



THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MISSOURI RESEARCH CENTER-KANSAS CITY

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, were 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 001Administrative

- 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 23 Alice Lloyd College newsletters, 1974, 1977, 1980, 1983-1985
- 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
includes pamphlets and drawings, 1932, 1950-1951, 1970, 1979
- 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 46 Program Announcements, 1929-1932, 1952-1953, 1955-1956
Folder 47 Programs, 1934-1936, 1940-1941, 1950-1951, 1969-1971, 1977-
1978
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 *Brownings' Pippa Passes* by Ola Jones Nisbet, 1929
also 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)

- Item 1. Spring Luncheon, Kansas City Browning Society, Mission Hills Country Club. February 28, 1935