspondence, 1936-1941
- 28/715/11 Costume Committee records, 1968-1969

Special projects: Publication of *Carolina Low Country*, 1930-1951

- 28/715/12 Correspondence, 1930
- 28/715/13 Correspondence, 1931-1932, 1958
- 28/715/14 Account book, 1931-1933
- 28/715/15 Distribution record, 1941, 1948-1951
- 28/715/16 Index to Spirituals in *Carolina Low Country*, n.d.

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Series 4: Charitable work

- 28/716/1 Charity Cases, 1929-1939

Series 5: Performance Records, 1923-1991

Programs, 1923-1990

- 28/716/2 Programs, 1923-1929
- 28/716/3 Programs, 1930-1935
- 28/716/4 Programs, 1936-1945
- 28/716/5 Programs, 1951-1960
- 28/716/6 Programs, 1961-1969
- 28/716/7 Programs, 1970-1978
- 28/716/8 Programs, 1989-1990
- 28/716/9 Program notes, ca. 1950-ca 1970s
- 28/716/10 Programs, miscellaneous, undated

Record album inserts, undated

- 28/716/11 Record Album inserts, undated

Concert records, 1955-1989

- 28/716/12 Publicity guidelines and notes for concerts, 1958-1959, 1966-1969
- 28/716/13 Handbills, undated.
- 28/716/14 Broadsides (also see 33-104)
- 28/716/15 Cards used for introducing each song in a program, undated. [Reeves, Dick, comp.?.]
- 28/716/16 Concert schedules, 1923-1946, 1949-1959
- 28/716/17 Rehearsal schedule, 1989
- 28/716/18 Concert statistics, 1955-1969

Spirituals

- 28/716/19 General information and clippings, 1920s - ca. 1970s
- 28/716/20 "Negro Spirituals in the South Carolina Low-Country," by Magdalen M. Siegling.
- 28/716/21 Gullah poetry including one Gullah poem signed by Jane Screven Heyward
[Caroline Rutledge, comp.]
- 28/716/22 Lyrics, undated
- 28/716/23 Songbook of Josephine Pinckney, undated
- 28/716/24 Songbook of Kitty Hutson, undated
- 28/716/25 Songbook of Jigger Smythe, 1967

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Series 6: Scrapbooks, 1923-1988

"Mr. Smythe's" scrapbook, 1924-1926

- 28/717/1 Clippings, 1924-1926

Scrapbooks possibly compiled by May Martin, 1924-1936

- 28/717/2 Scrapbook I, 1924-1929 (May)
- 28/717/3 Scrapbook I, 1929 (June)

- 28/717/4 Scrapbook I, 1929 (July-December)
- 28/717/5 Scrapbook II, 1930 (January)
- 28/717/6 Scrapbook II, 1930 (February-March)
- 28/717/7 Scrapbook II, 1930 (April-December)
- 28/717/8 Scrapbook II, 1931 (January-December)
- 28/717/9 Scrapbook II, 1932 (January-December)
- 28/717/10 Scrapbook II, 1933 (January) - 1935
- 28/717/11 Scrapbook II, 1936 (January) -1937

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Scrapbook possibly compiled by Katherine C. Hutson, 1923-1931

- 28/718/1 Scrapbook III, Oversized volume. (see 28/720/1)
- 28/718/2 Scrapbook III, Loose items removed from scrapbook.

Scrapbook possibly compiled by Alice Burkette, 1923-1961

- 28/718/3 Scrapbook IV, Oversized volume. (see 28/720/2)
- 28/718/4 Scrapbook V, Oversized volume. (see 28/720/3)

Scrapbook, 1929

- 28/718/5 Scrapbook VI, 1924-1930
- 28/718/6 Scrapbook VII, 1929 (June)

Scrapbook possibly compiled by Caroline Rutledge, 1929

- 28/718/7 Scrapbook VII, 1929 (June)
- 28/718/8 Scrapbook VII, 1929 (June)
- 28/718/9 Scrapbook VII, 1929 (June)
- 28/718/10 Scrapbook VIII 1929 (June)

Series 7: Newspaper clippings, 1922-1991

Concerts, 1929

- 28/719/1 Clippings, 1929 (June) [xerox]
- 28/719/2 Clippings, 1929 (June)

Clippings in chronological order, 1920s-1980s, 1991

- 28/719/3 Clippings, 1920s-1930s [xerox]
- 28/719/4 Clippings, 1920s-1940s
- 28/719/5 Clippings, 1950s-1960s [xerox]
- 28/719/6 Clippings, 1950s-1960s
- 28/719/7 Clippings, [reserved]
- 28/719/8 Clippings, 1950s-1980s, 1991

Series 8: Articles

- 28/719/9 Articles concerning the society.

Series 9: Photographs, ca. 1920s - ca. 1970s

- 28/719/10 Photographs, 3" x 4", ca. 1970s
- 28/719/11 Photographs, 5" x 7", ca. 1950s-1960s
- 28/719/12 Photographs, 8" x 10", ca. 1920s-ca. 1970s
- 28/719/13 Photographs, 8" x 10", ca. 1920s-ca. 1970s
- 28/719/14 Photographs, 8" x 10", ca. 1920s-ca. 1970s
- 28/719/15 Photographs, 8" x 10", ca. 1920s-ca. 1970s
- 28/719/16 Photographs, 8" x 10", ca. 1920s-ca. 1970s
- 28/719/17 Photographs, miscellaneous sizes
- 28/719/18 Photographs, album, ca. 1970s [possibly compiled by Mrs. Louis T. Parker]
- 28/719/19 Photograph of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1935 [framed and signed, inscribed to the society] (see 33-104)
- 28/719/20 Photograph of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1935 [framed and signed, inscribed to the society] (see 33-104)

Series 10: Miscellaneous

- 28/719/20 Miscellaneous items

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Series 11: Oversized items

Scrapbook possibly compiled by Katharine C. Hutson, 1923-1931

- 28/720/1 Scrapbook III, Oversized volume.

Scrapbook possibly compiled by Alice Burkette, 1923-1961

- 28/720/2 Scrapbook IV, Oversized volume.
- 28/720/3 Scrapbook V, Oversized volume

Box 28/720a

Series 12: Additional materials

Card file: Index cards of song titles, arranged alphabetically

Box 28/720b

Bound volume: Gullah spirituals song lyrics (2009)
Audio compact discs (2): field recordings and concerts