

Guide to the Beda Cornwall Collection on the Citizen's Library Association of Las Vegas

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Collector:	Cornwall, Beda, 1907-1994
Title:	Beda Cornwall Collection on the Citizen's Library Association of Las Vegas
ID:	MS-00001
Date [inclusive]:	1941 to 1973
Physical Description:	3.6 Linear Feet (2 boxes and 2 oversized boxes)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Beda Cornwall Collection on the Citizen's Library Association of Las Vegas consists of material gathered by Beda Brennecke Cornwall that documents the activities of the Citizen's Library Association of Las Vegas during the years 1941 to 1973. Most of the materials document the efforts by the citizens group to raise money in the community to build and sustain a new public library in Las Vegas, Nevada. The remaining part of the collection relates to local and statewide libraries and biographical materials on Beda Cornwall and her husband through various documents and scrapbooks of newspaper clippings.

Preferred Citation

Beda Cornwall Collection on the Citizens' Library Association of Las Vegas, 1941-1973. MS-00001. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Educator and community worker Beda (Tabitha) Brennecke Cornwall was born in Tulare, South Dakota to Frederick William and Martha Brennecke. Her father was a German Evangelical Lutheran minister. She received her education at the University of Idaho, Southern Branch, at Pocatello and at the University of Denver, majoring in education and social services. She taught school for four years in Montrose, Colorado. Later she was appointed by the government to do

social work for the Farm Security Administration under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, serving from 1935 to 1939.

In 1932 she married Charles Norman Cornwall of Aspen, Colorado. Mr. Cornwall was a graduate of the University of Colorado Law School at Boulder, Colorado. They had two children, a daughter, Gretchen, and a son, William Leo Cornwall. They moved to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1943. Mr. Cornwall was a well-known attorney and he served as City Attorney from 1944 to 1948.

Their first year in Las Vegas, Mrs. Cornwall taught school at Dry Lake, Nevada. She became very active in United States Overseas (USO) activities during and after World War Two as well as Traveler's Aide, Red Cross and other social and civic endeavors. She served on the Las Vegas City Recreation Board and was appointed through that group and the city commission to start a group of interested local people to see what could be done to have an adequate library to serve the city of Las Vegas. She was then appointed chair of the Citizen's Library Association. The groups membership was composed of interested members of various local charitable and social organizations. By 1948 an all-out drive to raise money for the library building was launched. The city donated the building site at 4th and Mesquite Streets. The library building was dedicated to the city on June 1, 1952. Over \$100,000 was raised by public subscription and donations. On completion it was the largest and most modern library in the state of Nevada.

Mrs. Cornwall served as chair of the Citizens' Library Association until 1972, when the Las Vegas Public Library merged with the Clark County Library District. She was chair of National Library Week and was honored in 1952 by the American Library Association for her contributions to public library service. Beda Cornwall was president of Service League (now Junior League) from 1950 to 1951. She served as chair of the Clark County Safety Council. She was given an award by the Shell Oil Company for her outstanding contributions to public safety.

In 1954 Cornwall was elected to the Las Vegas City School District and served until 1956, when the school districts combined to form the Clark County School District. She was active with the Community Chest and was campaign chairman in 1954. She was named Mrs. Las Vegas in 1952 by the American Legion for her work in the community and was recognized as one of the three Outstanding Women of the Year by the Soroptomists. The local Hadassah chapter presented her with an award of merit for her outstanding service to the community. Mrs. Cornwall is one of the founders of the Home of the Good Shepherd Auxiliary, serving as their president from 1963 to 1965.

Cornwall was a member of the Children's Services Guild and of the Boy's Club of Clark County, and the Founder's Club. The Boys' Club library was named the "Cornwall Library" in honor and of Mr. and Mrs. C. Norman Cornwall. Beda Cornwall died on June 13, 1994.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Beda Cornwall Collection on the Citizen's Library Association of Las Vegas consists of material gathered by Beda Brennecke Cornwall that documents the activities of the Citizen's' Library Association of Las Vegas during the years 1941 to 1973. Most of the materials document the efforts by the citizens group to raise money in the community to build and sustain a new public library in Las Vegas, Nevada. The remaining part of the collection relates to local and statewide libraries and biographical materials on Beda Cornwall and her husband through various documents and scrapbooks of newspaper clippings.

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Biographical Note

Materials are arranged by subject.

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Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1977 by Beda Brennecke Cornwall, accession number 77-148.

Processing Note

Material was processed by Anna Dean Kepper in 1978. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Kayla McDuffie revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. Subsequently Kayla McDuffie entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

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Names and Subjects

- Public Library -- Nevada -- Clark County -- Las Vegas

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers	
Citizens' Library Association		
Minutes and Membership List, 1948 April-October	box 01	folder 01
Articles of Incorporation, 1948, 1966	box 01	folder 02
Corporation Record Book, 1949 January-1962 November	box 01	folder 03
Minutes and Supporting Papers, 1962 December-1972 April	box 01	folder 04
History of (Citizens') Library Association, 1952	box 01	folder 05
Annual Reports, 1950-1954	box 01	folder 06
Treasurer's Reports, 1949-1952, 1954	box 01	folder 07
Correspondence and Supporting Papers, 1948-1951	box 01	folder 08
Correspondence and Supporting Papers, 1952-1953, 1955	box 01	folder 09
Correspondence and Supporting Papers, 1959-1961, 1965, 1967	box 01	folder 10
Correspondence and Supporting Papers, 1968, 1972	box 02	folder 01
Fund Raising Committee, 1951-1954	box 02	folder 02
Building Committee, 1951 April-1952 May	box 02	folder 03
"Why a City Library?" Transcript of a talk by Milton Keefer to the Mesquite Club, 1948	box 02	folder 04

Printed Material, Beautification Plan-City of Las Vegas, 1951 February-1952 June, 1967	box 02	folder 05
Las Vegas Public Library		
Dedication, 1952, June 01	box 02	folder 06
Statistics, Budget, Program Materials, 1953, 1957-1961	box 02	folder 07
Book Week, 1952	box 02	folder 08
Reciprocal Borrowing, 1969	box 02	folder 09
Nevada Library Association		
Bylaws, Standards for Libraries, Questionnaire on Legislation, 1955, 1959, 1972	box 02	folder 10
Library Association		
Copy of United States HR 874, Library Demonstration Bill, Proposed Acts for Nevada State Library, 1949, undated	box 02	folder 11
Beda Cornwall Biographical Information		
Certificates of Service to Community, Campaign Material for Election to Las Vegas School Board, 1941-1965	box 02	folder 12
Home of the Good Shepherd		
Correspondence, Annual Reports, Programs, Catalog, 1963-1974	box 02	folder 13
Audio Recordings of Dedication of Las Vegas Public Library, and Holiday Magazine Salutes Las Vegas, 1952 June-November	box 02	folder 14
News Clippings of the Las Vegas Public Library, Norman Cornwall, and the Home of the Good Shepherd, 1949-1973	box 02	folder 15
Award to Beda Cornwall from the American Legion for Merit and Community service, 1952	box 02	folder 16
Scrapbooks of News Clippings and Memorabilia: Efforts to Build the Las Vegas Public Library, and Biographical Material on Beda Cornwall, 1948-1953	oversized box 03	oversized box 04