Albert Simons papers, 1864-1979
1253.00
Boxes 26/1-77


Description: 28 linear ft.

Biographical/historical note: Charleston, S.C. architect. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Simons was a fellow of the American Institute of Architects (A.I.A.). He served as an instructor in architecture at Clemson College and was a partner in the architectural firm of Todd, Simons & Todd. After military service in World War I, Simons returned to Charleston and with Samuel Lapham established the architectural firm of Simons & Lapham. He was a lecturer on fine arts and a professor of engineering at the College of Charleston. A recognized architectural authority, Simons was among the pioneers in Charleston's preservation and restoration movement and was a major influence in the American preservation movement. The son of T. Grange Simons and Serena D. Aiken, he married Harriet P. Stoney in 1917. Simons died in 1980.

Scope and content: Papers consist of correspondence and other materials concerning Simons' professional and personal affiliations and pursuits, as well as writings, architectural drawings, and other items. Included are the papers of Harriet P. Stoney Simons and a photograph album of Simons & Lapham.

Correspondence includes some personal and family letters but mostly pertains to Simons' involvement in organizations concerned with historic preservation and restoration in Charleston and nationwide; affairs of the National Academy of Design and other national arts organizations; activities of the S.C. Board of Architectural Examiners, the S.C. chapter of A.I.A., and other professional organizations; public housing projects; architectural work of Simons & Lapham; Charleston zoning and city planning matters; the Charleston Board of Architectural Review; operations and relations of the Dock Street Theater and Carolina Art Association; the Charleston Library Society; the Poetry Society of S.C. and other local cultural and social organizations; Clemson University and College of Charleston; Simons' writings on Lowcountry architecture; and philanthropic and public service activities.

Included with the correspondence are many related documents and organizational records such as minutes, reports, photographs, programs, and lists, as well as college lectures and other material relating to courses taught by Simons. Five volumes (1890-1980) contain architectural specifications for Charleston buildings. Drawings (ca. 1930-1940) on graph paper are of various architectural projects in and near Charleston. Writings include drafts of articles and lectures on art and architecture.

Other items consist of family papers, including correspondence (1919-1971) of R. Bentham Simons (Albert Simons' brother), papers (1862-1947) of T. Grange Simons, papers (1864-1954) of the Aiken family, and Bentham and Simons family genealogy; tax returns; and Simons' military correspondence and records of World Wars I and II.

Search terms:
Simons, T. Grange (Thomas Grange), 1843-1927.
Aiken family.
Bentham family.
Architecture.
Historic preservation -- United States.
Charleston (S.C.) -- History.
South Carolina -- History.
Architectural drawings.
Letters (correspondence)
Photographs.
Specifications.
Writings.
Architects -- South Carolina -- Charleston.
Educators.

Container listing:

Box-Folder
26-1/4    Architectural and Art Historical Writings (ca.1924-1970)
     Includes: drafts, photos, illustrations and research correspondence for AS’s books, articles, book reviews and lectures about art, architecture, and furnishings in Charleston (1670-1900). Includes papers for the Octagon Library of Early American Architecture, vol.I, Charleston, SC (1927)and papers about the George Edwards House, the Old Powder Magazine, St. Paul’s and St. Philip’s Episcopal churches, Charleston Methodist churches, Charleston silversmiths and sculptors, SC painters including Charles Fraser, monuments, Andrea Palladio and Renaissance influences, Robert Mills, the Old Exchange Building, porcelain, Society for Preservation of Old Dwellings (ca. 1928-1933), architectural ethics (1939), and military architecture at West Point, NY (1778).

26-5    Research and Publication Correspondence (1928-1938)
     Includes: correspondence, largely with William Emerson of Cambridge, MA in regards to the research, editing and publication of The Carolina Low Country including Emerson’s financial assistance, the support of the Carolina Art Association and the Council of Learned Societies.

26-6/7    Architectural Historical reports, notes and correspondence (ca.1960-1971)
     Includes: a draft with photographs of architecture and furnishings of AS report, Harriet P.S. Simons’ and AS’s article in Winterthur Portfolio III and accompanying research notes, R. Bentham Simons research correspondence, correspondence between AS and Winterthur officers about the William Burrows House in Charleston. Includes R. B. Simons’ correspondence with US Navy regarding Marine Commandant William Ward Burrows and ships named for Burrows. Also, Harriet’s notes on property history and a bibliography of printed and manuscript sources.
26-8 Lecture Correspondence (1932-1940)
Includes: Simons’ correspondence with Charles Butler, William Emerson, Robert D. Kohn, John Sinkler, Charles P. Summerall and other college administrators about his lectures on architectural history and urban planning at mostly southeastern schools (Clemson College, College of Charleston, University of Virginia, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Duke University, University of North Carolina, University of Florida, and the Georgia School of Technology), but also Princeton University.

26-9/10 AIA Correspondence (1942-1963)
Correspondence with the national office of the American Institute of Architecture in Washington, D.C. Includes: AIA Committee of Five correspondence about AIA finances (1942), letters about a code of ethics for architects and various abuses of ethics including the setting of fees (1943-1948), a roster of architects qualified for federal public works projects in SC (1947), and registration procedures and requirements of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (1962) and the architect’s legal responsibilities (1958-1963). Also includes correspondence with Joseph Watterson about writings on the architect’s public image (1954-1960), Ralph Walker’s address (1954) and other papers (1950) about changing trends in architectural philosophy and practice. Also includes letters about the AIA’s restoration of the Octagon Building (1945-1949), efforts to preserve buildings on the University of South Carolina campus (1946-1948), the Charleston Orphanage chapel and Robert Mills Old Patent Building in Washington, D.C. (1955). Also, AS’s interest (1950) in Charleston climatology, correspondence and reports about evaluation of University of Virginia’s architectural school faculty and curriculum by the AIA’s National Architectural Accreditation Board (1954), and tributes to Josephine Pinckney and other historians interested in architecture (1950-1958). Also, papers about AIA national conventions in Miami, Florida (1946), Washington, DC (1950, 1957), and Chicago, IL (1951). Correspondents include Edmund R. Purves, John G. Harbeson, James G. Vanderpool, Earl H. Reed, Robert N. S. Whitelaw, and G. Thomas Harmon.

26-10/11 AIA Jury of Fellows Correspondence (1949-1975)

26-12 AIA Judiciary Committee Correspondence (1930-1959)
Includes: AS’s correspondence with Edmund R. Purves and Walter D. Toy and other case papers, mostly about committee hearing (1956-1958) of allegations of unprofessional and unethical conduct against architect C. Dale Dykema of St. Petersburg, FL, including a transcript of hearings before the Florida State Board of Architecture (1957). Also, similar papers about other cases of unethical conduct including alleged job stealing by architect William P. Thompson, Jr. of Macon, GA (1958). Also, AS’s correspondence (1930-1931) with Franklin O. Adams and Robert D. Kohn about a job stealing case in Columbia and with South Carolina AIA chapter treasurer Leon LeGrand of Greenville, Charles C. Wilson of Columbia, and Abram Garfield of Cleveland, Ohio about LeGrand’s alleged mismanagement of Chapter finances.

26-13/14 AIA Historic Preservation Committee Correspondence (1928-1959)
AS’s correspondence with committee chairman, A. Lawrence Kocher of New York, NY, Milton B. Medary of Philadelphia, PA, Robert D. Kohn, and Leicester B. Holland about the achievements of the Society for Preservation of Old Dwellings (later known as the Preservation Society), and problems facing preservation in Charleston and occasionally elsewhere nationally (1928-1930), and with Fiske Kimball and L.B. Holland about establishment of a photographic architectural archives at the Library of Congress and about museums’ purchasing of paneling and other architectural remnants from historic buildings (1930-1933). Most of the correspondence concerns the AIA’s preservation committee’s selection of officers, finances, and other routine administration matters and postwar involvement (1946-1949) in public relations, Congressional lobbying, and other efforts to preserve historically or architecturally significant buildings including Bennett’s Rice Mill and Garbriel Manigault’s Orphan House Chapel in Charleston (1952); G. P. Cummings’ Penn Mutual Building and other 19th century structures in Philadelphia, PA; Frank Lloyd Wright’s Robie House and Louis Sullivan’s auditorium at Roosevelt University in Chicago, IL (1956-19570; A. J. Davis’s Gothic Revival style, Harlan Wheeler Mansion in Bridgeport, CT (1957); the old Market House in Galena, IL (1951); and Robert Mills’ Old Patent Building in Washington, DC (1954-1957). Correspondence about the U.S. National Park Service’s threat to mid-eighteenth century relics in St. Louis, MO (1957-1959), federal legislation to protect historic sites and buildings from highway encroachment (1958), and AIA cooperation (1951-1959) with the Historic American Buildings Survey in Charleston and elsewhere. Also, photographs (1957-1958) of eighteenth and early nineteenth century houses in Edenton, NC. Other correspondents include Earl H. Reed, Congressman Frank Thompso, Thomas C. Vint, Turpin Bannister, Charles E. Peterson, George E. Pettingill, Walter F. Petty, Edmund R. Purves, Frederick L. Rath, Jr. of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Henry B. Staats, IL Governor Adlai E. Stevenson, and Louisville, KY Mayor E. Leland Taylor.

26-14-3/13 HABS correspondence (1934-1968)


26-14-14 National Council of Historic Sites Correspondence (1949-1952)

Includes: correspondence with Frederick L. Rath, Jr., executive director of the National Council of Historic Sites (what is today the National Trust for Historic Sites). Correspondence about restoration, furnishings and land acquisition for William H. Gist’s Rose Hill in Union County and preservation of Bennett’s Rice Mill and the Orphan House Chapel in Charleston.

26-15 AIA National Capital Committee Correspondence (1949-1958)

26-16-1/03 Robert Mills Monument Correspondence (1929-1941)
Includes: correspondence with Congressman Thomas S. McMillan, Delos Smith, and H.M. Pierce Gallagher about the re-erection of a monument at Robert Mills’ grave and also about Gallagher’s biography of Mills, including a copy of AS’s review and clippings.

26-16-4/11 Old Patent Office Building Preservation Correspondence (1953-1956)


26-17 Art Society Correspondence (1940-1975)

26-18 South Carolina Board of Architectural Examiners Correspondence (1935-1967)
Includes: routine matters with the Board of Architectural Examiners, annual reports (1935-1952), procedural matters and related state legislation, papers about illegal or unethical practices of unregistered architects (1946-1952), recommended changes in SC law and standards for architects (1947-1952), and Board opposition to the administrative changes proposed by the State Reorganization Commission. Correspondents include Board chairman Rudolph E. Lee; secretary-treasurers, fellow board members Heyward S. Singley, G. Thomas Harmon, Governors J. Strom Thurmond and James F. Byrnes; and SC Reorganization Commission chairmen ALM Wiggins and Robert Figg. Also, correspondence (1958-1967) with Board secretary Margaret Ballenger.

26-19/20 AIA South Carolina Chapter Correspondence (1916-1975)
Includes: routine matters with the SC chapter of American Institute of Architects with photographs and drafts for magazine articles. Also includes documents in support or
opposition to state legislation affecting the practice of architecture; AS’s candidacy for regional director; the role of architects in the defense industry (1942); a joint convention of AIA’s SC Chapter and the national AIA board in Charleston (1947); opposition to legislation creating the office of State Architect (1961); SC building codes (1963-1964); the SC chapter’s defeat of a statewide standardization plan for school construction (1953); lobbying for changes in SC law regulating architecture practices (1965-1967); blackballing of Augustine E. Constantine by the Chapter (1965-1967); chapter and regional AIA convention business including entertainment in Charleston (1955-1962) with presentations or concerts by architect H. Theodore Wijdeveld of the Netherlands and pianist Wolfgang Wijdeveld at the Gibbes Art Gallery (1962); a social gathering of AS’s AIA-SC friends in Highlands, NC (1957); architectural publishing ethics and guidelines for treatment of advertisers (1957-1959); support for Clemson’s Architectural Foundation and School of Architecture (1957-1968); photographs and other material for January 1952 issue of SC Magazine; a synopsis of AIA history (1957), and papers about architectural provisions for the physically handicapped. Other correspondents include AIA national secretary Edward C. Kemper, Frances Edmunds, Rudolph E. Lee, Lt. Governor Burnet R. Maybank, state legislators, AIA national president Douglas W. Orr, Walter F. Petty, AIA national executive director Edmund Purves, Heyward S. Singley, and AIA regional director Rudolph Weaver.

26-21 AIA South Carolina Chapter Fellowship Correspondence (1955-1968)
Includes: biographical papers for candidates for AIA fellowships, papers about the successful advancement to the AIA College of Fellows by G. Thomas Harmon of Columbia, AS’s business partner Samuel Lapham, Clemson School of Architecture dean Harlan McClure, and Columbia preservationist Walter F. Petty. Also, confidential correspondence regarding controversy between SC chapter’s executive and fellowship committees over nomination of William G. Lyles of Columbia. Also includes SC chapter minutes and membership rosters (1961-1962). Other correspondents include James C. Hemphill of Greenwood and Chicago, IL preservationist Earl H. Reed.

26-22-1/4 South Carolina Housing Advisory Correspondence (1932-1936)
AS was chief architectural supervisor in SC for the Federal Housing Administration and state architectural advisor for the Home Owners Loan Corporation.
Includes correspondence (1932) with architect Charles C. Wilson, Robert D. Kohn, and Columbia newspaper editors McDavid Horton of The State and J. D. Wise of the Columbia Record about local opinions (including William E. Gonzales’) of use of Reconstruction Finance Corporation funds and local contributions for a project in Columbia to rehabilitate slum housing. Also, correspondence with the HOLC; with Congressman Thomas S. McMillan and with FHA officials in Birmingham, AL; Atlanta, GA; and Washington, DC about AS’s FHA service including an interest in the use of inexpensive architectural stock plans for low-cost housing (1936).

26-22-5/17 Architectural Service Correspondence (1942-1975)
Includes: correspondence about unpaid architectural services mostly to Episcopalian bishop Gray Temple’s Foundation for Preservation of Historic Churches in restoring Pompion Hill Chapel (1963-1974), and designing, fund-raising, and coordinating the carving and erection of a memorial tablet (1963-1969) to Benjamin Simons (1672-1717) and Mary Esther DuPre (d. 1737). Also includes photographic brochures (1966-1969) about Pompion Hill Chapel and AS’s correspondence about the Foundation, parish finances, and project costs with Simons and DuPont family relatives, Bishop Temple, the parish vestry, the Foundation’s treasurer, and contractors in Charleston and Columbia, including the Suburban Construction Co. (1964) and Niggel Bros. Inc. (1967-1968). Also, correspondence about advice to Prince George Winyah Episcopal Church,
Georgetown County about structural restoration. Also, correspondence about AS’s survey (1960-1963) for the Georgetown Historical Society including sketches and structural descriptions of several homes there, and AS’s design and erection of a memorial tablet for SG Stoney (1891-1968) in cooperation with Joseph I. Waring and the Italian Marble Co. of Carrara, Italy. Contains some clippings and a drawing (1940) for plans for the State House in Columbia.

26-23 AIA South Atlantic Regional Preservation Papers (1953-1977)
Includes: correspondence with and reports from SC, FL and GA chapter officers about architectural surveys in each state. Includes correspondence with James C. Hemphill, Henry P. Staats, and Walter F. Petty and brief descriptive worksheets about buildings in Charleston Historic District and many places around SC (1953-1957); AIA committee on preservation (1958) procedural details; a digest of reports and worksheets from all the US regions (1957-1958) and papers about preservation of Ainsley Hall Mansion in Columbia, including a biographical address on Robert Mills and the SC State Hospital (ca. 1963-1967).

Includes: AS’s and wife Harriet P.S. Simons’ papers about AS’s AIA award winning restoration (1967) of Ainsley Hall Mansion in Columbia, SC (designed by Robert Mills). Also, correspondence with Historic Columbia Foundation and others about restoration specifications, a brief final report, Simons’ articles in Columbia newspapers, and photographs and photographic color slides of Ainsley Hall Mansion before and after restoration. Also, Harriet’s research notes on Ainsley Hall’s arrangements with carpenters and builders, including work descriptions, schedules, and costs, especially estimates for iron work and lumber (1823-1829). Includes information on the building’s changing ownership and uses (1838-1906) and information on the out-buildings.

26-25 Architectural Photograph album (1929-1941)
Includes: A photograph album about Simons and Lapham’s architectural work at Sheldon Plantation; Lowndes Grove Plantation; Pocosabo Plantation, Colleton Co.; Windsor Plantation, Georgetown, Co.; and 36 Chalmers Street, 46 King Street, and 71 South Battery in Charleston.

26-26 Architectural Project Drawings (ca.1930-1940)
Includes: graph paper drawings, some correspondences, and photographs of AS’s measurements for architectural renovation/alteration largely of Charleston buildings, including: 16 Atlantic, St. John’s Lutheran Church at 10 Archdale, Yeaman’s Hall at 18-22 Broad, 37 Broad, 19 Church St., Dock St. Theatre at 137 Church, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 126-128 Coming, 43 E. Battery, 89 E. Bay St., 37 King, St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church at 403 ½ King, 542 King, 4 Logan St., the C.D. Franke and Co. Warehouse on Market St., St. Michael’s Episcopal Church at 78-80 Meeting St., the Pinehaven Tuberculosis Sanitarium on Meeting St. Road, the Charleston Free Library on 94 Rutledge Ave., 75 St. Philip St., 39 S. Battery, Seignious Pharmacy at 176 Spring St., AS’s shop on 7 State St., 75 Tradd St., 129 Tradd, College of Charleston, Charleston High School Gym, the Oakland Club House, and the Old Citadel building including correspondence with Citadel president Charles P. Summerall, and West Point Mill. Also, similar papers for Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Camden; Paul Mills’ house in Georgetown, the Dodge House on Edisto Island, a building on Windsor Plantation in Georgetown County, and a Presbyterian church in Walterboro.

Includes: scattered specifications or architectural notes for alterations, additions or construction of mostly Charleston buildings. Includes specifications about Todd, Simons and Todd work on the Joseph Thompson Infirmary (1917) and Simons and Lapham’s
description of 54 Hasell St. (1941); alterations of Henry P. Staats’ apartment on 59 Church St. (1942); remodeling and additions to Robert Mills’ First Baptist Church on 61 Church St. (1965); additions to Pinehaven Hospital on 326 Calhoun (1963); and unexecuted roof repairs of Charleston’s Public Market (1965). Also includes undated Simons and Lapham photograph and drawing about design of Washington Light Infantry Armory entrance gate and specifications and notes on the Charles W. Coker, Jr. residence in Hartsville, SC (1962).

26-27-11/15 Public Housing Correspondence (1933-1934)
Includes: As a member of the Charleston City Housing Commission, AS’s correspondence about slum clearance with federal support, Celia McGowan’s project for a Public Works Administration funded Negro Community center, complaints about violence and disorder, low-cost public housing and public sanitation, and constitutional issues surrounding municipal housing. Also correspondence about slum clearance projects in Atlanta, GA. Correspondents include Charleston County Health Officer Leon Banov, the US Dept. of the Interior, Carrie Pollitzer, and the Charleston City Corporation Counselor’s office.

26-27/28 Architectural Correspondence (1946-1972)
Includes: AS’s correspondence about his firm’s architectural work, his interest in public school architecture, and his involvement in the Architects’ Council of Charleston. Includes radio show transcript (1948) about Simons and Lapham work on Hans K. Koebig’s house on 28 Murray Blvd, Charleston; architectural advice to Orangeburg public school officials; Simons and Lapham architectural service to Charleston County public schools (1960-1965); reminiscences (1958) of the Dock Street Theater Restoration (ca. 1930-1940); renovation of 8 South Battery (1960-1965); correspondence with the Architects’ Council of Charleston; AS’s and T. R. Waring’s opinion of Gaillard Auditorium (1969-1971); and correspondence with Loutrel Briggs about Charleston Co. Court House Park (1970-1972).

26-29/30 City Planning Correspondence (1931-1976)
Albert Simons was a member of the Charleston Zoning and City Planning Commission. Includes: correspondence about the architectural preservation commission’s enforcement of Charleston’s zoning ordinance, difficult cooperation with the City Council, the Board of Architectural Review, and the city’s building inspector and engineer; Charleston’s incorporation of the West Ashley and north areas (1952-1971); local controversy (1957-1969) over the extension of Lockwood Blvd. and a terminus for a James Island bridge into the peninsula; and Charleston county’s assistance with city planning (1961-1969). Also, AS’s routine correspondence to the County Planning Board (1970-1975). Correspondents include Herbert R. Sass, T. R. Waring, the Charleston Development Board, Susan Pringle Frost, Delos H. Smith, Mayors Burnet Maybank and J. Palmer Gaillard, and other city officials.

26-30-2/3 City Planning Correspondence (1950-1969)
Includes: correspondence with people in other cities or states about Charleston’s Zoning ordinance and city planning, experiences of other localities with similar efforts related to historic preservation, national litigation over eminent domain, AS’s advice to congressmen interested in preservation legislation, and discussion of the Board of Architectural Review and the importance of public opinion. Correspondents from Georgetown; Savannah, GA; Washington, DC; New Orleans, LA; Chicago, IL; and New York, NY include Richard Koch, Earl H. Reed and other preservationists.

26-30-4/10 City Planning Commission Minutes (1957-1969)
Charleston Zoning and City Planning Commission minutes about West Ashley rezoning, procedures for reviewing plans, review of applications for residential and commercial
zoning, the Commission’s relations with the Board of Architectural Review and Charleston’s Preservation Society (1957-1961), revision of 1931 city zoning ordinance (1965-1966) including maps (1951-1969) showing the effects of that change. Also, maps and drawings for architectural changes conforming with the zoning ordinances.

26-31-1/3 College Area Preservation Correspondence (1967-1975)

Albert Simons was a member of the College of Charleston Advisory Committee on Area Preservation. Includes: correspondence with College of Charleston’s president Theodore Stern about efforts to expand the College’s facilities without destroying the area’s historical character. Includes maps, especially of the neighborhood of the College near Calhoun, St. Philip, Wentworth, and Coming Streets showing college and architecturally or historically significant properties. Also, advice on renovation and construction, minutes of meetings (1972), and master development plans about property acquisition, parking, and erection of the Albert Simons Fine Arts Center.

26-31-4/9 Charleston Board of Architectural Review Correspondence (1957-1975)

Includes: AS’s correspondence about the city’s zoning ordinance and about regulating the demolition or the substantial repair of pre-1875 buildings. Includes correspondence or architectural drawings about alterations to the First Presbyterian Church (1958), North Adgers Wharf (ca. 1957-1968), the exterior alterations to the Huger-Smith house at 69 Church Street (1970), an addition to the Carolina Yacht Club (1971-1975), alterations to William Westmoreland’s house at 107 Tradd Street, reroofing of 97 King Street, and South Carolina National Bank’s controversial but approved demolition of 12 Broad Street (1974).

26-31-10/16 Preliminary Preservation Correspondence (1918-1949)

AS’s scattered correspondence and other papers about early efforts of the preservation movement in Charleston.

Includes: AS’s and Sidney Rittenberg’s correspondence about tablets to mark historic buildings (1918-1919); AS’s correspondence with Fiske Kimball and others about lost causes including Sheppard’s Tavern and the Mansion House (1928); correspondence with William Emerson and the US National Park Service about structural research on the Brick House on Edisto Island, Georgetown County (1929-1937); with Robert D. Kohn and William Sumner Appleton about the bequest of the Branford-Horry house to the American Institute of Architecture (1931); with Mayor Maybank about the City Committee on Restoration of Historic Sites, architectural surveys in Charleston’s historic district, and prospects for federal assistance (1934); and listings of historic buildings in the Charleston area and a memorandum outline of the early preservation movement in Charleston (ca. 1931-1949).

26-31/32 Preservation Committee Correspondence (1930-1938)

Albert Simons was a member of the AIA-supported Committee for Safeguarding Charleston Architecture.

Includes: Correspondence about committee activities for fund-raising for the Heyward-Washington and Joseph Manigault houses (1930-1933), negotiations with Standard Oil to remove a filling station from Manigault property (1930-1931), Frances Emerson’s donation for preservation work (1930-1931), furnishings for Heyward-Washington house, sale of wood paneling in 311 E. Bay Street, a limited photographic survey of local architecture, cooperation with Leicester Holland’s AIA Committee on Historic Buildings, travelling fellowships for students of Charleston architecture, and preparation of a travelogue film, “An Old City Speaks” on early American architecture in Charleston (1930-1933). Correspondents include Laura M. Bragg, Alston Deas, Frances Emerson, Leicester Holland, Robert D. Kohn, Edward C. Kemper, Julian Mitchell, Marjorie Morawetz, Horace Peaslee, Standard Oil, and T. R. Waring.
26-32-3/6 Heyward-Washington House Correspondence (1928-1934)
Includes: correspondence, bills and financial statements (1928-1934) of AS’s restoration of the Heyward-Washington House (87 Church Street) and related activities of the Museum and Preservation societies, especially about William and Francis Emerson’s financial support. Also, AS’s historical research notes and furnishings inventory for Heyward-Washington house, and his correspondence with Archibald M. L. DuPont of Montchanin, DE about photographs of the Heyward-Washington house interior, and with others about tours and financing of the Heyward-Washington and Joseph Manigault houses. Correspondents include Laura M. Bragg, E. Milby Burton, Alston Deas, and Robert D. Kohn.

26-32-7/11 Manigault House Correspondence (1930-1963)

26-32-12/15 Civic Services Committee Correspondence (1939-1946)
Albert Simons was a member of the Civic Services Committee and the President of the Carolina Art Association.
Includes: correspondence pertaining to the Committee’s efforts under Robert N. S. Whitelaw’s leadership to plan Charleston’s growth while preserving the city’s aesthetic value, providing architectural guidelines for streets and new buildings. Also, correspondence about Frederick L. Olmsted’s architectural survey of the city and recommendations for amalgamating the Carolina Art Association and Charleston’s other cultural organizations.

26-33 Historic Charleston Foundation Correspondence (1946-1976)
Albert Simons was a member of the Historic Charleston Foundation.

26-34 Preservation Society Correspondence (1952-1975)
Albert Simons was a member of the Charleston Preservation Society.
Includes: correspondence about Preservation Society’s efforts to save Charleston buildings and concern with revision of Charleston’s zoning ordinance. Includes correspondence about campaigns (1952-1955) for Bennett’s Rice Mill, the Orphan House Chapel, the façade of the Charleston Hotel, 106 Broad Street, the Lining House, and the Old Citadel Building. Also, correspondence, lists, and other papers about election of the Society’s officers and membership, pencil drawings of alterations to Henry Gaud’s Sword Gate property at 109 Tradd Street, and AS’s reminiscences (1959-1965) of the preservation movement in Charleston and the role of John Mead Howells, AS’s critique of William H. Hanckel’s master’s thesis, and information for Cervat Erder, an architecture professor at Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey. Other correspondents include Margareta P. Childs, Earl H. Reed, Henry P. Staats, Samuel G. Stoney (1891-1968), and Preservation Society presidents Louis L. Lawson, Jr. and L. Louis Green.

Dock Street Theatre Papers (1937-1950)
Albert Simons was president of the Carolina Art Association and chairman of the Dock Street Theatre’s production committee.
Includes: AS’s correspondence, copies of Robert N. S. Whitelaw’s outgoing letters, contracts, and other papers concerning the Dock Street Theatre’s operations and relationship with the Carolina Art Association. Includes production committee minutes (1938-1942), and papers about the Association’s history, budget, membership, staffing, financial problems, internal bickering, and eventual separation of the Theatre from the Association. Other correspondents include Burnet R. Maybank, George Hamlin, Abby Howells, Harold A. Mouzon, Daniel Ravenel, Thomas A Stone, and T. R. Waring, Jr.

Carolina Art Association Papers (1934-1975)
Includes: Correspondence, financial reports and statements, committee agendas and minutes, memoranda, fund-raising form letters, proposals to Charleston’s city council (1934-1950) and other agencies, budgets and balance sheets, special reports, and other papers about Carolina Art Association officers and finances; Gibbes Art Gallery miniatures and other accessions, art prizes, and exhibitions; sales of 18th century furniture and other artifacts to the Charleston Museum; the Association’s stormy relationship with the Footlight Players and Dock Street Theatre (1934-1950); activities of the Association’s Civic Services Committee, especially in urban planning (1943); the Association’s request to Charleston’s school board for $100,000 to fund an art education program (1946-1947); AS’s and other’s efforts to secure business sponsorship for an art educational outreach program for displaying paintings in public buildings (1961-1963); the Association’s publications, especially AS’s Plantations of the Carolina Low Country; painter William M. Halsey’s art classes (1950-1951); the Willard Hirsch Scholarship Fund and Hirsch’s sculpture in Charleston, Clemson and Columbia, including photographs (1952-1956); loans of paintings to the College of Charleston and AS’s use of Association’s slides for lectures at the College and the Gibbes Art Gallery on art, architecture, and architectural preservation (1959-1963). Also includes papers on DuBose Heyward’s family life (1939-1942). Correspondents include Francis W. Bilodeau, Laura Bragg, Frances Edmunds, George D. Grice, John F. Harbeson, Eliza Kammerer, Benjamin R. Kittredge, Edward Kronsberg, Helen G. McCormack, Mary E. Prior, Henry P. Staats, Thomas J. Tobias, James G. VanDerpool, T. R. Waring, Jr., and Robert N. S. Whitelaw.

Charleston Museum Trustee Papers (1933-1962)
Albert Simons was a Charleston Museum Trustee and Board Secretary.
Includes: minutes of board meetings, reports, and correspondence, mostly with museum director E. Milby Burton about museum finances, officers, building repairs, exhibits, artifact accessions, public relations, educational outreach programs, financial and artifact
contributions or bequests from Josephine Pinckney and Marjorie Morawetz, and responsibility for the restoration and maintenance of the Joseph Manigault and Heyward-Washington Houses. Includes papers about Burton’s surveys of other natural history museums, planning of a scale model exhibit of Charleston architecture (1933-1938), Manigault House financial transactions since 1922, and related legal questions (1960-1962) arising from the Henrietta Pignatelli trust concerning markers, and state and Charleston County financial assistance to the Charleston Museum. Other correspondents include Nathaniel B. Barnwell, A. Johnston Buist, attorney George L. Buist, the Charleston Preservation Society, Frances Emerson, Ellen M. FitzSimons, Charleston Mayor William Morrison, Mabel L. Pollitzer, Andrew B Rhett, and James G. VanDerpool.

Albert Simons served as President of the Charleston Library Society. Includes: Correspondence, board minutes, annual and quarterly reports on the Society’s finances, building maintenance problems, library staff, membership, operations and book and manuscript collections. Also, papers about the Society’s stocks, bonds and investment funds; post WWII building renovation and repairs performed by Simons and Lapham in cooperation with various contractors (1946-1952); architectural books transferred from the Society to Clemson University (1940); medical journals from the Library Society to the Charleston County Medical Society (1961); library use by the College of Charleston students and faculty (1931-1962); interlibrary loan, reference, and bibliographical services; library purchases and microfilming of colonial and 19th century newspapers and subsequent microfilm sales (1954-1959); AS’s effort (1951) to obtain DuBose Heyward’s manuscripts and literary memorabilia; the Society’s transition from a recreational to a scholarly orientation; and the Library Society’s role as a private institution in a community served by public and college libraries (1960-1962). Correspondents include Nathaniel B. Barnwell, E. Milby Burton, Caroline Conner, J. Harold Easterby, John E. Gibbs, L. Louis Green III, George D. Grice, Frederick H. Horlbeck, John Mead Howells, Eliza Kammerer, Philadelphia architect Robert R. McGoodwin, Josephine Pinckney, Andrew B. Rhett, Joseph I. Waring, T. R. Waring, Sr, and Helen G McCormack.

Includes: audit reports, letters to AS, and other financial papers about Society expenditures and income including bequests, investments in stocks and bonds, and sales of microfilm.

26-40 Charleston Library Society Endowment Fund Papers (1901-1962)
Financial statements, reports, and AS’s correspondence about the Society Endowment Fund income and expenditures. Includes historical report about the beginnings of the Fund and minutes of significant meetings of trustees of the Fund (1901-1951), and treasurer’s and audit reports about income from securities and expenditures, for instance for roofing repairs (1955-1957). Reports also occasionally include lists of new members and statistics on book circulation and other library operations.

26-41-1/6 Local Cultural Correspondence (1929-1971)
Correspondence and other papers about AS’s involvement in the Poetry Society of SC (1929) and Charleston’s Fine Arts Commission (1936-1954), cooperation with U. S. State Dept.’s cultural exchange program (1953), inscription for a Civil War memorial to Ft. Johnson (1954-1961), and cooperation with the Historic Charleston Foundation and the Philadelphia Museum of Art in a cultural exchange program (1961-1962) of lectures and panel discussions about architecture and historic preservation in Charleston. Includes constitution for and speech to Poetry Society; correspondence about jurisdiction of
Charleston’s Fine Art Commission, including with Edmund Purves about Commission’s duties and conflict with mayor and City Council over proposed bus shelter near Fireproof Building (1948), and about design for USS Hobson Memorial at White Point Garden in cooperation with the National Fine Arts Commission; correspondence about the visit of architect and architectural historian Roberto Pane from Taranto, Italy (1953); and AS’s draft for inscription (1960-1961) on monument to USS Hobson. Also includes correspondence with Charles E. Peterson about a failure of the historic preservation movement in Philadelphia, PA (1961-1962), and about the Historic Charleston Foundation’s sales of houses for restoration by new owners (1961-1962). Other correspondents include Henry P. Staats.

26-41/12 Charleston Rotary Club Correspondence (1950-1970)
Albert Simons was a Rotary Club Officer.
Includes: AS’s correspondence mostly about the Club’s meetings, goals, dues, committee structure, membership, entertainments, and other social activities; AS’s chairmanship of the Club’s trades association committee to survey and promote the members’ involvement in professional and trade associations, and AS’s role in orienting new members (1950-1961). Includes speech by AS’s honoring Charleston banker and WWII naval officer William C. Coleman (1952), the Club’s constitution and proposed amendments (1952), visa assistance to a college student from Beirut, Lebanon (1953-1955), correspondence about new candidates for membership classified by profession, and correspondence about contributions to the Joseph H. McGee Boy Scout Memorial Lake fund for a Scout camp (1956-1961). Also, correspondence (1962-1954) about AS’s service on the Rotary Club’s Key Way Committee and editorship of newsletter, Charleston Key Way. Also, much correspondence (1958-1968) about educational background, career, and Rotary Club’s loan to Charlestonian Lawrence D. Conner, Jr. for graduate study in urban planning at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

26-41/13/21 Social Organization Correspondence (1932-1964)
Includes: correspondence, minutes, addresses, notes, by-laws and constitutions, membership lists, and other papers pertaining to AS’s involvement in the activities of several social or civic organizations including: the Scottish Rite Freemasonry (1932), the Charleston Landmark Lodge of Free Masons (1959-1963), the Society of Cincinnati (1962-1963), the Huguenot Society (1940-1948), the Newcomen Society of North America (1957-1962), Crusade for Freedom (1955), Radio Free Europe (1955), the “Widows and Orphans Society” for families of deceased members of the SC medical profession (1947-1972), and Charleston’s interracial Community Relations Committee (1963-1964). Includes correspondence with United States Military Academy Superintendent William C. Westmoreland about the military, civil engineering, and architectural careers of Charleston USMA graduate Edward B. White (1806-1882); correspondence with C. P. Summerall, other Huguenot Society officers, and the local Daughters of the American Revolution pertaining to the physical condition of the Society’s rented offices in the Old Exchange Building (1940); correspondence with Joseph I. Waring pertaining to the historical links between the medical and architectural professions in the 16th and 17th centuries; and correspondence with Mayor J. Palmer Gaillard about Civil Rights Demonstrations, local African American lay and clergy civil rights activists and efforts to end discrimination in employment, hotel, restaurants, and other public accommodations (1963-1964). Other correspondents include anti-communist activist W. Harold Butt.

26-42 St. Michael’s Church Vestry Correspondence (1956-1969)
Albert Simons served on the vestry of St. Michael’s Episcopal Church. Correspondence and other papers mostly about church finances or building renovation.
Includes: correspondence and financial reports or specifications about insulation and other maintenance for the church and church rental properties on 2 Court House Square (1956-1957), annual report (1957) about church’s building and educational programs, installation of air-conditioning, repainting and proposed remodeling of church’s building (1958-1959), hurricane damages (1959), water proofing, other repairs, and exterior painting and papering of rectory and sacristy (1959-1961). Also, correspondence (1965-1969) about liturgy, with a parish council officer list.

26-43-1/7 College Faculty Correspondence (1924-1947)
Albert Simons was a lecturer at the College of Charleston.
Includes: AS’s correspondence with College president Harrison Randolph, George D. Grice, and other faculty and administrators, other colleges and universities, art galleries, and publishers, mostly about administrative regulations; prints, photographs, and other visual aids and library book purchases for AS’s courses on art and architectural history and appreciation; guest lecturers at the Gibbes Art Gallery or local studios; appointments of student assistants, and faculty applicants interested in giving additional arts courses. Includes AS’s instructor’s annual report (1926-1927); papers about Charleston Library Society membership privileges to the college’s faculty, students, and administrative staff (1937-1938); the purchase of lantern slides from the University of Virginia School of Fine Arts in Charlottesville (1937-1938); AS’s use of local painters and sculptors like Alice Smith, Willard Hirsch, and William M. Halsey for guest lectures (1946-1947); the American Institute of Architects Committee on Education’s recommended curriculum (1924) for architectural history and appreciation courses; and the College’s library accession lists (1937-1942). Also includes occasional letters about faculty reorganization (1939), AS’s opinion (1936) of the Williamsburg, VA restoration, and AS’s critique of the College’s engineering curriculum (1926). Other correspondents include Norman Chamberlain, Marjorie H. Collison, J. Harold Easterby, the Frick Reference Library in New York, NY, Nathaniel W. Stephenson from Yale University, and the College of Charleston Board of Trustees.

26-43-8/13 College Lectures (1924-1947)
Lectures, scattered lecture notes, quiz papers, bibliography, syllabi, and other papers for AS’s courses on art and on art and architectural history and appreciation.
Includes: a course syllabus and bibliography (1946-1947) for a course on Renaissance and Baroque architecture in England and France and papers for other courses on design appreciation, ancient Greek and Roman and medieval architecture, recognition of Christian saints in sculpture and other art, and a seven-lecture course on architectural history from ancient Egypt to modernism through studying eighty significant buildings also of the Byzantine, Romanesque, Gothic, British 16th-18th century, American colonial, and Greek Revival periods.

26-44/45 College of Charleston Trustee and Alumni Correspondence (1939-1978)
Includes: AS’s correspondence with college presidents, other university officials and fellow alumni on fundraising; faculty appointments, salaries, and tenure; and the colleges building program. Also, correspondence about selection of a college president with or about St. Julien Ravenel Childs, Huger W. Jervey, and other candidates (1942); the effort to acquire Ft. Johnson’s land and buildings (1953-1955); and Lewis Mumford’s appearance for a commencement ceremony (1955). Also, papers about tuition and off-campus classes conducted at Coastal Carolina Junior College (1955-1956) in Conway. Includes financial statements and Coastal Educational Foundation minutes (1956), an alumni reunion (1961), and College of Charleston’s plan for additional buildings (1964-1967). Correspondence with John Harbeson, Walter F. Petty, and College President
Theodore S. Stern about AS’s honorary degree (1970), AS’s donation of art books to the College’s library (1972), fundraising and social activities of the College of Charleston Club (1972-1975), and plans for the construction and dedication of the Albert Simons Center for the Fine Arts and related festivities (1976-1978). Also includes AS’s evaluation (1960) of Robert N. S. Whitelaw’s character and community service and letters about state historian J. Harold Easterby’s political conflict with the SC General Assembly (1949). Other correspondents include College President George D. Grice, Ellis Hodgin, Diane C. Johnson, Trustees President Harold A. Mouzon, Lewis Mumford, and Thaddeus Street.

26-45-4/5 University Alumni Correspondence (1934-1963)
Albert Simons was an alumnus of the University of Pennsylvania School of Architecture. Includes: Correspondence with Harry Sternfeld and other fellow alumni from University of Pennsylvania School of Architecture about fundraising, AS’s financial contributions and reminiscences of campus sports, other social activities, and attitudes (1909-1911). Includes correspondence about formation of a SC chapter of the U of PA alumni society, class reunions, the school’s architectural faculty (1934-1941), and contributions to the Paul B. Cret Memorial Fund (1946). Also, AS’s critique (1963) of the College of Charleston’s buildings.

26-46-1/4 College Faculty Papers (1915-1916)
Albert Simons was an instructor of architectural history at Clemson Agricultural College. Includes: AS’s correspondence with college faculty and administrators about AS’s teaching services including AS’s conflict with the College over by-laws affecting faculty resignations. Also, AS’s lecture notes, quizzes and syllabus for courses in architectural history covering ancient Egyptian and Greek and Roman, Romanesque, Byzantine, Renaissance, 17th century European, American colonial, Greek Revival, and modern architecture.

26-46-5/13 College Advisory Correspondence (1946-1970)
Includes: AS’s correspondence with Clemson College faculty, administrators and trustees, American Institute of Architects SC chapter officers, and state legislators about efforts to separate the architectural school from Clemson’s engineering department (1948-1958), hiring of chairmen or deans, faculty qualifications and morale, and student’s design contests (1957-1960). Includes papers about criticism of Clemson’s School of Architecture, replacement of the school’s chairman John H. Gates (1953-1954), refresher courses given by Clemson faculty at the College of Charleston (1957-1960), and a student architectural exhibit at the Gibbes Art Gallery (1963). Also, a bibliography (1946) of interest to Clemson faculty about Charleston Free Library holdings in art and architecture; AS’s articles for the architectural school’s Minaret Bulletin on clients (1948) and Gothic Revival architecture (1949); a biographical sketch (ca.1961) of Dean Harlan E. McClure; letters and lists about AS’s and other individual and business donations to the Clemson Architectural Foundation (1957-1960); and about the Heyward S. Singley Memorial Collection of architectural slides for Clemson’s School of Architecture (1964-1966). Correspondents include Turpin C. Bannister, William Emerson, John H. Gates, G. Thomas Harmon, Richard Koch, Harlan E. McClure, S. Singley, Henry P. Staats, and AIA-SC Chapter president Louis M Wolff.

26-47-51 Personal Correspondence (1915-1979)
AS’s correspondence about architectural business projects and the changing state of architectural profession, architectural preservation, architectural history, and various personal and family interests including politics, race relations, postwar economic conditions in Great Britain (1946-1951), Charleston’s growth and changing tax base

26-52-1/5 Philanthropic Correspondence (1939-1948)

Albert Simons was treasurer for an alumni fund for teacher Ellen Frost Hayne. Includes correspondence and accounts with fellow contributors and with Ellen Frost Hayne about charitable donations to her from former pupils. Includes a list of contributors.

26-52-6/18 Public Service Correspondence (1946-1976)

AS’s correspondence about personal favors for Ann Lapham (1946-1976) and aspiring young architects and related professionals (1951-1971); support for a foster grandparent program, a food program for the poor, and other charities mostly for children (1959-1968). Also correspondence about AS’s financial contribution to William M. Halsey’s murals and Willard Hirsch’s sculptures comprising a memorial to Sidney Cohen at Temple Beth Elohim in Charleston (1965), and the distribution of AS’s private library (1968). Also, correspondence with Williamsburg Co. Historical Society about advice for the restoration of the Thorntree House in Kingstree (1968-1969); informational assistance to historical researchers and gifts of historical manuscripts to the South Carolina Historical Society (1969-1976); interests in the Association for Preservation Technology, the Charleston Preservation Society, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation (1972-1975); gift of AS’s architectural drawings to the Caroliniana Library at the University of South Carolina (1962-1965); and assistance to the Charleston Co. African American farm association organizer Samuel Faber (1951-1961).

26-53 Personal Correspondence (1949-1968)

AS’s correspondence with economist and economic professor David M. Wright about Wright’s academic career, economic and political opinions, and architectural interests. Includes correspondence about Wright’s disputes with leftist intellectuals at the University of Virginia (1957); McGill University and other Canadian universities (1957-1962); economic lectures at various universities and professional conferences throughout the United States and Great Britain, France, and Belgium; Wright’s criticisms of Marxist
economics, especially a lecture in Chartres, France (1960); and teaching at the U. of GA in Athens, GA (1962-1968). Wright’s, AS’s and Harriet Simons’ views on race relations (1957-1962), especially federal desegregation of public schools in Little Rock, AR (1957) and the University of MS at Oxford, MS (1962), northern and southern sectionalism, and civil rights for African Americans; AS’s and Wright’s mutual architectural interests in plantation houses in Beaufort County, 18th century British churches, country homes, and civic buildings, St. Michael’s Episcopal Church in Charleston, St. James Episcopal Church on James Island, and similar churches in London, Great Britain (1961); AS’s remodeling (1957-1959) of No.1 Tradd St. in Charleston; Wright’s ancestry; Wright’s opposition to federal aid to education (1963); AS’s service on the American Institute of Architect’s Jury of Fellows (1949) and Judiciary Committee (1958) and opinions of contemporary American architects’ standards and ethics; and Wright’s membership in the Society of Cincinnati (1967).

26-54-1/6 Personal and Architectural Correspondence (1945-1978)
Includes: correspondence with London, Great Britain architect and urban planner Anthony Minoprio- mostly about personal interests and also about architectural matters and problems in urban planning. Includes correspondence about AS’s architectural firm’s business (1945-1950); Minoprio’s architectural projects; urban planning in Charleston and Chelmsford, Great Britain to solve parking problems (1945-1950); AS’s planning of shopping centers and service on the Charleston Zoning and City Planning Commission (1945-1955); Minoprio’s planning of Crawley New Town (a British satellite city) and description of an innovative housing project in Copenhagen, Denmark (1952-1964); and AS’s and Minoprio’s research interest (1972-1978) in the architecture of the Glebe Street Presbyterian Church and the influence of Sir John Soane on British and 19th century Charleston architecture. Also, AS’s and Minoprio’s correspondence with architecture professors at Duke University (and other US colleges and universities) about sponsorship of Minoprio’s visit to the US to lecture on town planning (1951). Also includes correspondence mostly about family matters, and political, economic, and social conditions in Charleston, the US generally, and Great Britain (1945-1969). Includes letters about family life, health, and social activities including AS’s and Harriet Simons’ travels to London and elsewhere in Great Britain (1965-1968), AS’s feelings as a widower (1971), and AS’s commentary on the 1969 African American hospital workers’ strike in Charleston, public schools, desegregation, violence and other strike-related or racial matters (1969).

26-54-7/10 Foreign Personal and Religious Correspondence (1944-1976)
Includes: AS’s correspondence (1944-1957) with Anglican Bishop Frederick W. Dwelly, Dean of Liverpool, on architectural, religious, family and personal matters. Includes AS’s litany (1948) for the festival of the Royal Institute of British Architects; AS’s historical commentary (1952) on Winston Churchill’s greatness; and Dwelly’s and AS’s reading tastes and reminiscences of wartime friendships (1954-1957). Also correspondence about Dwelly’s death (1957-1959) and AS’s financial contributions (1962-1976) for the building restoration in Dwelly’s honor to Friends and Builders of Liverpool Cathedral; texts of Anglican religious services for U.S. servicemen, enthroning of a bishop, and commemoration of King George VI (1944-1952).

26-54-55 Foreign Personal Correspondence (1946-1978)
Includes: AS’s correspondence with friends and relatives in Great Britain on family matters and personal interests in architecture, political and economic conditions, foreign affairs, social activities, and tourist visits (1968-1978) to Charleston. Includes AS’s correspondence about AS’s renovation of #1 Tradd Street in Charleston (1976-1977), readings in architectural history (1970-1977), British politics (1946-1957), AS’s
conservative and anti-communist political views (1947-1957), living standards in Great Britain (1946-1955), attitudes towards the British labor movement (1946-1953), U.S. foreign aid to Great Britain (1946-1955), and the impact of the 1956 Suez Crisis on British domestic politics; also includes correspondence about Harriet Simons’ health, AS’s marriage, Harriet’s death and AS’s feelings as a widower and his relations with his children and grandchildren; correspondence about AS’s daughter Serena’s postwar military intelligence service and her observations of public political opinion and living conditions in Vienna, Austria; Heidelberg, Germany; and Rome, Italy (1946-1947); also the death and achievements of sculptor E. Carter Preston. Correspondents are from Bath (1946-1953), Linton (1970-1977), Liverpool (1946-1978), and London (1968-1978), and include Charles and Mary Anderson; Robert and Isabel Bollans; George, Harry, Daisy, and Nancy Brocklehurst; AS’s aunt, Ciss Calder; Jennie Huger Calder; Isaac Dixon; E. Carter Preston; and H. Tyson Smith.

Military Veteran Correspondence (1946-1971)
Includes: As a WWII U.S. army officer with the 15 Port Transportation Corps at Charleston Port of Embarkation, AS’s correspondence with fellow veterans of his unit mostly on postwar family activities and careers, travels, health, deaths, reunions and membership lists (1952-1971) of their veteran’s unit and occasionally reminiscences of wartime military life and leisure activities in Liverpool and Rheims; also includes correspondence about AS’s political favor for his old unit’s commander, General Harold R. Duffie through constituent influence on U. S. Senator B. R. Maybank; also correspondence concerning AS’s design for Charleston’s airport terminal (1948) and the Simons and Lapham firm’s other postwar architectural business (1946-1959), standards of architectural schools in the eastern U. S. and student life at Clemson University (1952), the effects of postwar economic and political conditions on the textile industry in Massachusetts, especially near Boston (1946-1959), the wartime military experience of AS’s children, and AS’s commentary on the federal government’s school desegregation cases and conditions in SC’s segregated public schools. Also includes AS’s correspondence (1946) with American Red Cross official and colleague Mabel R. Walter about Walter’s assistance (1945-1946) to a war refugee at Camp Lucky Strike near Le Havre, France. Other correspondents include William D. Lambert of Newton Highlands, MA (1947-1963); Emerson J. Leary of Buffalo, NY (1946-1959); and William H. Neilson of Boston, MA (1946-1952) and New York, NY (1957-1959); Jefferson B. Osborn of Atlanta, GA (1948-1958); Roland O. Schaefer of Lemay, MD (1952-1963) and R. P. Wiese of St. Louis, MO (1947-1948) and Garretson, SD (1951-1958).

Military Papers (1942-1951)
Albert Simons served as a civil defense volunteer, a major in the US Army (15 Port Transportation Corps), military intelligence, army public relations, and military police during WWII and later in the US Army Reserves (1947-1951). Includes: correspondence, government regulations, property release forms, service records, memoranda, service rosters, supply audits, personal clothing lists, tables of organization, notes, daily calendar, codebook, and officers commissions re AS’s application for an officer’s commission (1942-1943); also censorship of soldiers’ correspondence (1945), AS’s personal and army-issued property, daily events during AS’s wartime service (1943-1945), authorized US Army abbreviations, AS’s wartime friendships in France (1944-1946), AS’s travel claims, and AS’s commission and service in the Army Reserve after the war. Also includes correspondence about AS’s son, Albert Simon’s, Jr., and his battle experience as a US army officer near Rome, Italy (1944-1945).

Military Correspondence (1917-1925)
Albert Simons served as a US Army private and corporal during WWI.
Includes: AS’s correspondence with Congressman Richard S. Whaley and others
concerning AS’s application to the Engineer Officers Reserve Corps, AS’s other efforts
for an officer’s commission (1917), military service near Rennes, France (1918-1919),
discharge at the end of the war (1919), and postwar veteran claims and insurance (1919-
1925)

26-58-5/10 Military and Family Correspondence (1917-1919)
Albert Simons served as a US Army private and corporal during WWI.
Includes: AS’s correspondence primarily with wife Harriet P. S. Simons in Charleston
about his and other’s military service and about family matters. Harriet’s many letters
(1918-1919) are about AS’s brothers, T. Grange Simons IV (US Navy) and W. Lucas
Simons (US Army Air Force), his father, T. Grange Simons III; Harriet’s selling of
Liberty Bonds and her work with the American Red Cross, weddings of Harriet’s
sister, Louisa Stoney, and others; teas, social manners, marriage and mental inequality
of men and women, picnics, AS and Harriet’s children, women in politics, the interest of
visitors to Charleston in excursions to Magnolia Gardens and Middleton Plantation,
gardening, and Harrison Randolph’s decision to admit women to the College of
Charleston (1918). Also includes postcards (1918-1919) from AS in Rennes, France,
to Harriet about French beverages, city streets, buildings, and surrounding landscape.
Also AS’s correspondence with his father, T. Grange Simons III, about AS’s service
with the US Army’s 30th Division and later with the camouflage 40th Regiment Corps of
Engineers, his wedding to Harriet, living conditions at Camp Sevier in Greenville (1917)
and in France, French civilian morals and relations with American soldiers, brothers
Aiken and R. Bentham Simons’ military service, and his father’s vacations in Highlands,
NC. Also includes letter from AS’s brother-in-law, army Lt. Augustine Stoney about
military service and providing a memoir of a battle during the summer of 1918.

26-59/60 Personal and Biographical Papers (1910-1970)
Albert Simons’ student notes, papers for class assignments, memorabilia, will, powers of
attorney, correspondence, and address books.
Includes: class notes (ca. 1910) as a student at the College of Charleston; papers about
class assignments, sketches and notes about philosophy of architecture, photographs and
playbills about student theatrical activities and humor, and publicity about honors and
achievements as a student (1910-1912) and alumnus (1912-1934) of the University of
Pennsylvania School of Architecture; humorous correspondence and recipes (1937-
1943) about punches and other alcoholic mixed drinks; AS’s wife Harriet’s power of
attorney and will (1943-1945); letters to AS about 1948 presidential election, Ku Klux
Klan, and state politics (1949-1958); AS’s correspondence, a journal, and other papers
about travels to Carmel and San Francisco, CA (1968-1969), London (1970), elsewhere
in Great Britain and Europe (1955-1967); AS’s health and surgery in Philadelphia at U.
of PA Hospital (1964); wife Harriet’s health (1969); and AS’s reminiscences (1957-
1958) of teachers at Charleston High School (1906). Also, AS’s sketches of Japanese
landscape and photographs and biographical notes about AS, wife Harriet, children, and
grandchildren.

26-60-6/12 Autobiographical Writings (1919-1970)
Albert Simons correspondence, notes, and biographical sketches about his achievements
and the history of his firm of Simons, Lapham, and Mitchell.

26-61-1/12 Family Correspondence and Biographical papers (1862-ca.1947)
Charleston family correspondence, photographs, biographical notes, and ephemera about
physician, Charleston health official, and CSA enlisted man, T. Grange Simons III (1843-
1927).
Includes: typescript carbons of T. Grange Simons III’s correspondence with his father and other relatives about a duel in Charleston between Alfred Rhett and Ransom Calhoun (1862), the Battle of Second Manassas, and wartime homefront living conditions, skirmishes in the Charleston area (1864), military service at Secessionville and Battery Wagner (1863), medical service during yellow fever epidemic in Memphis, TN (1878-1879), other papers about medical services during yellow fever epidemic in Fernandina, FL (1877); T. Grange Simons III’s commentary on national politics, the South’s economy, and Ku Klux Klan religious bigotry (1927); T. Grange Simons III’s health, fatal illness, and his estate, including the residence at 18 Montagu St. in Charleston (1927-1933); and S. G. Stoney’s (1891-1918) biographical sketch of T. Grange Simons III. Also, humorous rhetoric (1861-1922) and verse (1922) collected by T. Grange Simons III including a speech and poems about John Harrallson’s efforts to collect nitre for the CSA.

26-61-13/21  Family correspondence (1915-1979)

Albert Simons’ correspondence with his brothers Aiken, W. Lucas, T. Grange IV, and with his brothers’ wives and children; photos and clippings about family life, social activities, travels and business pursuits.

Includes: Most of the correspondence is with Aiken Simons (1920-1939) about Aiken’s travels in Argentina and Brazil (1922), loan to AS’s architectural firm Simons and Lapham (1920), health and interest in the Charleston Library Society and Carolina Yacht Club (1923-1937). Aiken’s letters (1922) from Argentina and Brazil discuss work as a military goods salesman for the DuPont-Nemours Co.; customs and manners, weather, and topography in Recife and Santos, Brazil; parties and public celebrations by fellow Americans and an abortive military coup in Rio de Janiero; architecture and church and state relations in Buenos Aires, Argentina; and brother R. Bentham’s presence in Smyrna during the war between Greece and Turkey; also includes Aiken’s historical essay about development and use of military ordnance since 1249 in Europe and Asia and during the American Civil War and Spanish-American War (1898), and AS’s correspondence (1950-1979) with nephew and niece F. Holmes Simons and Betty Simons.

26-62  Family and Naval correspondence (1919-1971)

Albert Simons’ correspondence with brother R. Bentham Simons, a U. S. naval officer, about naval and family matters.

Includes: photographs of AS’s brother and family letters (1932-1970) from R. B. Simons while serving in the eastern Mediterranean (1919-1922) and from Long Beach, CA about an earthquake there (1933); clippings about R. B. Simons’ management of Charleston’s airport (1948-1950); correspondence (1951-1956) about publication of R. B. Simons’ biography and family history, *Thomas Grange Simons III—His Forebears and Relations*; R. B. Simons scholarly assistance and manuscript donations to the SCHS (1970-1971); and R. B. Simons’ reminiscences of Admiral Spruance as a naval instructor (1935). Also, photographs, newspaper clippings, and reports about R. B. Simons’ performance as commander of the USS Raleigh during the Japanese attack on the US naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii (1941) and as commanding officer (1942-1945) at the Naval Torpedo Station at Alexandria, VA, including fitness report summary (1914-1945) and a confidential supplementary report on the 1941 Pearl Harbor attack showing U. S. preparedness and citations for wartime service (1948).

26-63/64  Family Correspondence (1927-1977)

Albert Simons’ correspondence mostly with or about his children and their families.

Includes: AS’s correspondence with sons Albert and Stoney and daughters Harriet and Serena about public school, preparatory school, and college educations, including student life at Mercersburg Academy, Mercersburg, PA (1933), Princeton University’s
admissions and financial aid policies (1935-1936). Also, correspondence about Albert Jr.’s legal career, Serena’s service abroad with naval military intelligence (1945-1947), AS’s concern about county planning and the proposed James Island Bridge (1969), Albert, Jr’s essay about laissez-faire, “The Myth of American Democracy” (ca.1950), AS’s interest (1975-1977) in Venice architecture, the DAR restoration of the Old Exchange Building in Charleston, and academic standards at Philip’s Academy in Andover, MA (1936); Stoney Simon’s grievances as a constituent of US Senator Maybank (1946) against the Veterans Administration concerning his WWII benefits; AS’s comments on contemporary child-rearing practices, daughter Serena’s marriage to Alec F. Leonhardt (1948-1970), daughter Harriet’s student life at Smith College (1949-1952) and family life with husband George Williams; AS’s correspondence with nephews, nieces, and other Aiken family members.

Family history correspondence and notes about Simons family genealogy. Includes: notes about Benjamin Simons (1672-1717), Isaac Mazyck (1661-1735), William Richardson (1743-1786), and James Bentham (1746-1786). Also, a transcription of a Simons family bible record of births and deaths (1693-1840) and notes about Simons family participation in the American Revolutionary and Civil Wars; Simons family documents (1793-1865) and AS’s correspondence with David D. Wallace and others about Simons family history (1927-1935) and with Mary E. Prior of the SCHS about the British sword captured by Keating Simons or Francis Marion (1975); notes about a duel (1826) between Francis Quash and T. Grange Simons I (1789-1863) and notes about the Hume (1690-1837) and Dulles (1795-1816) families.

26-65-10/21  Family History Papers (1864-1954)  [Aiken Family, 1733-1954]
Correspondence about family matters, experiences during the Civil War, estates and achievements, and architectural projects; photographs and notes about family history, lineage, estates, and biographical matters. Includes: carbon type script transcriptions of letters (1864-1884) from Joseph D. Aiken (1817-1884) to daughters Serena D. and Ellen and son William M. in Winnsboro about federal bombardment of Charleston, blockade runners, exchange of Yankee and Confederate prisoners of war, civilian life, General Sherman’s raids, the Confederate peace mission, and his daughters’ reading and education in household matters (1864-1865); also, Aiken’s travel to Saratoga, NY, and Palatka and Gainesville, FL (1868), festivities in Charleston in celebrating the nation’s centennial (1876), a circus in New York, NY, and commentary on Lew Wallace’s novel, Ben Hur, (1884). Also includes letters from architect William M. Aiken about the interior restoration of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church (1905) and construction of Roper Hospital (1906-1908) in Charleston; Albert Simons’ correspondence with uncle Joseph D. Aiken in Taftsville, CT (1923-1925) and in Charleston (1944-1953) about residential property and the estate and tombstone of Simons’ aunt, Ellen D. Aiken. Includes photographs, tombstone rubbings, other memorabilia, and an estate inventory (1879-1926) re Simons’ mother Serena D. Aiken, grandmother Ellen D. Aiken (d. 1903), and grandfather Joseph D. Aiken (1817-1884).

26-65-22/23  Family History Papers (undated)  [Bentham Family, 1381-1865]
Family history notes about the Bentham family and a regimental book (1778-1780) of SC militia Captain James Bentham, with a portrait. Includes: notes about Marian exile Bishop Thomas Bentham (1513-1578) of Litchfield and Coventry, Great Britain (1540-1578); typescript carbon copy of
Captain James Bentham’s regimental book (1778-1780) including patriot muster rolls, proceedings of company’s commissioners about loyalty or disloyalty of Charlestonians, regimental orders about patrols, military reinforcements to Savannah, GA (1778), alarms, military discipline and justice, Charleston’s ammunition and fortifications, and the impressment of slave labor.

26-66-1/6 Family Photographs and Photo Albums (1900-ca.1970) [Simons Family, 1900-ca.1970] Includes: John Bennett’s photo album, “In Old South Carolina” (1900), about Charleston street scenes, Medway Plantation, and the Bennett family; photo album (1925) of historic area near St. Philip’s Episcopal Church in Charleston; photos and albums of Simons and Stoney families including photos of US Army Captain and artillery engineer (1917) Aiken Simons, T. Grange Simons III, Serena Aiken Simons, Albert Simons, student life at the College of Charleston (1906-1907) and the University of Pennsylvania (1907-1908), Harriet P. S. Simons and her sister, Louisa Stoney, and photos of religious service (1948) for a festival of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

26-67 Land Papers (1922-1971)
Albert Simons’ papers including architectural plans about various rental properties in the Charleston area, mostly 84 South Battery.
Includes: interior and exterior specifications for construction and interior furnishing of AS’s house on 18 Montague Street and similar information for #1 ½ Tradd Street and a summer home on Sullivan’s Island (1956-1969). Also drawings (1948) of a desk and cupboard in 84 South Battery and mortgage and tax assessment information.

26-68/69 Income Tax Returns (1920-1961)
Albert and Harriet S. Simons’ federal and state income tax returns including correspondence with the US Internal Revenue Service. These show business costs of the architectural firm of Simons and Lapham, and financial contributions to a wide range of charitable organizations. Papers also include information about AS’s income from his architectural firm, from teaching, and from architectural work for the federal government.

Accounts, letters, and financial notes mostly about Harriet P. S. Simons’ stock and bond dividends, purchases and sales, and financial planning.
Includes: papers about Simons family income from a share of Smythe family estate rental property in Charleston (1944-1945), some papers about Albert Simons business accounts as a partner in Todd, Simons and Todd (1916), and a daybook (1931-1935) about income or expenses as a partner in Simons and Lapham and from part-time teaching at the College of Charleston.

Harriet Simons’ correspondence mostly about Stoney and Simons family matters and social life. Correspondence with husband Albert, brothers Augustine T. S. Stoney and Samuel G. Stoney (1907-1913), sister Louisa S. Popham (1907-1936), other relatives, and a friend James H. Hammond (1947-1959) about marriage (1917-1969), births, childhood, and adolescence (1896-1930), college student life at Sewanee and elsewhere (1907-1936); vacations at Flat Rock, NC and Nova Scotia, Canada (1913), gardening and other hobbies (1947-1959), housekeeping routines (1907-1936), women’s shoes and other apparel (1907-1959), health problems and medical care (1907-1969); teas (1907-1936), manners, dining (1907-1936), romances (1913), gambling (1931), visiting (1907-1936), dancing (1931-1950), a debutante ball (1950), and ocean cruises (1931-1934) in the
Atlantic and Pacific and travel to Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, and Santa Barbara, CA while visiting brother-in-law R. Bentham Simons and family (1931); travel to Colorado Springs, CO and Santa Fe, NM, New York, NY (1934), Calliente, Mexico and Panama City (1931) and Europe (1963-1969); also residential and commercial architecture (1931), art exhibits, drama, movies, and a lecture by Gertrude Stein (1934); sale of Smythe and Stoney family summer house in Flat Rock, NC (1940-1941) and marital love poems from HPSS (1950). Also includes occasional correspondence from economist cousin David McCord Wright about economic conditions and John Keynes economic theory (1944); correspondence with columnist Max Lerner about national politics and Olin Johnston’s political record (1947-1949) and with others about African American civil rights (1947-1963) and white attitudes in Columbia (1963) and St. Louis, MO (1947-1949); includes HPSS’s unpublished stories and personal book list, clippings about her civic achievements and autobiographical data, ca. 1930-1966.


Harriet P. S. Simons was a Charleston civic leader, women’s rights activist, and President of the SC League of Women Voters. Includes: HPSS’s correspondence, speeches, clippings, reports, and other papers about her activities in political reform, voter education, promotion of public health and wartime civil defense, especially through the SC League of Women voters, Red Cross, Maternal Welfare Bureau’s clinic in Charleston (1938-1955), the Charleston Civic Union (1941-1943), the Charleston YWCA (1950-1955), and the Charleston Welfare Council (1948). Also political papers about HPSS’s unsuccessful candidacy for a seat on Charleston County Council (1948) and interests in local, state, and federal elections, primaries, and issues involving Charleston mayors Lockwood and William Morrison, SC Senator O. T. Wallace, Charleston Aldermen J. Palmer Gaillard and Albert Simons, Jr., James F. Byrnes, Olin Johnston, J. Strom Thurmond, J. Waties Waring, and such matters as campaigns against vice (1941-1943), electrical utility companies (1940-1943), and voting machines (1940-1943); the election of health officials (1940-1943), county government reform (1946), city of Charleston fiscal condition (1957), African American voter registration (1957), Ku Klux Klan demonstrations in North Charleston (1950-1951), Charleston County property tax reassessment (1950-1955), the Dixiecrat revolt against President Harry Truman and the national Democratic party (1948-1953), freedom of speech vs. anti-communist hysteria (1955), the federal government’s budget and economic policy (1952), and public support for the United Nations (1945). Also information on prostitution, gambling, venereal disease, illegal liquor sales, and local friction with US Navy over drunken sailors (1940-1943); birth control and other community health programs (1938-1955), local political corruption (1940-1943), aluminum collection drives, consumer protection, nutrition, home nursing classes, and other health measures on the home front during WWII, and League of Women Voter interest in SC health, library, public school and medical legislation and programs (1949); juvenile delinquency (1954) and mental health (1954).


Includes: clippings, pamphlets, correspondence, and other papers about HPSS’s interests in promoting white accommodation of the African American civil rights struggle in SC and the South and in improving local and state public services for African Americans through the League of Women Voters, the National Urban League (1946-1947), the Southern Regional Council and the SC Council on Human Relations (1947-1955), the Concerned South Carolinians Inc. (1957-1958), and African American
institutions. Also includes papers about HPSS’s concerns and activities including a study of African American health, recreation, employment and housing and racial discrimination in Charleston (1946-1947); the trials of white Lynchers in Greenville (1947) and of African American victims of racist police and national guard violence in Columbia, TN (1946-1947); the public school desegregation battle and white resistance to related US Supreme Court decisions (1951-1955) including violence and economic pressure, especially against white moderates (1946-1958), the African American voting rights struggle and Charleston federal Judge J. Watie’s controversial private life, public career, and decision to abolish the white Democratic party primary (1941-1958); Northern racism and one-sided Northern newspaper coverage of racial tension exclusively in the South and Charleston, the News and Courier’s and other southern newspapers’ hostility to the civil rights movement (1946-1958); Charleston school boards and conditions in the city’s segregated public schools (1947); the policies of the US Fair Employment Practices Commission (1947-1951); the violation of African American professor Lewis K. Miller’s academic freedom at an African American college (1953), and an African American hospital and training school for nurses (1947). Correspondents include National Urban League secretary Lester Granger, William Emerson, Congressman James P. Richards, and segregationist editor Thomas R. Waring.

Includes: mostly a draft of HPSS’s unpublished article, “Brick in South Carolina, 1740-1750,” which was written in 1934 and annotated in 1962; also related research letters to HPSS from A. S. Salley, Jr., John Bennett, and Charles E. Peterson and research notes about brickmaking and carpentry (ca.1747-1775), SC Academy of Arts (1821-1822), and 18th and early 19th century cabinet makers, painters, and other artisans and craftsmen. Also, some family history research notes about Aiken, Hume, Bentham, Stoney, Brown, Huger, and related families (1713-1834), including biographical notes on Benjamin Simons (1713-1772) and Keating Simons (d. 1834) and about title (1786-1790) to 18 Montague Street in Charleston.