



Guide to the Shelley Bristol Papers

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Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1gs3h>

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Bristol, Shelley, 1953-
Title:	Shelley Bristol Papers
ID:	MS-00398
Date [inclusive]:	approximately 1950 to 2023
Physical Description:	0.23 Cubic Feet (1 box)
Physical Description:	0.21 Linear Feet
Physical Description:	27 Digital Files (0.123 GB) JPG, MP3, PDF
Physical Description:	1 Websites (0.047 GB) WARC
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Shelley Bristol Papers (approximately 1950 to 2023) document Bristol's experiences as an AIDS activist, sex worker, and radio show host. The materials include Bristol's personal testimony for the National Association of People with AIDS, her correspondence with the "Nevadans Against Prostitution," a newsletter from WORLD (Women Organized to Respond to Life-Threatening Diseases), and notes for Bristol's personal autobiography. Also included are materials related to her blog and radio show, "Madam Vanessa: Las Vegas Talk of the Town" which Bristol started to share her experiences of working as a sex worker in Las Vegas in the early 1970s. Other materials include blog post drafts, radio scripts, and an archived copy of her blog. The collection also includes some personal photographs of Bristol as a child and her parents, Marilyn and Jerry Bristol.

Preferred Citation

Shelley Bristol Papers, approximately 1950-2023. MS-00398. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1gs3h>

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Biographical Note

Shelley Bristol is an AIDS activist in the Las Vegas, Nevada community. During the early 1990s Bristol was a sex worker in Winnemucca, Nevada. By 1993, Bristol had left sex work and become an AIDS activist. During this time there was a great demand for sex workers' testimony in AIDS prevention campaigns in Nevada. Besides providing her testimony about her experience with HIV/AIDS testing as a sex worker, Bristol also volunteered as a hotline operator with AIDS for AIDS of Nevada. Bristol also worked with the Nevada AIDS Project, Act-Up of Nevada, and WORLD (Women Organized to Respond to Life-threatening Diseases).

Source:

Shelley Bristol Papers, approximately 1950-2023. MS-00398. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada. <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1gs3h>

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Scope and Contents Note

The Shelley Bristol Papers date from approximately 1950 to 2023 and documents Bristol's experiences as an AIDS activist, sex worker activist, and radio show host. The materials include Bristol's personal testimony for the National Association of People with AIDS, her correspondence with the "Nevadans Against Prostitution," a newsletter from WORLD (Women Organized to Respond to Life-Threatening Diseases), and notes for Bristol's personal autobiography. Also included are materials related to her blog and radio show, "Madam Vanessa: Las Vegas Talk of the Town" which Bristol started to share her experiences of working as a sex worker in Las Vegas in the early 1970s. The materials include blog post drafts, radio scripts, and an archived copy of her blog. The collection also includes some personal photographs of Bristol as a child and her parents, Marilyn and Jerry Bristol.

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Arrangement

Materials remain in the order they were received.

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Administrative Information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections and Archives website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1998 and 2023 by Shelley Bristol; accession numbers 98-1, 2023-048.

Appraisal Note

Acquired by Sarah Quigley, Director of Special Collections and Archives, as part of UNLV Special Collections and Archives holdings in sexual entertainment and economies. All material that formed the original gift has been retained.

Processing Note

Materials were processed by Special Collections and Archives staff. In 2015, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Hana Gutierrez created a collection description and brought it into compliance with current professional standards. Subsequently Hana Gutierrez entered the data into ArchivesSpace. In 2023, Aaron Mayes created digital surrogates of photographs and ephemera in one folder which were returned to the donor. In 2023, Tammi Kim processed the 2023 addition including rehousing materials, transferring digital files off of two optical discs, archiving one website, and updating the finding aid.

Existence and Location of Originals

Some items in this collection are digital surrogates. The donor retained the original items.

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Names and Subjects

- AIDS (Disease)

- Political activism -- Nevada
- Sex workers
- Sex work
- Web archives

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers	
Correspondence with Nevadans Against Prostitution and Regina Sackrider, 1993-1994	box 01	folder 01
Bristol testimony for National Association of People with AIDS, 1994 February	box 01	folder 02
WORLD Newsletter, 1998 January	box 01	folder 03
"Madame Vanessa" and Dunes Hotel notes, approximately 1987 to 2008	box 01	folder 04
Shelley Bristol childhood and adulthood: photographic prints, approximately 1958 to 1998	box 01	
Congratulation messages to Jerry Bristol on becoming District Grand Lodge No. 4 President of B'nai B'rith, 1970 (MS_00398_001) Physical Description: 4 Digital Files (0.010 GB) JPG	digital file 00	
Flamingo Hotel Flower Shop message to Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Bristol, 1950 (MS_00398_002) Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (0.010 GB) JPG	digital file 00	
Jerry and Marilyn Bristol on their honeymoon in Las Vegas: digital photographs, 1950 (MS_00398_003-005) Physical Description: 6 Digital Files (0.094 GB) JPG	digital file 00	
Marilyn and Shelley Bristol: digital photograph, 1971 (MS_00398_006) Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (0.008 GB) JPG	digital file 00	
Shelley Bristol dressed up in a blue and floral evening gown: digital photograph, 1998 Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (0.016 GB) JPG	digital file 00	
Newspaper clipping from Israel Today featuring group photograph (including Shelley Bristol) of JFC Young Adult Division Springtime Affair at the Century Plaza Hotel, 1980 (MS_00398_008) Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (0.002 GB) JPG	digital file 00	
Shelley Bristol Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union withdrawal card, 1998 (MS_00398_009)	digital file 00	

Physical Description: 2 Digital Files (0.003 GB) JPG, PDF	
Personal notes and recollections for Madam Vanessa radio show and blog, correspondence, photograph of Jerry Bristol receiving award at the San Francisco Hilton in 1970, approximately 1970 to 1998	box 01
"Madam Vanessa: Las Vegas Talk of the Town" business card and flier, approximately 2013 (MS_00398_010-011)	digital file 00
Physical Description: 3 Digital Files (0.051 GB) JPG	
Copies of notes and blurb for Bristol's book "Hooker on a Bicycle", approximately 2016 (MS_00398_012)	digital file 00
Physical Description: 3 Digital Files (0.013 GB) JPG	
Notes and drafts for Madam Vanessa radio show and blog, approximately 1998 to 2003	box 01
Physical Description: 3 Files	
Madam Vanessa radio show episode, 2015 January 26 (MS_00398_013)	digital file 00
Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (0.035 GB) MP3	
Madam Vanessa radio show episode, 2013 September 16 (MS_00398_014)	digital file 00
Physical Description: 1 Digital Files (0.043 GB) MP3	
"Madam Vanessa, Las Vegas Talk of the Town" blog: archived website, 2023 (3110781) (view online)	