

# Robert G. Rhett papers, 1880-1939. SCHS 496.00

Creator: Rhett, Robert G. (Robert Goodwyn), 1862-1939.

**Description:** 1.25 linear ft. (3 boxes)

**Scope and content:** This collection chiefly consists of writings and speeches by Robert G. Rhett, but also includes some related newspaper clippings and other material dating much later than his lifetime.

Papers of Robert G. Rhett consist of a typescript manuscript of his book "Charleston, An Epic of Carolina" (published 1940); speeches; newspaper clippings; a brief diary of a European trip (no date); financial records, including a bond of Blanche S. Rhett; property records, mainly deeds to property on Broad Street in Charleston; photographs, including a portrait of Robert G. Rhett; miscellaneous items; and a small amount of correspondence, including letters from John Bennett and Robert Lathan concerning Rhett's book about the history of Charleston. Topics of speeches include Charleston tourism, the Charleston Navy Yard, and the American currency system. A small notebook contains excerpts from newspapers (1912-1917) and content relating to Mayor John P. Grace and opposition to American intervention in World War I.

Later material (1998-2001) added to this collection includes clippings and copies of correspondence concerning the renaming of North Rhett Avenue.

Note Robert Goodwyn Rhett, the son of Abert Moore Rhett (1834-1911) and Martha Goodwyn Rhett (1835-1912), was a lawyer, politician, and banker of Charleston, S.C. Rhett served two terms as mayor of Charleston, and was the president of both the Charleston Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He was also chairman of the board of the Peoples State Bank, and the author of a history of Charleston. He helped to bring the U.S. Naval Shipyard to North Charleston. His first wife was Helen Smith Whaley, who died in 1904. Rhett later married Blanche Salley (1876-1942).

**Provenance:** Gift of Robert G. Rhett: 2011.009

#### **Search terms:**

Bennett, John, 1865-1956 -- Correspondence.

Grace, John P. (John Patrick), 1874-1940.

Lathan, Robert, 1881-1937 -- Correspondence.

Rhett, Robert G. (Robert Goodwyn), 1862-1939.

Charleston Naval Shipyard.

Charleston (S.C.) -- Commerce -- 20th century.

Charleston (S.C.) -- History.

Currency question -- United States.

Mayors -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

Peace movements -- United States.

Speeches, addresses, etc., American -- South Carolina.

Streets -- South Carolina -- Charleston -- North Rhett Avenue.

Tourism -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

Photographs.

## **Container/folder listing:**

#### BOX 1

Typescript manuscript of Charleston, An Epic of Carolina (a few pages are missing).

### BOX 2

- 01 Illustrations for Charleston, An Epic of Carolina: includes images of William Gilmore Simms, Washington Allston, Robert Barnwell Rhett, George Washington, Edward Rutledge, John Laurens, Henry Laurens, Robert Y. Hayne, and Gen. William Moultrie.
- 02 Newspaper clippings, 1908-1993.
- Newspaper clippings, 1926-1939.
- O4 Clippings and other material relating to the opening of the Cooper River Bridge, 1929.
- O5 Clippings and other material (including copies of correspondence) relating to the renaming of North Rhett Avenue, 1998-2001.
- O6 Correspondence, 1908-1938. Includes letters from John Bennett and Robert Lathan concerning Rhett's book about Charleston.
- "Diary of a European Trip" (13 pages, undated)
- 08 Miscellaneous items: notes, biographical sketch of Robert G. Rhett, etc.
- Miscellaneous items: notebook, 1917, containing typed excerpts from newspapers, 1912-1917, and some quotations. Some content relates to Mayor John P. Grace and opposition to American intervention in World War I.
- Document, 1911, dedicated to "Robert Goodwyn Rhett" on his return to business life, after eight years of service to the public as mayor..." Contains numerous signatures of Charlestonians including T. R. Waring, Samuel G. Stoney, and W. H. Cogswell.
- Resolution of condolence, 1939, by the Board of Directors of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.
- 12 Untitled speech, ca. 1910?
- 13 Unititled speech, no date.
- 14 Untitled speeches or notes, no date.
- 15 Printed speeches.
- "Address Before Railroad Commissioners," 1930.
- "Address Delivered by R. G. Rhett, South Carolina Bankers' Association," 1924
- "Address on Armistice Day," 1926.
- "American Citizenship," 1921.
- "Charleston's Advantages," 1924.
- "Charleston's Experiences," 1924.
- "The Charleston Navy Yard," 1924.

#### BOX 3

- "Address on Proposed Currency System," no date.
- 02 "Success in Life," no date
- 03 "Tourist Attractions," no date.
- "The United States of America," ca. 1917.
- 05 "War Committees," 1917.
- Of Financial records, 1927-1932. Includes promissory notes; and a bond of Blanche S. Rhett.
- O7 Property records, 1880-1902. Includes a master's title, 1880, to property on Broad Street, bounded by a lot owned by the St. Andrew's Society, to Alice Gadsden and others; a title, 1886, to Arthur Barnwell, trustee, of property on Broad Street; title, 1891, to property on Anson Street; and a mortgage, 1902, of property on Broad Street "next to the site formerly occupied by the St. Andrew's Society." Some of these documents are damaged and fragile.
- O8 Photograph (damaged, no date) of an unidentified woman.
- 09 Photographs of two unidentified young men.
- 10 Photographs, including a portrait of Robert Goodwyn Rhett.