

COLLEGE *of*  
CHARLESTON

---

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

**Inventory of the Pastime Amusement  
Company Records, 1890s, 1918-2011**

Addlestone Library, Special Collections  
College of Charleston  
66 George Street  
Charleston, SC 29424 USA  
<http://archives.library.cofc.edu>  
Phone: (843) 953-8016 | Fax: (843) 953-6319

## Table of Contents

Descriptive Summary.....	3
Historical Note.....	3
Collection Overview.....	4
Restrictions.....	4
Search Terms.....	4
Administrative Information.....	5
Inventory.....	6

## Descriptive Summary

<b>Title:</b>	Pastime Amusement Company records
<b>Date(s)</b>	1890s, 1918-2011
<b>Creator:</b>	Pastime Amusement Company (Charleston, S.C.)
<b>Abstract:</b>	The collection consists of the records of the Pastime Amusement Company of Charleston, South Carolina. Records contain materials relating to Albert Sottile, his daughter, Alberta Sottile Long, J. C. Long, and H. George Meyer including correspondence, writings, photographs, clippings, and printed materials. Also included are assorted exterior and interior photographs of buildings and theaters, including the Sottile, Princess, and Garden theaters, owned by the company on Broad, King, Liberty, Market, Race, and Romney streets as well as several West Ashley properties, including the Ashley Theater. There are also scrapbooks, materials relating to the Pastime Amusement Company centennial anniversary celebration, minutes, and financial materials.
<b>Extent:</b>	1.0 linear feet (2 document boxes, 2 scrapbooks)
<b>Repository:</b>	Special Collections, College of Charleston Libraries 66 George Street Charleston, SC 29424 Phone: (843) 953-8016 Fax: (843) 953-6319 URL: <a href="http://archives.library.cofc.edu">http://archives.library.cofc.edu</a>
<b>Call Number:</b>	Mss 0201
<b>Language of Material:</b>	Materials in English

## Historical Note

Formed in 1908, the Pastime Amusement Company originally owned and operated the Majestic, the Wonderland, and the Theatorium movie and vaudeville theaters on King Street. From 1911 to 1949 the company built nine theaters in the Charleston area: the Victoria Theater (later The Victory Theater), the Princess Theater, the Garden Theater, the Academy of Music, the Gloria Theater, the Riviera Theater, the American Theater, the Arcade, and the Ashley Theater. The entertainment provided by these theaters included a diverse range of genres including plays, operas, motion pictures, and vaudeville. Today, most theaters have been repurposed, and some, the Victory, the Academy of Music, and the Arcade theaters, were demolished. The Gloria Theater, purchased by the College of Charleston in 1976, was renovated and renamed in honor of Sottile in 1987. Albert Sottile (1878-1960) served as its first president and after his death left the company to his daughter, Alberta Sottile Long, who ran the company along with Vice-President H. George Meyer. After her retirement ownership of the company passed onto her daughters, Joyce Darby and Mary Ellen Way.

## Collection Overview

The collection consists of the records of the Pastime Amusement Company of Charleston, South Carolina. Records contain materials relating to Albert Sottile including typescripts and correspondence between Sottile and J. F. Heyer regarding Sottile's biographical sketch in *The Story of the South Carolina Lowcountry* by Herbert Ravenel Sass, articles written by Sottile, and assorted photographs including an image of Sottile with Veronica Lake. Also included are assorted photographs, clippings, and printed materials relating to Alberta Sottile Long, J. C. Long, and H. George Meyer. There are also assorted exterior and interior photographs of buildings and theaters, including the Princess, Sottile, and Garden theaters, owned by the company on Broad, King, Liberty, Market, Race, and Romney streets as well as several West Ashley properties, including the Ashley Theater. The collection also includes several scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings re the opening of the Riviera Theater, assorted Dock Street Theatre plays, "Lady Shoppers Movie Matinees," and a Theatre Owners Association convention held at the Hotel Fort Sumter. There are also miscellaneous materials relating to the Pastime Amusement Company centennial anniversary celebration, minutes, and financial materials.

## Collection Arrangement

Materials are described at the folder level.

## Restrictions

### Access Restrictions

This collection is open for research.

### Copyright Notice

The nature of the College of Charleston's archival holdings means that copyright or other information about restrictions may be difficult or even impossible to determine despite reasonable efforts. Special Collections claims only physical ownership of most archival materials.

The materials from our collections are made available for use in research, teaching, and private study, pursuant to U.S. copyright law. The user must assume full responsibility for any use of the materials, including but not limited to, infringement of copyright and publication rights of reproduced materials. Any materials used for academic research or otherwise should be fully credited with the source.

## Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person, family, or organization, by topical subject, by place, and by types of material.

### Names

- Pastime Amusement Company (Charleston, S.C.)--History
- Sottile, Albert, 1878-1960
- Long, Alberta Sottile
- Long, J. C., 1903-1984
- Sottile family
- Sottile Theatre (Charleston, S.C.)
- Princess Theater (Charleston, S.C.)
- Garden Theater (Charleston, S.C.)
- Ashley Theater (West Ashley, S.C.)

### **Subjects**

Motion picture theaters--South Carolina--Charleston--History  
Motion pictures--South Carolina--Charleston--History  
Theaters--South Carolina--Charleston--History  
Music-halls (Variety-theaters, cabarets, etc.)--South Carolina--Charleston  
Buildings--South Carolina--Charleston  
Charleston (S.C.)--Buildings, structures, etc.

### **Types of Material**

Black-and-white photographs  
Clippings (information artifacts)  
Scrapbooks  
Manuscripts (document genre)  
Minutes (administrative records)  
Financial records

## **Administrative Information**

### **Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], Pastime Amusement Company records, College of Charleston Libraries, Charleston, SC, USA.

### **Acquisitions Information**

Materials were donated in 2015 by Charles S. Way.

### **Processing Information**

Processed by Joshua Minor, March 2016.

Encoded by Joshua Minor, April 2016.

Reviewed and uploaded by Joshua Minor, July 2016.

# Inventory

- Box 1 Folder 1 "History and Survey of Theatres, 1905-1943," photocopy, undated  
Albert Sottile, 1940-1958
- Box 1 Folder 2 Typescripts and correspondence re biographical sketch for *The Story of the South Carolina Lowcountry*, 1955-1956, undated
- Box 1 Folder 3 Writings, 1958  
Assorted articles and addenda re the Pastime Amusement Company and the film industry for *The Post and Courier*.
- Box 1 Folder 4 Correspondence, 1940, 1955
- Box 1 Folder 5 Photographs, 1890s, circa 1950s  
Includes an image of Sottile's older brother, Giovanni Sottile, in front of a storefront on 238 King Street and an image of Sottile with Veronica Lake.
- Box 1 Folder 6 Theatre Owners of North and South Carolina convention program, 1957
- Box 1 Folder 7 Alberta Sottile Long, 1958, 1986, 1994
- Box 1 Folder 8 J. C. Long, 1966, 1987, undated
- Box 1 Folder 9 H. George Meyer, 1958-1962, 1994, undated  
Photographs, 1918-2011  
Also includes clippings, letters, printed materials, and facsimiles.
- Box 1 Folder 10 Apartments, undated  
Assorted exterior images of the St. Regis Apartments on 17 Eighth Avenue, the St. James Apartments on 193 Congress street, the St. Charles Apartments on 1085 King Street, and Mayflower Court.
- Box 1 Folder 11 Ashley Avenue and Congress Street, undated
- Box 1 Folder 12 Ashley Shopping Center, undated  
Exterior images of the Hood Electric Company and the Ashley Shopping Center Post Office.
- Box 1 Folder 13 88 Broad Street, undated
- Box 1 Folder 14 "I-26 & Cosgrove, Ashley River Bridge Approach," 1964, undated
- Box 1 Folder 15 196-198 King Street, undated
- Box 1 Folder 16 208 King Street, undated
- Box 1 Folder 17 212-214 King Street, undated
- Box 1 Folder 18 225 King Street, The Riviera Theatre, 1952

Box 1 Folder 19	227-229 King Street, 1953, undated
Box 1 Folder 20	292 King Street, undated
Box 1 Folder 21	297 King Street, undated
Box 1 Folder 22	304 King Street, The Princess Theater, 1920s, undated
Box 1 Folder 23	327-329 King Street, The Sottile Theatre, 1922-2011, undated
Box 2 Folder 1	341 King Street, 1937, undated
Box 2 Folder 2	343 King Street, The Majestic Theater, 1921, undated
Box 2 Folder 3	347 King Street, 1937, undated
Box 2 Folder 4	371 King Street, The Garden Theater, 1918-1967, 2002
Box 2 Folder 5	446 King Street, The American Theater, 1942, 1952, undated
Box 2 Folder 6	1054 King Street, 1942, undated
Box 2 Folder 7	3 Liberty Street, The Arcade Theater, 1952, 1955, undated
Box 2 Folder 8	19 Magnolia Road, The Ashley Theater, 1953
Box 2 Folder 9	154 Market Street, undated
Box 2 Folder 10	Race Street and Coming Street, undated
Box 2 Folder 11	Race Street and Congress Street, undated
Box 2 Folder 12	Romney Street and King Street, undated
Box 2 Folder 13	Santee Cooper Canal Project group portrait, 1931 February 1
	Image includes Albert Sottile and J. C. Long as well as assorted others including, Strom Thurmond, Burnet R. Maybank, E. H. Poulnot Jr., Julius Herman Jahnz, J. W. D. Zerbst, and others.
Box 2 Folder 14	14 A and B Saint Phillip Street, undated
Box 2 Folder 15	93 Society Street, undated
Box 2 Folder 16	84 Wentworth Street, undated
Box 2 Folder 17	86 Wentworth Street, 1982, undated
Box 2 Folder 18	Miscellaneous, 1943-2004, undated
	Scrapbooks, 1939, 1962-1975
Volume 1	Riviera Theater scrapbook, 1939
Volume 2	Scrapbook, 1962-1965
Box 2 Folder 19	Scrapbook, 1971-1975

Box 2 Folder 20	Pastime Amusement Company centennial anniversary celebration, 2006-2008
Box 2 Folder 21	Minutes, 1995, 2002, undated
Box 2 Folder 22	Financial records, 1955-1966