

**Overview of  
The Nichols Collection  
at the Poage Congressional Library  
Baylor University  
Waco, Texas**

The Edmund L. Nichols collection at the Poage represents a record of the life and work of Mr. Nichols, born in Throckmorton, Throckmorton County, Texas, in 1931, through his formative years and small town education to his eventual long career in State and Federal government. This includes substantial documentation related to his years as a career U.S. diplomat, with some reference as well to the years subsequent to his retirement from government service in late 1993.

The collection also includes art and artifacts acquired incidental to his professional life in Texas and abroad. Mr. Nichols was introduced to the Poage through his friendship with the Honorable Jack Hightower, retired Texas legislator, U.S. Congressman and Texas Supreme Court Justice. He also knew and, during his years in Washington, enjoyed a professional relationship with the library's namesake and patron, the Honorable Bob Poage of Waco.

While the collection aims in large part to inform and instruct researchers and those interested in the attributes and accomplishments of a public servant with special emphasis on diplomatic life and service, it also brings to light the human and artistic sides of Mr. Nichols. In doing so, the papers, photographs and memorabilia in the collection also bring insight into the lives and personalities of those with whom he lived, associated and worked, some famous, most not but no less significant to the progress of society, government and humanity during mid-to-late decades of the twentieth century.

Organization of the papers is a work in progress. Mr. Nichols is working directly with the library toward the end that the papers present not just the chronology of a life spent largely in government service but also provide a mirror to the times in which he grew up, matured and served. In all this, of major concern to Mr. Nichols is that full recognition be accorded to the part played by his family, friends and professional associates in any achievements chronicled.

During the course of his career which Mr. Nichols began as a technical writer, he did a great deal of writing, some of it related to speeches, essays and articles for others as well as for himself. It is not accidental that the collection includes a copious volume of correspondence. Many of the letters to and from Mr. Nichols (and his beloved wife Sandy Nichols as well), though at times mundane, also reflect the happenings of the world and the passing scene which they, their relatives and other contemporaries chronicled. Such a flow of correspondence as found in this collection will not be found among those inhabiting government and diplomatic life today.

Changes in the ways of communication obviate time spent in letter-writing. For this reason, as well as for their relevance to the whole of the collection, the correspondence has been included.

Art works, artifacts and memorabilia associated with the collection are held separately but may be accessed by special request.

E.L.N.  
Waco, Texas  
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