K0003
Kansas City Browning Society Records
1927-1988
74 folders, oversize panoramic photo

Correspondence, bylaws, minutes, ledgers, yearbooks, programs and other materials relating to the Brownings and poetry.

HISTORY:

The Kansas City Browning Society was founded in 1927 by Mrs. Ola Jones Nisbet with the purpose of studying the poetry and lives of Robert Barrett Browning (1812-1889) and his wife, Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861). At the organization’s height, membership numbered more than two hundred persons. Members met in small study circles and the society held monthly assembly meetings with guest speakers, often from Kansas City area academia, presenting lectures on various aspects of the Brownings’ poetry. However, aging membership and the steady decline in popularity of women’s clubs contributed to the disbanding of the society in 1988.

PROVENANCE:

Dr. Kenneth J. LaBudde, Director of Libraries, University of Missouri-Kansas City, acquired these documents from Mrs. Frank Thomas of the Kansas City Browning Society. The records were, in turn, received as accession 6kc on May 15, 1980. An addition was made as KA0538 on November 16, 1989.

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PREFERRED CITATION:

Specific item; folder number; Kansas City Browning Society Records (K0003); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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DESCRIPTION:

This collection consists of correspondence, bylaws, meeting minutes, ledgers, yearbooks, programs, and other materials relating to the Brownings and poetry.

INVENTORY:

BOX 001

Administrative

Folder 1 Decrees of Incorporation, 1928
Folder 2 Incorporation Papers, 1928 and 1959
Folder 3 “My Ideals and Aspirations for the Kansas City Browning Society” by Mrs. Ola Jones [1927]
Folder 4 Correspondence between Mrs. Ola Jones Nisbet and Mrs. Swofford, 1923
Folder 5 Correspondence of Mrs. Ola Nisbet, 1928-1929
Folder 6 “My Life” by Mrs. Charles R. Nisbet, 1929
autobiographical notes

Minutes

Folder 7 Article on Officers and Study Circles, 1927
Folder 8 Minutes and General Correspondence, 1927-1929
Folder 9 Minute Book, 1928-1932
Folder 10 Historical Files, 1929-1935
Folder 11 Historian’s Reports, 1932-1940
Folder 12  Scrapbook, 1949-1951
includes articles on members, teas, programs and yearbooks,

Folder 13  Miscellaneous greeting cards, 1970s

Folder 14  General correspondence, 1971-1983
also includes some receipts

Folder 15  Correspondence concerning officers, 1972-1973
includes Ad Hoc Committee memo, 1973-1974

Folder 16  Annual reports and bylaws changes, 1977, 1983-1984

Folder 17  List of books belonging to Browning Society Library, 1980

Folder 18  Meeting Room Reservations, 1983, 1985

Other Browning Societies

Folder 19  Correspondence from the President with Boston Browning Society, 1943

Folder 20  Correspondence with New York Browning Society
includes receipts of donations to Casa Guidi fund, book on bylaws, 1970-1971

Folder 21  Friends of Casa Guidi
includes correspondence, flyers, 1972, 1987

Alice Lloyd College and Caney Creek Community Center

Folder 22  Correspondence with Alice Lloyd College
also includes Caney Creek Community Center, Pippa Passes, KY, 1970-1977


Folder 24  *Miracle on Caney Creek* by Jerry C. Davis, autographed by Dr. June Buchanan and correspondence, 1982

Folder 25  Correspondence about June Buchanan School, 1987

Armstrong-Browning Library

Folder 26  Armstrong-Browning Library, Waco, Texas

Folder 27  Armstrong-Browning Library newsletters, 1976-1988

Financial

Folder 28  Receipt book, 1953-1971

Folder 29  Ledgers for receipts and disbursements, 1956-1966

Folder 30  Ledgers for receipts and disbursements, 1966-1978

Folder 31  Budget Reports, 1975-1976
Folder 32  Warrants, 1978-1984
Folder 33  Treasurer’s Report, 1979-1980
Folder 34  Treasurer’s Report, 1983-1984

Membership

Folder 35  Yearbook, 1927-1929
Folder 36  Yearbooks, 1932-1933, 1934-1935, 1938-1940
includes article of election of officers and paper, “Browning--and Fifty Years”
Folder 37  Yearbooks, 1940-1942, 1945-1947
also includes correspondence and notes
Folder 38  Yearbooks, 1950-1951, 1959-1960
Folder 39  Yearbooks, 1960-1970
also includes article on luncheon and notes
Folder 40  Yearbooks, 1970-1980
includes 1971 guide to officer installation, 1970 roster, and notes
Folder 41  Yearbooks, notes on study circles, 1980-1986
Folder 42  Correspondence of Jane Ennis, First Vice-President, 1979-1980
Folder 43  Survey of members, 1985
Folder 44  Obituaries and in memoria, 1960-1988
Folder 45  Correspondence with Kansas City Rose Society, 1971-1977

Programs

Folder 48  Notes of Mrs. Solon Gilmore
includes “An Acrostic Written for the Browning Tribute Festival,” (1959), 1950s
Folder 49  Notes on Browning poems and program lists, addresses of contacts, 1976-1977
Folder 50  Lecture given by Dr. Thomas Mather, entitled “Saul,” 1977
Folder 51  Song—“Freedom is Crying,” 1942
Folder 52  Articles regarding Dr. Hyman Appelman, 1975-1977

Historical Background

Folder 53  *The Poetical Works of Elizabeth Barrett Browning*, 1871
Folder 54  
*Mrs. Browning's Birthday Book*, 1890
also includes newspaper clippings on San Diego Browning Society, art, and the Brownings

Folder 55  
*Baylor's Browning Interests* by A.J. Armstrong, 1928
Baylor University's collection

Folder 56  
*Browings’ Pippa Passes* by Ola Jones Nisbet, 1929
also includes newspaper clipping and copy of Tennyson and Browning Compared by Mrs. Charles Richard Nisbet [Ola Jones Nisbet], 1928

Folder 57  
Letters from Owen Meredith to Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning, 1936

Folder 58  
*Songs from Browning Original Verses of Missouri and Kansas Poets*, 1937

Folder 59  
"Two Lectures on Robert Browning" by Dallas Kenmare, 1947

Folder 60  
*Robert Browning Through French Eyes* by A.J. Armstrong and *Robert Browning in Brittany* by Mrs. Ange Mosher

Folder 61  
Excerpts from “Browning Handbook”

Folder 62  
News clippings on the Brownings, 1954-1984
also includes Regensburg, Women’s Liberation, Art, Emily Dickinson, book reviews, KC Browning society teas and members, Mount Holyoke College newsletter

Folder 63  
Program notes, poems, postcards, 1979
also includes news clippings on Pre-Columbian Civilization, Mohammed, etc.

Photographs and artifacts

Folder 64  
Asolo, Italy, 1913, includes photos and postcards

Folder 65  
Photos of Casa Guidi in Florence, Italy

Folder 66  
Photo, 1935 of Browning Spring Luncheon

Folder 67  
Photo, 1938 of Browning Picnic

Folder 68  
Photos of past presidents, 1930s, 1940s, 1951-1953

Folder 69  
Photos from 1950s (removed from scrapbook)

Folder 70  
Engraving of Robert Browning

Folder 71  
Picture of Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Folder 72  
Pictures of Robert Browning

Folder 73  
Cuts for Yearbook Cover, undated

Folder 74  
Gavel
Oversized Panoramic Photograph (in office)