



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Nick Reynolds Kingston Trio Papers

NMAH.AC.1472

Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.

2019

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Nick Reynolds Kingston Trio Papers
Date:	1950-2014
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1472
Creator:	Kingston Trio (Musician) Reynolds, Nick, 1933-2008
Source:	Kingston Trio Legacy Project Reynolds, Leslie
Extent:	2.1 Cubic feet (4 boxes, 1 map-folder)
Language:	English .
Summary:	The collection documents Nick Reynolds, a member of the vocal music group, the Kingston Trio.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by the Kingston Trio Legacy Project to the Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution in 2018.

Processing Information

Processed by Nelse Greenway, volunteer, 2019, supervised by Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., archivist.

Preferred Citation

Nick Reynolds Kingston Trio Papers, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions.

Biographical / Historical

The history of the original Kingston Trio and its subsequent permutations has been well chronicled. The group came to national prominence in 1958 during the folk music revival of the 1950s and 1960s. At that time the trio consisted

of Dave Guard, Bob Shane, and Nick Reynolds. Their first album released in 1958 contained their first gold record, *Tom Dooley*. Success continued for the trio but in 1961, Dave Guard left the group and John Stewart joined the group as his replacement. The group continued to have a successful run, their cover of *Where Have All the Flowers Gone?* and *Greenback Dollar* made the *Billboard* Top Ten chart in 1961 and 1963 respectively. The group in its configuration of Reynolds, Shane, and Stewart ceased actively performing in June 1967. Subsequent incarnations of the group performed into the twenty-first century.

Nicholas (Nick) Wells Reynolds, tenor, was a founding member of the Kingston Trio. He was born in San Diego, California on July 27, 1933. His parents were Stewart S. and Jane Keck Reynolds. His father was a commander in the United States Navy. Reynolds attended schools in Coronado, California graduating in 1951 from Coronado High School. He graduated from Menlo College, Atherton, California in 1956.

Reynolds, Bob Shane (1934-2020) and Dave Guard (1934-1991) formed the Kingston Trio in the 1950s. Reynolds left the Trio in 1967 moving to Oregon. He rejoined the Trio in 1988 after recording the album *Revenge of the Budgie* in 1983, and remained with the group until retiring in 2003. Reynolds died in San Diego, California on October 1, 2008 survived by his third wife, Leslie Yerger Reynolds, and four children.

Sources

Family Search, 1940 United States Census, accessed July 9, 2019. Obituary, Nick Reynolds, *The New York Times*, October 2, 2008. Obituary, Nick Reynolds, *The Los Angeles Times*, October 3, 2008. Kingston Trio Legacy Project, (<http://kingstontriolegacyproject.com>) last accessed July 9, 2019.

Content Description

The collection documents the life and career of Nick Reynolds, one of the members of the Kingston Trio folk music group. Included in the collection are: a scrapbook approximately covering the years 1958-1970, and including such things as articles, photographs, and flyers announcing appearances by the Trio; letters, including fan mail, and a large set of letters and cards sent by member Nick Reynolds to his parents; postcards; business and legal papers, especially relating to a 1981 reunion; programs; songbooks and sheet music; posters advertising appearances; a book about the Trio; articles and miscellaneous printed materials.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into two series.

Series 1: Reynolds, Nick, Personal Papers, 1950-2014, undated

Series 2: Kingston Trio Papers and Ephemera, 1956-2013, undated

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Folk music
- Folk musicians
- Folk songs -- United States
- Letters (correspondence) -- 20th century
- Postcards -- 20th century -- United States

Types of Materials:

- Articles -- 20th century
- Business letters
- Business records -- 20th century
- Color prints (photographs) -- 20th century
- Fliers (printed matter)
- Legal records -- 20th century
- Letters (correspondence) -- 21st century
- Posters -- 20th century
- Programs -- Concerts -- 20th century
- Scrapbooks -- 20th century
- Sheet music -- 20th century

Names:

- Kingston Trio Legacy Project
- Reynolds, Leslie

Container Listing

Series 1: Reynolds, Nick, Personal Papers, 1950-2014, undated

Scope and Contents: This series includes personal correspondence between members of the Reynolds family and the public at large. There are letters exchanged between Nick Reynolds and his mother, Jane Reynolds. It also includes letters addressed to Nick Reynolds by others. There are also personal financial records and sew-on patch from the Sports Car Club of America to which Nick Reynolds belonged.

Box 1, Folder 1	Correspondence, Nick Reynolds to his mother, 1950-1966
Box 1, Folder 2	Correspondence, Letters to Jane Reynolds (Nick's mother), 1957-2008, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Correspondence, Joan Reynolds to Jane Reynolds (mother-in-law), 1958-1961
Box 1, Folder 4	Correspondence, Letters to Nick Reynolds, 1960-2008, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Correspondence, Richard Johnston to Jane Reynolds, 1973-1974, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Correspondence, Letters to Leslie Reynolds, 2014, undated
Box 1, Folder 9	Reynolds, Nick, personal receipts, lease agreements, 1983, undated
Box 1, Folder 10	Reynolds, Nick, "Sports Car Club of America," patches, undated
Box 1, Folder 11	Royalties, 1983-1987

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Series 2: Kingston Trio Papers and Ephemera, 1956-2013, undated

Scope and Contents: This series includes papers and ephemera associated with The Kingston Trio. There are programs, financial papers, photographs, books, and Nick Reynolds personal scrapbook among other materials.

Box 1, Folder 7	Stock Certificates, 1959-1966
Box 1, Folder 8	Unproduced television script, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	"The Kingston Trio and Friends Reunion", 1981
Box 2, Folder 1	Photos, 1994, undated
Box 2, Folder 2	Publicity, 1958-1989, undated
Box 2, Folder 3	Magazines, 1959-1961
Box 2, Folder 4	Music, 1956-1993
Box 2, Folder 5	Kingston Trio, Incorporated, Legal Papers, 1976-1983
Box 2, Folder 6	Financial and Legal Papers, 1964-1983, undated
Box 3, Folder 1	An Evening with the Kingston Trio, souvenir program, 1962
Box 3, Folder 2	The Kingston Trio, book, 1960
Box 3, Folder 3	Greenback Dollar, book, 2013
Box 4, Folder 1	Trident Restaurant and Kingston Trio, Incorporated, financial records, 1980-1982
Box 4	Reynolds, Nick personal scrapbook, 1958-04-03-1976-05-25
Map-folder 1	Oversize (unprocessed)

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