



# Southwestern Writers Collection

Special Collections at the Alkek Library  
Texas State University-San Marcos

## A Guide to the Nadine Eckhardt Papers

**Circa 1920s-2009, Bulk: 1944-2009**

### Collection 105

#### Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Eckhardt, Nadine  
**Title:** Nadine Eckhardt Papers  
**Dates:** Circa 1920s-2009, Bulk: 1944-2009  
**Abstract:** Correspondence, photographs, personal papers, and other research materials represent the life of Nadine Eckhardt, author of *Duchess of Palms*. The materials were collected over the life span of Eckhardt, born in 1931, and were used in research for her memoir. The materials are arranged into five series: Personal Papers, Correspondence, Photographs, Printed Materials, and *Duchess of Palms*.  
**Identification:** Collection 105  
**Extent:** 14 boxes (6 linear feet)  
**Language:** English  
**Repository:** Southwestern Writers Collection, The Wittliff Collections, Texas State University-San Marcos

## Biographical Sketch

Nadine Ellen Cannon was born in McAllen, Texas on January 20, 1931. After graduating from high school in 1948, Eckhardt enrolled in North Texas State College in Denton, Texas to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree. While there she met her first husband, writer Billy Lee Brammer, whom she married in 1950 when she was nineteen years old. In 1951, she and Brammer moved to Austin where she worked for the University of Texas and briefly at the Austin American-Statesman newspaper. Two daughters, Sidney and Shelby were born during this time. After several years in Austin, she and Brammer moved to Washington D.C. in 1955 to work on the staff of Texas Senator Lyndon B. Johnson. The marriage to Brammer began to deteriorate, and she moved back to Austin pregnant with their third child, William. The couple eventually divorced in 1961. During this time, Brammer released his critically acclaimed, but controversial book, *The Gay Place*, a fictional account of Texas politics.

Now single and working at the State Capitol, Nadine met Robert “Bob” Eckhardt, a Texas state representative from Houston, whom she married in 1962. The couple moved to Houston, Eckhardt’s hometown, and the birthplace of their only child, daughter Sarah. In 1966, Bob Eckhardt ran for Congress. Eckhardt won, and Nadine moved to Washington, D.C. There she performed the duties of a congressman’s wife as well as helping to manage Eckhardt’s congressional staff. She became involved in women’s rights issues and the Civil Rights movement of Dr. Martin Luther King. The Eckhardts separated in 1976 and divorced in 1977. Nadine moved back to Austin, Texas.

After her divorce from Bob Eckhardt, Nadine eventually opened a restaurant in east Austin – Nadine’s, and she ran it for a year and a half. She moved to New York City and worked

for another restaurant, also named Nadine's, owned by her daughter Sarah's boyfriend. In 1991, Nadine moved back to Austin permanently.

While living in Austin, Eckhardt worked as an assistant to writer Molly Ivins, in real estate, and worked on Ann Richards' gubernatorial campaign in 1992. In 2009, Eckhardt released, *Duchess of Palms*, a memoir of her life and work in Washington D.C. and Austin, Texas. The title was inspired by a beauty pageant she had won as a teenager.

## Scope and Content Note

The Nadine Eckhardt Collection spans from the 1920s-2008. The collection is comprised of photographs, correspondence, business materials, newspapers clippings and early and final versions of *Duchess of Palms*. The original order of the Nadine Eckhardt Collection was maintained with minimal changes. The collection was originally arranged chronologically by *Duchess of Palms* materials, correspondence between Nadine and Billy Lee Brammer 1956-1968, correspondence between Bob, Nadine, and her family 1970s-1983, and Nadine's personal correspondence, 1944 through 1999. The chronological order was maintained, but the materials were organized into five series, which also contain subseries: Personal papers-restaurant and scrapbook materials, family papers-Billy Lee Brammer, Bob Eckhardt, family, and personal, Photographs-organized chronologically at item level, Print Materials-newspapers and *Duchess of Palms* Materials-drafts, timelines and notes.

Original folder titles are in quotation marks. In this collection you will find materials related to Billy Lee Brammer, Bob Eckhardt, and *Duchess of Palms*.

## **Series Description**

### **Series I: Personal Papers, 1950-2008**

#### **Box 1**

The first series includes papers related to the life of Nadine Eckhardt. There are invitations for Bob and Nadine Eckhardt, drawings by unidentified sources, and documents relating to the restaurant Nadine's.

### **Series II: Correspondence, 1944-2008**

#### **Boxes 1-7**

The second series is divided into four subseries: Billy Lee Brammer, Bob Eckhardt, Family, and Other/Unidentified. All correspondence is arranged chronologically within the subseries. Included are many letters that Nadine Eckhardt wrote to someone else and photocopied for her own records. The largest of the subseries is Other/Unidentified, and within this contains correspondence with acclaimed journalist, Bob Sherrill and several of Eckhardt's high school boyfriends.

### **Series III: Photographs, Circa 1920s-2000s**

#### **Box 8**

The photographs are arranged in chronological order by decade. Many of the earlier photographs include her mother and stepfather. There are some photographs of Nadine Eckhardt during the time she modeled. There are also numerous photographs of Nadine Eckhardt's children, Shelby, Sidney and Sarah, and many of Bob Eckhardt.

### **Series IV: Printed Material, 1955-2008**

#### **Box 9**

The fourth series mainly consists of news clippings and magazine articles. These are arranged into subseries: Billy Lee Brammer, Bob Eckhardt, Nadine Eckhardt, Family, and related resources. There are documents, event programs, and articles related to travel included.

### **Series V: *Duchess of Palms*, 1970-2009**

#### **Boxes 10-14**

The fifth series is related to Eckhardt's research, writing, and publishing of her memoir *Duchess of Palms*. It includes timelines of Eckhardt's life and several working copies of the manuscript.

## **Administrative Information**

### **Access Restrictions**

Open for Research.

### **Preferred Citation**

Nadine Eckhardt Papers, Southwestern Writers Collection, Texas State University-San Marcos

### **Acquisition Information**

Donated by Nadine Eckhardt in 2010.

### **Processing Information**

Processed by Buck Cole, Megan Galindo, Sarah Marshall, and Stacey Wilson, 2011

### **Notes to Researchers**

For additional Billy Lee Brammer material, see the Billy Lee Brammer Papers located in the Southwestern Writers Collection.

Additional Bob Eckhardt papers can be found at the Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin.

# Detailed Description of the Collection

## Series I: Personal Papers, 1950-2008.

Box	Folder	
1	1	“Bob Eckhardt list of invites”
1	2	Drawings
1	3	“Grandma”
1	4	“Nadine’s Restaurant”

## Series II: Correspondence, 1944-2008.

### Billy Lee Brammer

1	5	1951
1	6	1952
1	7	1956
1	8	1957
1	9	1958
1	10	1959
1	11	1960
1	12	1961
1	13	1970

### Bob Eckhardt

1	14	1961
1	15	1962
1	16	1965
1	17	1966
1	18	1968
1	19	1969
1	20	1972
1	21	1974
1	22	1975
1	23	1987

### Family

2	1	1956
2	2	1957
2	3	1960
2	4	1961

## Series II: Correspondence-continued

### Box Folder

#### Family-continued

2	5	1962
2	6	1963
2	7	1964
2	8	1966
2	9	1967
2	10	1969
2	11	1970
2	12	1971
2	13	1972
2	14	1973
2	15	1974-1975
2	16	1976-1977
2	17	1978
2	18	1979
2	19	1980
2	20	1981
2	21	1982
2	22	1983
2	23	1984
2	24	1985
2	25	1986
2	26	1987
2	27	1988
2	28	1990
2	29	1998
2	30	2005
2	31	2006

#### Other/Unidentified

3	1	1944
3	2	1945
3	3	1946
3	4	1947-1948
3	5	1956
3	6	1957
3	7	1961-1962
3	8	1962-1963
3	9	1964-1965
3	10	1966



## Series II: Correspondence-continued

### Box Folder

#### Other/Unidentified-continued

3	11	1967
3	12	1968
4	1	1969
4	2	1970
4	3	1971
4	4	1972
4	5	1973
4	6	1974
4	7	1975
5	1	1975
5	2	1976
5	3	1977
5	4	1978
5	5	1979
5	6	1980
5	7	1981-1982
5	8	1983
5	9	1984
6	1	1985
6	2	1986
6	3	1987
6	4	1988
6	5	1989
6	6	1990
7	1	1991
7	2	1992-1993
7	3	1994-1995
7	4	1996
7	5	1997
7	6	1998
7	7	1999
7	8	2003
7	9	2004
7	10	2005
7	11	2006
7	12	2008
7	13	undated

## Series III: Photographs, Circa 1920s-2000s.

- 1920s Photographs
- 8 1 Nadine Ellen Thompson (Nadine Eckhardt's mother); taken prior to 1929;  
b & w photocopy of a 8 x 10 photograph  
Leslie Wells (Nadine Eckhardt's biological father); taken prior to 1930s;  
b & w photocopy of a 8 x 10 photograph
- 1930s Photographs
- 8 2 Noah Cannon, Nadine Cannon, Little Nadine, Leslie Cannon; circa 1939;  
b & w photocopy of a 8 x 10 photograph; taken by Denson Photo  
in Dallas, TX
- 1940s Photographs
- 8 3 Noah Lee Cannon (Nadine Eckhardt's adoptive father); circa mid 1940s;  
b & w photocopy of a 3 ½" x 3 ½" photograph  
Photo information sheet
- 1950s Photographs
- 8 4 "Nadine Cannon modeling underwear and pjs for a Vanity Fair Factory  
near Denton, TX;" Nadine Cannon; 1949 or 1950; b & w  
photocopy of a 7" x 5" photograph  
Photo information sheet for 1  
Nadine Cannon; 1949 or 1950; b & w photocopy of a 4 ½" x 3 ¼"  
photograph  
Photo Information Sheet for 3  
Five "Children's Photos," 1950s  
Sam Rayburn and Ralph Yarborough; early 1950; b & w photocopy of a  
4 ½" by 3 ¼" photograph  
"Nadine on roof of architecture building;" Nadine Cannon; 1951; b & w  
photocopy of a 3" x 1 ¾" photograph  
"Stevenson at press conference LBJ Ranch;" Grace Tully, Sam Rayburn,  
Lyndon Baines Johnson, Adlai; 1955; b & w photocopy of a 5" x  
7" photograph  
"Mary Margaret and Nadine sitting on Harry McPherson's knees at Party  
at Duggers House;" Mary Margaret Wylie, Harry McPherson and  
Nadine; 1955; b & w photocopy of a 4 ½" x 5" photograph  
"Nadine sitting on Harry McPherson's lap; Harry McPherson and Nadine;  
1955; b & w photocopy of a 3 ¾" x 3 ¾" photograph  
"LBJ in majority leader's office; Lyndon Baines Johnson; 1955 or  
1956; b & w photocopy of a 7 ¾" x 8" photograph  
"Nadine in Arlington House; Nadine, b & w photocopy of a 5" x 3"  
photograph; taken by Bill Brammer

### Series III: Photographs-Continued

#### Box Folder

- 8 4 1950s Photographs-continued  
“Willie Morris, Nadine Brammer with daughters Sydney and Shelby Brammer 1957 in front of house on Enfield Rd. Austin;” Willie Morris, Nadine Brammer, Sidney Brammer and Shelby Brammer; 1957; b & w photocopy of a 3 ¾ ” x 2 ¾ ” photograph  
“Nadine holding up fish at LBJ Ranch-with daughter Sidney;” Nadine Brammer and Sidney Brammer; 1957 or 1958; b & w photocopy of a 4 ½ ” x 3 ½ ” photograph, taken by Bill Brammer  
Three photocopies taped onto one page  
“Nadine on NTSC campus. Taken by Bill Brammer 1950;” Nadine; 1950; B & w photocopy of a 3” x 5 ¼ ” photograph, taken by Bill Brammer
- 8 5 1960s Photographs  
“Nadine and Michael Janeway at Paleface Ranch;” Nadine and Michael Janeway; circa 1960; 4 ¼ ” x 3 ¼ ” b & w photograph  
“Nadine and Michael Janeway at Paleface Ranch;” Nadine and Michael Janeway; circa 1960, 4” x 6” b & w photograph  
“Nadine and Michael Janeway at Paleface Ranch circa 1960;” Nadine, circa 1960; b & w photocopy of a 3” x 2 ½ ” photograph  
“Bob Eckhardt, State Representative from Houston;” Bob Eckhardt; 1962 or 1963, b & w photocopy of a 10” x 7 ¾ ” photograph; taken by Russell Lee  
“Bob Eckhardt, State Representative from Houston;” Bob Eckhardt; 1962 or 1963, b & w photocopy of a 10” x 7 ¾ ” photograph; taken by Russell Lee  
Photo information sheet for 4 and 5  
“Bob and Nadine 1963 moved into house newly built,” Nadine and Bob Eckhardt, 1963, 4 ¾ ” x 3 ¾ ” b& w photograph  
“ Bob and Nadine 1963 moved into house;” Nadine and Bob Eckhardt; 1963; 6 ¾ ” x 5 ¾ ” b & w photograph  
“Russell Lee volunteered to take Bob’s photo for his campaign for Congress in 1966;” Bob Eckhardt; 1966; b & w photocopy of a 10” x 7 ¼ ” photograph  
Photo Information Sheet for 9  
“L-R, Norma Eckhardt, Bob’s mother, state rep. Bob Eckhardt who was running for Congress and Nadine Eckhardt, in Bob’s Campaign HDQTRS. In 1966;” Norma Eckhardt and Bob Eckhardt; 1966; b & w photocopy of a 7 ½ ” x 9 ¾ ” photograph

### Series III: Photographs-Continued

#### Box Folder

- 8 5 1956s Photographs-continued  
“Congressman Bob Eckhardt and Nadine on Air Force One en route to Party in Austin with LBJ in June 16, 1967;” Bob and Nadine Eckhardt; June 16, 1967; b & w photocopy of a 3 ¼” x 3 ¼” photograph  
“Bob Eckhardt, Bob Pierpoint (Newsman, deceased), Barbara Bush, Nadine, Jessica Hobby Cato, Cong. George Bush, Bill Hobby on Capitol Steps 1967;” Bob Eckhardt, Bob Pierpoint, Barbara bush, Nadine Eckhardt, Jessica Hobby Cato, Congressman George Bush, Bill Hobby; 1967; b & w photocopy of a 7 ½” x 6” photograph  
“Photo: L-R Paul (deceased), LBJ, Nadine, Bob Eckhardt, Bayou Club, Houston, at party in honor of John Connally 1969 Feb. 13;” Lyndon Baines Johnson, Nadine and Bob Eckhardt, February 13, 1969; b & w photocopy of a 6 ½” x 7 ¾” photograph
- 8 6 1970s Photographs  
“Taken in District?;” Sarah Eckhardt (8 yrs old); April 30, 1973, 8” x 10” color photograph  
“Nadine, Bob and Sarah at reception in Bob’s District Office for federal employees;” Nadine, Bob, and Sarah Eckhardt; April 30, 1973; b & w photocopy of a 8” x 10” photograph  
“L-R Unknown, Unknown, Nadine, Beulah Shepard, 1973;” Nadine Eckhardt and Beulah Shepard; 1973; b & w photocopy of a 5 ¼” x 6 ½” photograph  
“L-R: Grace Tully, Nadine, State Senator Walter Richter, Nadine, Bob Eckhardt, Cong. Chick Kazen, at Andrews AFB, waiting for LBJs body to arrive;” 1973; Grace Tully, Nadine, State Senator Walter Richter, Nadine, Bob Eckhardt, Cong. Chick Kazen; 6 ½” x 8 ½” b & w photograph
- 8 6  
“L-R: Grace Tully, Nadine, State Senator Walter Richter, Nadine, Bob Eckhardt, Cong. Chick Kazen, at Andrews AFB, waiting for LBJs body to arrive;” 1973; Grace Tully, Nadine, State Senator Walter Richter, Nadine, Bob Eckhardt, Cong. Chick Kazen; 6 ½” x 8 ½” b & w photograph  
“L-R: Grace Tully, Nadine, State Senator Walter Richter, Nadine, Bob Eckhardt, Cong. Chick Kazen, at Andrews AFB, waiting for LBJs body to arrive;” 1973; Grace Tully, Nadine, State Senator Walter Richter, Nadine, Bob Eckhardt, Cong. Chick Kazen; 6 ½” x 8 ½” b & w photograph  
“Hofneinz Pavilion in Houston, Mack Hofneinz was Mayor’s wife;” 1974; Bob Eckhardt, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, Mack Hofneinz; b & w photocopy of a 3 ½” x 4 ¾” photograph

### Series III: Photographs-Continued

**Box Folder**

8	6	<u>1970s Photographs-continued</u> “Hofneinz Pavilion in Houston, Mack hofheinz was Mayor’s wife;” 1974; b & w photocopy of a 3 ½ ” x 4 ¾ ” photograph Twenty-nine “1975” “Photos of Nadine, Betty Dooley and Ann Brinkley and Bob in front of house in Georgetown 1975;” Ann Brinkley and Bob Eckhardt; April 1975; b & w photocopy of a 3 ½ ” x 4 ¾ ” photograph Four “1975” Twelve “1976” Five “1977” Seven “1979”
8	7	<u>1978 Photographs</u> Thirteen “from 1978” Seven “from 1978” Duplicates of photos taken in Nadine’s Restaurant Six “from 1978” Thirty-four “from 1978” Duplicates of photos taken in Nadine’s Restaurant Three “from 1978” Funerals Thirty-six “from 1978” Six “from 1978” Funerals
8	8	<u>1970s Photographs</u> Thirty-eight “1970s photos”
8	9	<u>1980s Photographs</u> Nine “1980s” Twenty-three “1981s” “1981” “Photo of Nadine and Ann Richards Fundraiser at Nadine’s in NYC October 30, 1989;” Nadine and Ann Richards; October 30, 1989; 4” x 5” color photograph “1981” “Nadine’s in NYC 1988 or ’89;” Nadine; 1988 or 1989; 3 ½ ” x 4 ¾ ” color photograph “1981” “Nadine’s in NYC 1988 or ’89;” Nadine; 1988 or 1989; 3 ½ ” x 4 ¾ ” color photograph “1981” “Nadine’s in NYC 1988 or ’89;” Nadine; 1988 or 1989; 3 ½ ” x 4 ¾ ” color photograph
8	10	<u>2000s Photographs</u> “Nadine/Personal/Photos 2006”

### Series III: Photographs-Continued

Box	Folder	
8	11	<u>“Additional Scrapbook Materials”</u> Ten Family Photos
8	12	<u>“Pics of Texas Capital by Rosalind Eckhardt plus photos of Bob”</u> Eight unidentified photos “Roy and Lil at Ann Richards political Party- 9 Dec 1975” Six unidentified photos Nineteen Texas Capital by Rosalind Eckhardt in mid 70s”
8	13	<u>Photographs of Unidentified Years</u> “George Crane 1971 Georgetown University Student;” 2 ½” x 1 ¾” b & w photograph “G.W. Bush at dedication of LBJ Library, Austin 1967;” 2 ½” x 1 ¾” b & w photograph; taken by Nadine Three “Curtis Graves 68 and 89” Thirteen unidentified photos NASA Manned Spacecraft Center, Houston, TX; L-R Mrs. Robert Turner, Robert Tuner, Mrs. Bob Eckhardt, Astronaut Michael Collins; January 27, 1967; NASA or National Aeronautics and Space Administration NASA Manned Spacecraft Center, Houston, TX; L-R Mrs. Robert Turner, Robert Tuner, Mrs. Bob Eckhardt, Astronaut Michael Collins; January 27, 1967; NASA or National Aeronautics and Space Administration NASA Manned Spacecraft Center, Houston, TX; L-R Mrs. Robert Turner, Robert Tuner, Mrs. Bob Eckhardt, Astronaut Michael Collins; January 27, 1967; NASA or National Aeronautics and Space Administration Unidentified photo

### Series IV: Printed Material, 1955-2008.

9	1	Articles, Billy Lee Brammer
9	2	Articles, Bob Eckhardt
9	3	Articles, Nadine
9	4	Articles, Related Resources
9	5	Documents
9	6	Articles, Event Programs
9	7	Articles, Travels

## Series V: *Duchess of Palms*, 1970-2009.

		Correspondence
10	1	A-Z
10	2	Donegan, Craig
10	3	Harpers & Row Publishers
10	4	Texas Monthly Press
10	5	University of Texas Press
10	6	Copy Rights
10	7	Photos
		Timelines
10	8	“Summaries on timelines by year”
10	9	“BLB, Late fifties and early sixties”
10	10	“1961-66”
10	11	“1966-1977”
10	12	“Written in 1976 by BLB and Nadine”
10	13	“1977-1988”
10	14	“1988-1989”
		Notes
11	1	“Transcripts of Interviews”
11	2	“Chronology of 55, 56, 57 Furnished by LBJ Library”
11	3	“List of possible readers to read manuscript”
11	4	“Used while ending my book, brainstormed, 10-28-04”
11	5	“Suggested titles”
11	6	“Articles Re: What publishers are looking for”
11	7	“The 60’s”
11	8	“Articles about women to read for ideas”
11	9	“50’s notes I used in chap.1”
11	10	“Writing styles/suggestions”
11	11	“To myself, 1989, 87, 88”
11	12	“To myself 1982, 83, 90’s”
11	13	“Scrapbook material 40’s, 50’s, 60’s”
11	14	“Re 1973”
11	15	“On the 90’s and earlier (70’s, 60’s)”
11	16	“End of book and epilogue”
11	17	“About Bob E.”
11	18	“Epilogue”
		Drafts
12	1	“Early Manuscripts”
12	2	“7-16-07, with revisions sent to Allison Faust”
12	3	“Notes and revisions”
12	4	“Includes schedule as of 3/12”

## Series V: Duchess of Palms-Continued

### Box Folder

#### Drafts-continued

13	1	“Copy of M.S. sent to Tim and Library of Congress”
13	2	“Craig Donegan’s efforts”
13	3	“Mother, Grandma, family”
13	4	“LBJ”
13	5	“Removed from Binder”
13	6	“M.S.S.”
14	1	“Printed 6/16/05”
14	2	“Selected chapters with notes from Tim”
14	3	“Cleaned up M.S. 8-2-07 by KMJ”
14	4	“Cleaned up M.S. 8-16-07 by KMJ”
14	5	“Cleaned up MS 8-16-07”