

University of San Diego

Digital USD

Special Collections

Finding Aids

10-24-2022

Guide to the Bessie F. Collins papers

Bessie F. Collins

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital.sandiego.edu/findingaidssc>

Digital USD Citation

Collins, Bessie F., "Guide to the Bessie F. Collins papers" (2022). *Special Collections*. 17.
<https://digital.sandiego.edu/findingaidssc/17>

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by the Finding Aids at Digital USD. It has been accepted for inclusion in Special Collections by an authorized administrator of Digital USD. For more information, please contact digital@san Diego.edu.



Bessie F. Collins collection

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on October 24, 2022.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

University of San Diego Special Collections

Copley Library

5998 Alcalá Park

San Diego, CA 92110-2492

spcoll@sandiego.edu

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Scope and Contents	4
Administrative Information	4
Controlled Access Headings	5
Collection Inventory	5

Summary Information

Repository:	University of San Diego Special Collections
Creator:	Collins, Bessie Friedman
Title:	Guide to the Bessie F. Collins collection
ID:	USDSC.017
Date [inclusive]:	1938-1983
Date [bulk]:	undated
Physical Description:	2 Linear Feet 2 records center boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Bessie F. Collins was a freelance writer, poet, and essayist who lived in the San Diego area from the 1970s through the early-1980s. The collection consists of her published and unpublished poems, essays, and plays as well as newspaper clippings and awards associated with those works.

Preferred Citation

[Folder Title], Box # Folder #, Bessie F. Collins collection, Copley Library, University of San Diego, Archives and Special Collections.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

Bessie F. Collins was born Elizabeth "Bessie" Friedman on December 24, 1905, in Russia. She immigrated with her family to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1907. Collins began writing at the age of nine and had her first work published by age fifteen. In 1932, she married Samuel A. Collins, a mechanical engineer, and had a son named David in 1937. The family lived in Pennsylvania, Delaware and Santa Monica, California before moving to San Diego in the early-1970s. In Delaware, Collins was a member of the Wilmington Drama League where she acted in small roles and submitted her own plays for performance. In the early 1960s,

Collins entered a poem into a radio contest titled, "Second Honeymoon," that won she and her husband a second honeymoon to Bermuda.

Collins submitted her writings to several national and international contests from the 1940s through the 1970s earning multiple awards and honorable mentions. Her works were published in magazines, newspapers, and literary compilations. She was an active member of the National League of American Pen Women and the California Federation of Chapparal Poets. In the 1970s, she began to give lectures on freelance writing and compose travel articles which she continued to do into the early-1980s. Collins died on October 26, 1988, in Ventura, California.

Source: Ancestry.com and Bessie F. Collins collection

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of published and unpublished poems, essays, and articles as well as manuscripts of plays for children, adolescents, and adults. Newspaper clippings, awards, and letter, related to events, publishing, and successful contest submissions are included with handwritten notes or acknowledgements from Collins. The contest submission records are separated by first prize and honorable mentions or non-first prizes. The collection also includes original copies of magazines her essays or poems were published in the 1970s, such as *Modern Maternity*, and correspondence to and from admirers and friends.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

University of San Diego Special Collections

Copley Library
5998 Alcalá Park
San Diego, CA 92110-2492
spcoll@sandiego.edu

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Bessie F. Collins collection is the physical property of the University of San Diego, Archives and Special Collections. Copyright, except in cases where material has passed into the public domain, belongs to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

There is currently no acquisition information for this collection.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Shavonne Munnlyn in 2022.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Women authors
- Women poets
- San Diego (Calif.)
- Manuscripts

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
First prize documents (1 of 2), 1938-1981	box 1	folder 1
First prize documents (2 of 2), 1938-1981	box 1	folder 2
Miscellaneous prize documents (1 of 2), 1950-1980	box 1	folder 3
Miscellaneous prize documents (2 of 2), 1950-1980	box 1	folder 4
Miscellaneous articles and awards, 1942-1978	box 1	folder 5
Play manuscripts, undated	box 1	folder 6
"The Atavist" play manuscript, undated	box 1	folder 7

Bessie F. Collins collection

Play manuscripts, 1977-1981	box 1	folder 8
"The Stoned of God" play manuscript, 1972	box 1	folder 9
Play manuscripts, 1961-1977	box 1	folder 10
Think Orchids book manuscript (1 of 2), undated	box 1	folder 11
Think Orchids book manuscript (2 of 2), undated	box 1	folder 12
Play and short story manuscripts, undated	box 1	folder 13
Play manuscripts, undated	box 1	folder 14
Adult play manuscripts (1 of 2), (circa 1950-1965)	box 1	folder 15
Adult play manuscripts (2 of 2), (circa 1950-1965)	box 1	folder 16
Monologues, undated	box 1	folder 17
Play manuscripts, undated	box 1	folder 18
Correspondence, 1981-1983	box 1	folder 19
Articles and essays, 1950-1971	box 1	folder 20
Sold articles, 1978	box 1	folder 21
Sold articles and poems, 1975-1977	box 1	folder 22
Sold articles and poems, 1974	box 2	folder 1
Sold essays and poems (1 of 2), 1962-1973	box 2	folder 2
Sold essays and poems (2 of 2), 1962-1973	box 2	folder 3
Children's plays, 1940-1975	box 2	folder 4
Sold articles and essays (1 of 2), 1979-1980	box 2	folder 5
Sold articles and essays (2 of 2), 1979-1980	box 2	folder 6
Planet of the Young and Other Celebrations materials, 1977-1978	box 2	folder 7
Sold articles and essays, 1980-1982	box 2	folder 8
Newspaper columns, 1978-1979	box 2	folder 9
Unpublished submissions (1 of 3), 1976-1981	box 2	folder 10
Unpublished submissions (2 of 3), 1976-1981	box 2	folder 11
Unpublished submissions (3 of 3), 1976-1981	box 2	folder 12
Poems (1 of 3), (circa 1940-1982)	box 2	folder 13
Poems (2 of 3), (circa 1940-1982)	box 2	folder 14
Poems (3 of 3), (circa 1940-1982)	box 2	folder 15
Essays (1 of 2), (circa 1962-1981)	box 2	folder 16
Essays (2 of 2), (circa 1962-1981)		

Bessie F. Collins collection

	box 2	folder 17
With All My Voices manuscript, (circa 1960s)	box 2	folder 18
Accepted works materials, 1976-1977	box 2	folder 19
Magazines featuring "The Flowering Rod", 1974-1975	box 2	folder 20
Man Expressed: The Realm of Writing, 1971	box 2	folder 21
"Another Dimension of Love" - Modern Maternity, 1981 April-May	box 2	folder 22
Westways magazines, 1976 March, 1981 January	box 2	folder 23
"Planet of the Young" articles, 1977-1978	box 2	folder 24
Published articles, 1966, 1973-1979	box 2	folder 25