



# SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## **Alice Ravenel Huger Smith papers, 1905-1974** **SCHS# 1173.00** **Containers 21/48-59**

**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.



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 WI, 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 Smith, Alice R.H., 1876-1958**

**Printed Materials. 1 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.

**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".