Inventory of the
Owl's Whist Club Records, 1924 - 1989
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Owl's Whist Club Records,

Dates: 1924 - 1989

Creator: Owl's Whist Club.

Abstract:
The Owl's Whist Club was founded by sixteen African American men on February 14, 1914 in Charleston, South Carolina. The purpose of the club was to provide these men an opportunity to play cards, socialize, and discuss social issues. The Owl's Whist Club remains a social organization for professional African American men and is still active today.

The collection documents the history of the Owl's Whist Club of Charleston, South Carolina, from 1924-1989. Materials include administrative papers consisting of meeting minutes, constitution and by-laws, and governing rules; financial material made up of receipts, membership dues documentation, and transaction books. Other membership material includes membership rosters. In addition, the events conducted by the club can be traced through the programs and invitations over the course of thirty years.

Extent: 2.25 linear feet(5 archival boxes)

Repository: Avery Research Center at the College of Charleston

Call Number: AMN 1091

Language of Material: Material in English

Historical Note

The Owl's Whist Club was founded by sixteen African American men on February 14, 1914 in Charleston, South Carolina. The purpose of the club was to provide these men an opportunity to play cards, socialize, and discuss social issues.

For nearly twenty-five years, the club members would host monthly meetings in their homes or rent space from halls. It was not until 1939 -- after the club's 25th anniversary celebration -- that they decided to purchase land. In 1945, two lots were purchased from Leola Ezekiel in Ashleyville, South Carolina for $300. The club charged an assessment to each of its members for the cost of construction, totaling $20,000. The club building was designed by H.A. DeCosta and built by Thomas Pickney in 1947. It is referred to as the Roost.

In 1945, the club became incorporated.

The Owl's Whist Club remains a social organization for professional African American men and is still active today. The group will celebrate its centennial anniversary in 2014.
Collection Overview

The collection documents the history of the Owl's Whist Club of Charleston, South Carolina, from 1924-1989. Materials include administrative papers consisting of meeting minutes, constitution and by-laws, and governing rules; financial material made up of receipts, membership dues documentation, and transaction books. Other membership material includes membership rosters. In addition, the events conducted by the club can be traced through the programs and invitations over the course of thirty years.

Collection Arrangement

1. Administrative Material, 1924-1989
3. Committees, 1949-1984
5. Events, 1954-1984
6. Other Material, 1951-1981

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

No restrictions.

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Subject Headings

African American men -- Societies, etc. -- History -- 20th century.

African American men -- South Carolina -- Charleston -- Social conditions.

African Americans -- Societies, etc. -- History -- 20th century.

African Americans -- South Carolina -- Social life and customs.

Owl's Whist Club.
Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Owl's Whist Club Records, Avery Research Center, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, USA.

Processing Information

Processed by Melissa Bronheim, March 2010

Encoded by Melissa Bronheim, March 2010

Edited by Amanda Ross, May 2010

Funding from the Council on Library and Information Resources supported the collection processing and encoding of this finding aid.
Detailed Description of the Collection

1. Administrative Material, 1924-1989

   Arranged chronologically.

   Box 1-2 Folder 1-7 Minutes, 1924-1974

   Includes information relating to membership dues.

   Box 2 Folder 8 Incorporation Documents, 1945 and 1973

   Box 2 Folder 9-10 Constitution and By-Laws, 1946-1989

   Box 2 Folder 11 Constitutional Amendments, 1949-1985

   Box 2 Folder 12 Governing Rules, 1961

   Box 2 Folder 13 Correspondence: Taxes and Assessments, 1975-1978

   Box 2 Folder 14 Agenda, 1984

   Box 2 Folder 15 Job Description and Employment Contract, 1985


   Arranged chronologically.

   Box 2 Folder 16-17 Correspondence, 1949-1977

   Box 2 Folder 18-19 Receipts, 1949-1984

   Box 3 Folder 20-23 Membership Dues, 1963-1978

   Box 3 Folder 24-29 Bank Statements, 1970-1977

   Box 4 Folder 30 Checks and Transactions Books, 1971-1977

3. Committees, 1949-1984

   Arranged alphabetically.

   Box 4 Folder 31 Auditing Committee, 1949-1977

   Box 4 Folder 32 Board of Trustees, 1949-1958

   Includes treasurer's report.

   Box 4 Folder 33 Committee Lists, 1965 and 1976

   Box 4 Folder 34 Program and Planning Committee, 1953-1984

   Box 4 Folder 35 Special Committee, 1956 and 1979

   Box 4 Folder 36 Ways and Means Committee, 1951

Arranged chronologically.

Box 4 Folder 37  Member Applications and Resignations, 1950-1980
Box 4 Folder 38  Announcements, 1952-1978
Box 4 Folder 39  Welcome Letters, 1965-1970
Box 4 Folder 40  Membership Packet, 1973-1975

Includes committee information, constitution and by-laws, and member roster.

Box 4 Folder 41  Members Roster, 1978

5. Events, 1954-1984

Arranged chronologically.

Box 4 Folder 42  Invitations and Programs, 1954-1984
Box 4 Folder 43-45  Guest Lists and Register, 1954-1978
Oversize Paper Folder 1  Photographs, circa 1960s
Box 5 Folder 46-47  Memorabilia, 1972-1977
Box 5 Folder 48  70th Year Celebration: Merit Award, 1984
Box 5 Folder 49  Banquet Menus and Prices, 1984

6. Other Material, 1951-1981

Arranged chronologically.

Box 5 Folder 50  Correspondence: Thank You Letters, 1950-1979
Box 5 Folder 51  Correspondence: Other Organizations, 1951-1981
Box 5 Folder 52  Plat Map, undated