Inventory of the
Phillis Wheatley Literary and
Social Club Papers, 1916 - 2011
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Descriptive Summary

Title: Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club Papers,

Dates: 1916 - 2011

Creator: Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club.

Abstract: The Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club was formed in 1916 under the direction of Jeannette Cox, wife of Avery Normal Institute principal Benjamin Cox. The club consisted of nineteen women members meeting to discuss literary works by such authors as W.E.B DuBois, Carter G. Woodson and others. The club women also helped fulfill their mission to "lift as we climb" by taking an active role in Charleston's African American community by donating funds to such organizations as the YWCA, NAACP, Avery Normal Institute, and the Jenkins Orphanage. The club is still active.

The records of the Phillis Wheatley Club are arranged in two series. The first series contains a history of the club produced by the club's founder Jeannette Cox, as well as four bound volumes of the club's minute books. The minutes detail authors read and discussed by the club, dues from members, and donations given to various organizations throughout Charleston. The second series is a chronological arrangement of letters sent and received by the club from members, other individuals (including copies of letters from W.E. B. DuBois and Mary McLeod Bethune), and organizations, and includes programs, member manuals, brief member profiles, and clippings regarding the club.

Extent: 0.75 linear feet (2 boxes)

Repository: Avery Research Center at the College of Charleston

Call Number: AMN 1031

Language of Material: Material in English

Historical Note

The Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club was formed in 1916 under the direction of Jeannette Cox, wife of Avery Normal Institute principal Benjamin Cox. The club consisted of nineteen women members meeting to discuss literary works by such authors as W.E.B DuBois, Carter G. Woodson and others. The club women also helped fulfill their mission to "lift as we climb" by taking an active role in Charleston's African American community by donating funds to such organizations as the YWCA, NAACP, Avery Normal Institute, and the Jenkins Orphanage, and the Fairwold Home for Neglected Colored Girls, Cayce, SC. The organization also sponsored lectures, art shows, musical offerings and staged plays. The club is still active.

Collection Overview

Minutes, literary productions, correspondence, printed materials, and financial records (1916-2011) document the history of the Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club. The records are arranged in two series. The first series, Minutes and History, contains a history of the club produced by the club's founder Jeannette Cox.
(1934), as well as four bound volumes of the club's minute books (1916-1984). The minutes detail authors read and discussed by the club, dues from members, and donations given to various organizations throughout Charleston. The second series, General Materials, is a chronological arrangement of letters sent and received by the club from members, other individuals (including copies of letters from W.E. B. DuBois and Mary McLeod Bethune), and organizations, and includes programs, member manuals, brief member profiles, and clippings regarding the club.

Collection Arrangement

1. Minutes and History
2. General Materials

Restrictions

Access Restrictions

No restrictions.

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Subject Headings

Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club (Charleston, S.C.) -- Records and correspondence.

Wheatley, Phillis, 1753-1784.

African American women -- Societies and clubs -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

African American women -- Intellectual life -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

African American women -- Social life and customs -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

Avery Normal Institute.

Jenkins Orphanage Institute (Charleston, S.C.)

African Americans -- South Carolina -- Charleston -- History.

Social service -- South Carolina -- Charleston.

Women -- South Carolina -- Charleston -- Societies and clubs.

South Carolina -- History -- 1865-

Administrative Information
Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club Papers, Avery Research Center, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC, USA.

Acquisitions Information

Materials were donated in two separate accessions in 1983 and 1992 by the Phillis Wheatley Literary and Social Club.

Processing Information

Edited by Aaron Spelbring, 10, 2012

Encoded by Aaron Spelbring, 10, 2012
### Detailed Description of the Collection

#### 1. Minutes and History, 1916-2004

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<td></td>
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<td>Minutes include information regarding books read and discussed, and guest lecturers.</td>
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<td>Minutes, 1935-1945</td>
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<td>Documents clubs political activities.</td>
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<td>Minutes, 1960-2004</td>
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#### 2. General Materials, 1921-2011

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<td>Member Dates (photocopies), 1921-1991</td>
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<td>Member Manuals, 2004-2011</td>
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<td>General (photocopies), 1919-1990, undated</td>
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