

Walter B. Beals papers, circa 1400-1951

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Beals, Walter B
Title	Walter B. Beals papers
Dates	circa 1400-1951 (inclusive) 1400 1951
Quantity	66.00 cubic feet
Collection Number	0126
Summary	Papers of a lawyer, judge, army officer, and collector concerning his career and his signature collections
Repository	University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Special Collections University of Washington Libraries Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Telephone: 206-543-1929 Fax: 206-543-1931 speccoll@uw.edu
Access Restrictions	Consult the access restrictions information for each of the accessions listed below. Some material stored offsite; advance notice required for use.
Languages	English

Biographical Note

Walter Burges Beals was born in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1876. Beals's family traveled west in 1897, and Beals enrolled in the newly founded University of Washington Law School; he and his future wife Othilia Carroll were members of the first graduating class of the school in 1901.

Beals served as a military officer in France during World War I and afterwards helped organize and found the American Legion. His legal career flourished in the 1920s, and in 1926, he accepted a position as judge of the Superior Court of King County. Beals became a member of the Washington State Supreme Court in 1928, a position he held until his retirement in 1950, twice holding the position of Chief Justice. Beals is perhaps best known for his work, in 1946-1947, as Presiding Judge at the International Military Tribunal in Nuremburg, the Nazi war trial known as the "Doctors' Trial."

Walter Beals was an avid collector of books, manuscripts, such as liturgical and religious manuscripts, and signatures, particularly those of European royalty. Beals also began creating albums as a young man, a hobby he continued throughout his life, collecting and soliciting signatures, manuscripts and other materials which he would mount on paper or vellum and bind into albums, often with leather covers. In his time, Beals was considered the greatest private collector of manuscripts and books in the Pacific Northwest.

Content Description

Consult the scope and content information for each of the accessions listed below.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

Consult the restrictions governing reproduction and use for each of the accessions listed below.

Administrative Information

Detailed Description of the Collection

Accession No. 0126-001: Walter B. Beals papers, 1946-1950

52.67 cubic feet

Scope and Content: Correspondence, reports, writings, notes, trial transcripts, etc.

This material documents Judge Beal's work as a judge at the International Military Tribunal war crime trials at Nuremburg.

[View inventory/container list for this accession](#)

Restrictions on Access: Open to all users.

Some material stored offsite; advance notice required for use.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights not transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Acquisition Info: Donated by Mrs. W. B. Beals, 1/1/1960.

Description

Walter B. Beals papers

Accession No. 0126-002: Walter B. Beals papers, 1916-1951

6.14 cubic feet

Scope and Content: Correspondence, legal documents, writings, photographs, ephemera, abstract opinions.

This part of the collection documents Judge Beal's life and practice in Washington State as well as his hobby as a bibliophile and book and signature collector.

[View inventory/container list for this accession](#)

Restrictions on Access: Open to all users.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights not transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Acquisition Info: Donated by Mrs. Beals, 6/7/1946.

Description

Walter B. Beals papers

Accession No. 0126-008: Walter B. Beals papers, circa 1400-1940

5.92 cubic feet (10 volumes, 17 boxes)

Scope and Content: Signature collection: includes biographical notes and pictures with many of the signatures.

Ten bound volumes: vol. 1 - U.S. presidents, vice presidents and cabinet members, ca. 1800-1920; vol. 2-10 - Union and Confederate Army officers.

Boxes 1-17 represent Judge Beals' signature collection of 19th century American, French and English names. Also many French Revolution figures and some 15th and 16th century British royalty and nobility.

[View inventory/container list for this accession](#)

Restrictions on Access: Open to all users.

Restrictions on Use: Retained by individual writers where copyright still applies.

Acquisition Info: Donated by Mrs. W. B. Beals, 9/1/1978.

Description

Walter B. Beals papers

Accession No. 0126-009: Walter B. Beals correspondence, 1929-1936

.42 cubic foot

Scope and Content: Includes letters from Beals to Hitchman regarding collecting and general correspondence of Beal's half brother Edward Shell regarding popularizing reindeer meat.

Restrictions on Access: Open to all users.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights not transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Acquisition Info: Donated by Robert Hitchman, 1/29/1979.

Description

Walter B. Beals correspondence

Accession No. 0126-010: Walter B. Beals manuscripts, circa 1550-1928

.79 cubic foot

Scope and Content: Most of the manuscripts are French from the 16th century. There is one folder of court papers, ca. 1860, from various county courts in Oregon.

Restrictions on Access: Open to all users.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights not transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Acquisition Info: Donated by Beals, 7/15/1980.

Description

Walter B. Beals manuscripts

Accession No. 0126-011: Walter B. Beals papers, circa 1800-1950

.03 cubic foot

Scope and Content: Genealogy, writing, correspondence, clippings, ephemera.

Genealogy of McMillan/MacMillan family ca. 1800-1945; typed transcript of 1850 writing; family correspondence concerning genealogical information 1947-1950; clippings, ephemera 1945.

Restrictions on Access: Open to all users.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights not transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Acquisition Info: Received 6/19/1985.

Description

Walter B. Beals papers

Accession No. 0126-012: Walter B. Beals correspondence,

.03 cubic foot

1 folder (11 p.)

Scope and Content: Incoming letters, mainly from authors of books about Roger Williams.

Restrictions on Access: Open to all users.

Acquisition Info: Received 10/1/1996.

Description

Walter B. Beals correspondence

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Armies--Officers

Judges--Washington (State)

Judges--Washington (State)--King County

Lawyers--Washington (State)--Seattle

Personal Names :

Beals, Walter B.--Archives

Other Creators :

Personal Names :

Hitchman, Robert

(creator)

Shell, Edward

(creator)

Corporate Names :

International Military Tribunal

(creator)

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Personal Papers/Corporate Records (University of Washington)

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