



# SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## **Associated Charities Society records, 1888-1944.**

**1161.00**

**11/609-615**

**Description:** 2.25 linear ft.

**Creator:** Associated Charities Society

**Biographical/Historical Note:** Charleston, S.C. charitable organization founded in 1888. The Society investigated cases of need and provided relief for the "deserving poor." According to its constitution, some of the Society's aims were to "reduce vagrancy and pauperism and ascertain their true cause," "make employment the basis for relief," "secure the community from imposture," "elevate the home life, health, and habits of the poor," and "bring about co-operation among all charitable agencies."

**Scope and Content:** Records consist of correspondence, minutes, reports, and other items. Correspondence (1888-1904) among Mrs. M.A. Rhett, E.N. Fuller, (secretaries of the Society), persons seeking assistance, citizens or organizations identifying individuals in need of help, and members of the Society's Board of Directors includes letterpress copybooks. Correspondence mainly concerns the disposition of charity cases and requests for help from residents of Charleston (S.C.), immigrants, and sailors. Included are letters (1895) regarding the availability of space for children at the South Carolina Insane Asylum (Columbia, S.C.). There are also letters from new or potential members, other charitable organizations, city government officials, and local businessmen.

Bound volumes (1888-1944) contain applications for relief which include the case histories of individuals requesting financial, medical, or other assistance. Records also include fund drive financial records (1941-1944); minutes (1888-1923) of the Board of Directors; annual reports (1888-1920); constitutions; essays on charity and the philosophy of the Associated Charities Society; cards (forms) introducing the bearer as an applicant for relief and naming the person referring the applicant; circulars; clippings; photographs (1925) of a handicapped Afro-American child (1925) who received medical assistance through the Society; and other items.

**Other Forms Note:** Many application books available in microfiche.

**Preferred Citation:** Associated Charities Society (Charleston, S.C.). Associated Charities Society records, 1888-1944. (1161.00) South Carolina Historical Society.

## **Detailed Collection Inventory:**

### **Container Listing:**

- 11/609-610**            **Correspondence, 1888-1904 (ca. 0.75 linear ft.)**  
Correspondence between Mrs. Alfred Rhett, Secretary of the ACS, and indigents and others in need of assistance, citizens identifying individuals in need of help, and members of the Board of Directors. Included are tissue-copy letterbooks of the ACS regarding disposition of cases. Letters, mostly requests for help from Charlestonians, sailors, and immigrants and ill people. Letter(1895) regarding availability of space for children in the SC Insane Asylum, Columbia. Letters also from other charitable associations, city government and local businesses.
- 11/611-612**            **Minutes, annual reports, 1888-1926 (ca. 0.75 linear ft.)**  
Charleston philanthropic organization. Minutes (1888-1923) of the board of directors of ACS. Constitutions of ACS. Misc. essays on charity and philosophy of ACS. Misc. material regarding charity and ACS including poems, circulars, clippings, photographs for study of a crippled child (1926) and other material.
- 11/613-615**            **Records, 1888-1944 (22 v.)**  
Charleston Philanthropic organization. Applications for relief books (1888-1928) of the ACS. Included are case histories of individuals requesting financial, medical, travel or hunger assistance. Secretaries Mrs. Alfred Rhett and Annie L. Walker. Also fun drive records (1941-1944).