

THE BOSTON CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

Records, 1863-1953

Charities Collection - CC 12

3 manuscript containers	Processed Feb. 1996 by Stephanie Ward
1.2 linear feet	Supervising Archivists:
Accession number: 96.010	Claire Goodwin and Joan Gearin

ACQUISITION: In 1911, the Boston Children's Aid Society gave its entire library to the Simmons College School of Social Work Library. This library included the annual reports of many local and international welfare and charitable organizations. With the passage of time, this collection took on historical significance and in 1991, it was transferred to the Simmons College Archives.

As part of donations in 1988 and 1989, Donald Moreland, a local social worker and collector of social work history, gave the Simmons College Archives a large number of annual reports, pamphlets and other materials related to various welfare and charitable organizations. Because neither of these donations is a discrete collection, the materials transferred in 1991 from the School of Social work Library and related materials donated by Donald Moreland were combined to form the Charities Collection. The Simmons College Archives Charities Collection consists of numerous small collections. Accession numbers for the individual collections are assigned during processing.

ACCESS: Unrestricted

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HISTORY:

The Boston Children's Aid Society (BCAS) was established in 1861 and incorporated in 1865. The BCAS was initially founded to provide homes for children just released from jail. To aid in this purpose, the Pine Farm in West Newton was established as a place of transition from jail to placement in a home.¹ BCAS later made its aim to help "any destitute, homeless, wayward, defective or exposed child in Boston or vicinity."²

¹BCAS Annual Report (1949), p.4.

²Directory of Charitable and Beneficent Organizations - Boston 1907, p.5-6.

The society provided help through investigation of a child's situation, a probation agency to serve as a bondsman for juveniles on probation and the prevention of such further behavior. In addition, home libraries were established in the homes of children, usually one per neighborhood. At these libraries, children could exchange books and participate in other activities. These later became Neighborhood Clubs. The BCAS also arranged for supervised board or home placement for boys and girls.³

In 1915, the Massachusetts Infant Hospital combined with BCAS. Then, in 1922, the BCAS and the Boston Society for the Care of Girls (formerly the Female Asylum) voted to form a federation, the Children's Aid Association (CAA), though they retained their corporate identities for 25 years. In 1947, they legally merged as the CAA.⁴

In 1951, 1,255 children were served by CAA through their Foster Care Department, referral to other agencies, temporary care, and the Department of Neighborhood Clubs. In addition, social workers gave special therapeutic services to groups of handicapped children, and the CAA also maintained a summer camp in Cohasset for the children.⁵

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The BCAS collection contains annual reports from 1863-1953 with occasional gaps. Through the years 1863-1919 the reports are in bound volumes kept at the end of all the annual reports in folders. In addition, there is an article by Charles Birtwell on the home libraries of the BCAS, as well as a pamphlet promoting the BCAS, both dating circa 1893.

CONTAINER LIST:

BOX	FOLDER	CONTENTS
		SERIES I. Annual Reports
1	1	1891
	2	1893
	3	1896
	4	1897
	5	1898
	6	1902
	7	1904
	8	1905

³BCAS Annual Report (1891). Boston: Rockwell and Churchill Press, p.65.

⁴BCAS Annual Report (1949), p.6-7.

⁵CAA Annual Report (1951), n.p., n.d.

	9	1907
	10	1910
	11	1911
	12	1912
	13	1913
	14	1914
	15	1915
	16	1916
	17	1918
	18	1920
	19	1921
	20	1922
	21	1923
	22	1924
	23	1925
	24	1926
	25	1927
	26	1928
	27	1929
2	1	1930
	2	1931
	3	1932
	4	1933
	5	1934
	6	1935
	7	1936
	8	1937
	9	1938
	10	1939
	11	1940
	12	1942
	13	1943
	14	1945
	15	1946
	16	1947
	17	1949
	18	1950-1953
	19	1863-1889 (bound)
20	1889-1899 (bound)	
3	1	1900-1909 (bound)
	2	1910-1919 (bound)
		SERIES II. Literature
	3	"Home Libraries" article
	4	Promotional pamphlet