

**MSS 121 REGISTER TO THE TEXTILE HALL CORPORATION RECORDS**  
8 cu. ft.

**INTRODUCTION**

This collection was donated by the Textile Hall Corporation in 1987 through the efforts of Special Collections employee, Bryan McKown. MSS 121 was formerly accessioned as 87-113. Arrangement and description was completed by Pauline Klein in 1991.

**ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY**

The Textile Hall Corporation began as the Southern Textile Exposition, Inc. in order to coordinate and host the Southern Textile Expositions which began in 1915 and were held biannually until 1972. In 1923 a reorganization took place which changed the name and created the eleemosynary Textile Hall Corporation. The run of shows was interrupted by World Wars I and II and a strike in 1934 caused the show to be postponed until April, 1935. The Southern Textile Exhibitions records in this collection are for the years listed below:

Southern Textile Exhibition, 1919	Southern Textile Exhibition, 1946
Southern Textile Exhibition, 1920	Southern Textile Exhibition, 1950
Textile Products Show, 1921	Southern Textile Exhibition, 1952
Southern Textile Exhibition, 1922	Southern Textile Exhibition, 1954
Southern Textile Exhibition, 1924	Southern Textile Exhibition, 1956
Southern Textile Exhibition, 1926	Southern Textile Exhibition, 1958
Southern Textile Exhibition, 1928	Southern Textile Exhibition, 1960
Southern Textile Exhibition, 1930	Southern Textile Exhibition, 1962
Southern Textile Exhibition, 1935	Southern Textile Exhibition, 1964
Southern Textile Exhibition, 1937	Southern Textile Exhibition, 1968
Mechanical Equipment Show, 1938	Southern Textile Exhibition, 1970
Southern Textile Exhibition, 1939	Southern Textile Exhibition, 1972

The original Textile Hall building was erected in 1917 and expanded over the years to include nine annexes in downtown Greenville. In 1964 a new Textile Hall was built on property adjacent to the downtown Greenville airport, off Pleasantburg Road. This hall was expanded even before the first show in it was held and then expanded again two years later. The new textile hall has been re-named the Palmetto International Exposition Center and continues to provide exhibit space for a variety of activities every

year. Both halls were used for other purposes than the textile shows, including a hospital convention, vaudeville shows, musical performances, home shows, health and science fairs and a Billy Graham Crusade.

Every fourth and fifth year Greenville is host to the American Textile Machinery Exhibition-International. Looms and spinning equipment are displayed at one ATME-I show, other textile manufacturing equipment at another companion show the following year.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

Many of the records are arranged as they came from the Corporation. Textile Hall employee Betsy Byford sorted records for the period 1915 through 1932. Subsequent records were arranged based on the pattern Ms. Byford had established. Files on each of the Southern Textile Exhibitions are arranged alphabetically within each year. There are 7 boxes of Southern Textile Exhibition Records, followed by one box of records of other activities held in the hall. These are arranged by activity and year and alphabetically within the year. The exhibition records are not comprehensive for each year. Some years have very little information, while other years are reasonable complete.

Other activities held in the hall are documented and arranged in date order following the textile exhibition records. These include health/science fairs, home shows, and a religious crusade. In March, 1966 Billy Graham brought his crusade program to Greenville. This was held in the new Textile Hall Building. Supplemental sections of the *Greenville News* and *Decision* are in oversize box no. 1. Other articles from the *Greenville News* and *Greenville Piedmont* from February and March, 1966 were discarded. Both papers are available on microfilm in the Cooper Library Reserve room. Specific dates for articles about the Graham Crusade are: February 11, 27 and 28, 1966 and March 3-15, 1966.

Records documenting corporation activities including bond issues, taxes, correspondence, payroll, publicity, etc. are in two boxes, one is general, and one is correspondence. Much of the correspondence and company records were not retained by the Corporation and are not available in the collection. The files for Mr. William Serrine and Miss Bertha Green would have been valuable, but these were not extant at the time the Corporation turned these records over to Clemson. Therefore, the business records for the Corporation are very sketchy. The tax files for instance cover the period 1919-1923, then skip to 1936. After 1936 there are no tax

records. Annual reports are only available for the period 1940-1950's. The Corporation went through a reorganization in the early 1920's which resulted in the corporation's non-profit, tax-exempt status. Records of this period are incomplete, but do give some idea of the process. The general correspondence files are for specific companies, individuals and organizations and are also incomplete. The file for the Toledo Pipe Threading Machine Company contains interesting perspectives on the presidential election of 1944.

Changes in the textile industry are well documented by the large number of photographs in the collection. There are 7 boxes containing approximately 1400 black and white photographs of the various Southern Textile Exhibitions. The changes in machinery used in various textile processes is apparent through the photos. The majority were taken by Henry Elrod, of Greenville, Coxe Studio of Greenville, and by various news photographers from the *Greenville News and Piedmont*. These have been separated from the paper records and are organized by year and exhibition. There are also 2 boxes of photos from the health sciences fairs, home shows and the Billy Graham Crusade. The oversize photos box contains two scrapbooks of photos which have been left intact.

Oversize materials include floor plans and blueprints of both old and new Textile Halls dating from 1951 to 1968. Supplements to the *Greenville News* which feature the Southern Textile Exhibitions are in oversize box 1. Scrapbooks of clippings, advertisements and photos of various exhibitions from 1920 to 1970 are in over size boxes 2, 3, and 4.