

William J. Reynolds Collection

AR 72



William J. Reynolds, 1975

Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

January, 2022

William J. Reynolds Collection

AR 72

Summary

Main Entry: William J. Reynolds Collection

Date Span: 1965-2005

Abstract: The William J. Reynolds Collection consist of 1 document box (.25 linear ft.) and spans the years 1965-2005. The collection contains materials documenting the career of SBC Sunday School Board Music author and composer William J. Reynolds, and history of the Church Music Department of the Sunday School Board. Collection includes addresses and writings by Reynolds, biographical information, clippings, lists of his published music, and subject files.

Size: .25 linear ft. (1 document box)

Collection #: AR 835

Biographical Sketch

William Jensen Reynolds was born on April 2, 1920, in Atlantic, Iowa. He was the nephew of I. E. Reynolds, longtime church music professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. William J. Reynolds earned a B.A. degree from Southwestern Missouri State College, 1942; a M.S.M. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1945; an M.M. from North Texas State University, 1946; and an Ed.D. from George Peabody College for Teachers, 1961. He had additional studies at Oxford University. Reynolds served as Minister of Music at First Baptist Church, Ardmore, Oklahoma (1946-1947) and First Baptist Church Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (1947-1955). He joined the Church Music Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1955 as Associate Editor of Church Music. He served the Church Music Department for 25 years. From 1980-1998 Reynolds served as Professor of Church Music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He died March 28, 2009.

The Church Music Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board was established in 1941 with B.B. McKinney serving as its first secretary. After World War II and under the guidance of McKinney and Walter Hines Sims, the department began to publish music training materials for Southern Baptist churches and associations, including the Graded Choir program. Work began on the Baptist Hymnal in 1952, culminating in its first publication in 1956. The department also began holding Convention-Wide Music Conferences (eventually referred to as Church Music Leadership Conferences) in both Ridgecrest, North Carolina, and Glorieta, New Mexico.

Scope and Content Note

The William J. Reynolds Collection consist of 1 document box (.25 linear ft.) and spans the years 1965-2005. The collection contains materials documenting the career of SBC Sunday

School Board Music author William J. Reynolds, and history of the Church Music Department of the Sunday School Board. The collection includes addresses and writings by Reynolds, biographical information, clippings, lists of his published music, and subject files including a Resume of Events on the History of the Church Music Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, 1851-1941 (researched by Reynolds), and a transcription of a conversation between T.H. Holcomb, W. Hines Sims, and Reynolds from 1965 in which they discuss the early years of the Church Music Department at the Sunday School Board.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in alphabetical order by folder title.

Provenance

Donated by William J. Reynolds, 2007

Preferred Citation

William J. Reynolds Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Baptists – Church Music

Holcomb, Thomas Luther, 1882-1972

Reynolds, William Jensen, 1920-2009

Sims, Walter Hines

Southern Baptist Convention. Sunday School Board. Church Music Department.

Related Materials

Church Music Department, BSSB Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

Folder List

Box 1

- 1.1 Addresses – “B.B. McKinney: His Leadership and Influence at Falls Creek” – Oklahoma Baptist University, October 7, 1996
- 1.2 Addresses – “Convention Singing Comes to Texas Baptist Churches”
- 1.3 Addresses – “The Impact of Southwestern’s *Messiah* Presentations, 1921-1998” – Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, March 10, 1999
- 1.4 Biographical Data
- 1.5 Clippings, 2005
- 1.6 List of Published Music of William Jensen Reynolds
- 1.7 List of Words/Music Composed, Arranged, Edited by William J. Reynolds and Credited to Pseudonym Indicated

- 1.8 Resume of Events and the History of the Church Music Department of the Sunday School Board (Gleaned from SBC Annuals), 1851-1941 (Researched by William J. Reynolds)
- 1.9 Transcription of a Conversation between T.L. Holcomb, W. Hines Sims, and William J. Reynolds, September 20, 1965
- 1.10 Writings – “Henry Ward Beecher’s Significant Hymnal,” 2001
- 1.11 Writings – “Music for a New Day,” 1974