

Guide to the Michael V. R. Thomason Papers

Descriptive Summary:

Creator: Michael V. R. Thomason, 1942 –

Title: Michael V.R. Thomason Papers

Dates: 1968-2006

Quantity: 9 Cubic Feet

Abstract: Contains material from Thomason's graduate and doctoral research, as well as correspondence, subject files, and printed material relating to various courses, grants, and publications.

Accession: 06-09-472

Biographical Information

Michael V. R. Thomason was born in Florida on June 20, 1942. In 1964, he graduated with a B.A. in History from the University of the South, Sewanee, where he was a Phi Beta Kappa. He received his Master's and Doctorate degrees from Duke University. During his graduate work, Thomason was awarded a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship and a Shell Overseas Study Fellowship for research in Africa. Upon completion of his doctoral work, Thomason taught briefly at Appalachian State University before joining the University of South Alabama History Department in 1970. During his career at USA, Thomason taught African History, Alabama History, Mobile History, Public History, Archival Practice, and several photography courses. In 1978, he became the founding director of the University of South Alabama Archives and played an integral part in securing its first photographic collection. He is the author/illustrator of several books, including *Mobile: American River City* (1975, with Melton McLaurin), *The Image of Progress: Alabama Photographs, 1871-1917* (1980), *Trying Times: Alabama Photographs, 1917-1945* (1985), *To Remember a Vanishing World: D.L. Hightower's Photographs of Barbour County, Alabama, 1930-1945* (1997), and *Mobile: The New History of Alabama First City* (2001). Thomason was also a founding member of the Gulf South Historical Association and served as the editor of the *Gulf South Historical Review* from 1986 to 2005. He retired from the University of South Alabama in 2006 and now serves as an Emeritus Professor.

NOTE: Researchers interested in the founding of The Doy Leale McCall Rare

Book and Manuscript Library should also consult Thomason's 2007 interview, located in The Library's Vertical Files.

Scope and Content:

The collection consists of research material from Thomason's degrees from Duke, correspondence and subject files relating to his publications and scholarly activities, and materials from various courses he taught. Of particular interest is material relating to the Alabama History and Heritage Festival in 1982, and Thomason's various projects for the Alabama Humanities Foundation.

Arrangement:

Arranged into 7 series: 1). Graduate and Doctoral Work (2.5 cubic feet); 2). Subject Files (3 cubic feet); 3). Correspondence, 1968 – 2005 (1 cubic foot); 4). Courses Taught (1.25 cubic feet); 5). Gulf South Historical Association (.5 cubic feet); 6). Date Books and Journals, 1968 – 2005 (.5 cubic feet); and 7). World War I Material.

Access Restrictions:

The material is open for research. However, there are restricted materials in Series 2.

Usage Restrictions:

None except for some of the material in Series 2.

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Preferred Citation:

[Title of Item], Michael V. R. Thomason Papers, The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of South Alabama, Mobile, Alabama.

Sensitive Materials Statement

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Guide prepared by: Scotty E. Kirkland

Guide updated by: Carol Ellis

Guide last updated: June 25, 2013

Series Description:

Series 1: Graduate and Doctoral Work

Contains research materials, and papers from Thomason's coursework at Duke University and research notes from his work in archives in Kenya and Great Britain.

The series also contains a rough draft of his dissertation on Africa, index cards, and copies from various British and African archives.

Series 2: Subject Files

This series contains alphabetically-arranged files dealing with Thomason's various scholarly activities, books, presentations, and grant proposals. There is a large section of material from the Alabama History and Heritage Festival in 1982, as well as materials from Thomason's term as president of the Alabama Historical Association in 2000. **NOTE: This series contains some restricted material.**

Series 3: Correspondence, 1968-2005

This series contains correspondence relating to Thomason's various scholarly activities. The majority of the correspondence deals with his activities after joining the faculty at the University of South Alabama in 1970

Series 4: Courses Taught

Contains miscellaneous material from Thomason's various courses from Appalachian State and the University of South Alabama. The files have been arranged alphabetically.

Series 5: Gulf South Historical Association

Dr. Thomason was a founding member of the Gulf South Historical Association and served as editor of the *Gulf South Historical Review* during the entire life of the journal. This series contains correspondence, minutes, and printed materials from the association and material relating to the *Gulf South Historical Review*.

Series 6: Date Books and Journals, 1980-2005

The series contains bound date books and journals documenting Thomason's various activities.

Series 7: World War I Material

Contains research material, notes, and drafts of Thomason's chapter, "WWI in Mobile," in *The Great War in the Heart of Dixie*, edited by Martin Olliff.

Content List:

Series 1: Graduate and Doctoral Work

Box 1

1. Graduate Papers – Africa (1 of 2)
2. Graduate Papers – Africa (2 of 2)
3. Miscellaneous Graduate Papers (1 of 2)
4. Miscellaneous Graduate papers (2 of 2)
5. Book Reviews
6. Miscellaneous Notes, September – October 1965
7. Miscellaneous Dissertation Notes
8. Dissertation Draft – Introduction, Preface, Abstract, Chapter 1
9. Dissertation Draft – Chapter 2
10. Dissertation Draft – Chapter 3
11. Dissertation Draft – Chapter 4
12. Dissertation Draft – Chapter 5
13. Dissertation Draft – Chapter 6
14. Dissertation Draft – Chapter 7
15. Dissertation Draft – Chapter 8
16. Dissertation Draft – Bibliography, Biography, Comments
17. Miscellaneous Notebooks

Box 2

Miscellaneous photocopies from British and African Archives for dissertation

Box 3

Index cards for dissertation research

Series 2: Subject Files

Box 4

1. Alabama Association of Historians
2. Alabama Historical Association – Correspondence, 1997-2002
3. Alabama Historical Association – Executive Committee

4. Alabama Historical Association – Minutes
5. Alabama Historical Association – Miscellaneous
6. Alabama Historical Association – Miscellaneous Printed Material
7. Alabama Historical Records Advisory Board
8. Alabama History and Heritage Festival – Activity Log
9. Alabama History and Heritage Festival – Auburn University Grant
10. Alabama History and Heritage Festival – Audience
11. Alabama History and Heritage Festival – Bills (Paid)
12. Alabama History and Heritage Festival – Brochures
13. Alabama History and Heritage Festival – Budget
14. Alabama History and Heritage Festival – Clippings
15. Alabama History and Heritage Festival – Correspondence
16. Alabama History and Heritage Festival – Cost Sharing/Donation Forms
17. Alabama History and Heritage Festival – Costs
18. Alabama History and Heritage Festival – Craftsmen and Exhibitors
19. Alabama History and Heritage Festival – Final Evaluation
20. Alabama History and Heritage Festival – Grant (1982)
21. Alabama History and Heritage Festival – History
22. Alabama History and Heritage Festival – Local Committee Handouts
23. Alabama History and Heritage Festival – Newsletter
24. Alabama History and Heritage Festival – Publicity
25. Alabama History and Heritage Festival – Schedules
26. Alabama History and Heritage Festival – Speakers
27. Alabama History and Heritage Festival – Steering Committee Minutes
28. Alabama Humanities Foundation – Speakers’ Bureau, 1993-94
29. Alabama Humanities Foundation – Speakers’ Bureau, 1996-97 (Hightower)
30. Alabama Humanities Foundation – Speakers’ Bureau, Turning Points in Twentieth Century Alabama History
31. Alabama Humanities Foundation – Summer Institute for Teachers, 1994
32. Alabama Humanities Foundation – School and University Partners for Educational Renewal (SUPER) Correspondence, 1990-1992
33. Alabama Humanities Foundation – SUPER Evaluations
34. Alabama Humanities Foundation – SUPER Meeting Schedules
35. Alabama Humanities Foundation – SUPER Miscellaneous
36. Alabama Humanities Foundation – SUPER Miscellaneous Printed Material (1 of 2)

37. Alabama Humanities Foundation – SUPER Miscellaneous Printed Material (2 of 2)
38. Alabama Humanities Foundation – SUPER Notes
39. Alabama Humanities Foundation – SUPER Program on Africa, 1994
40. Alabama Moments in American History
41. Alabama Rural Heritage Center
42. *Albion*
43. Archivist Certification – Society of American Archivists
44. Bibliographies
45. Books Reviewed By Thomason
46. Book Reviews (Thomason's Books)
47. Bowers, Teresa
48. Brookley Field

Box 5

1. Chairs' Council (USA) – Correspondence, 1983-1990
2. Chairs' Council (USA – Minutes
3. Chairs' Council (USA)– Meetings, 1983-1987
4. Chairs' Council (USA)– Meetings, 1988-1990
5. Chairs' Council (USA) – Miscellaneous (1 of 2)
6. Chairs' Council (USA)– Miscellaneous (2 of 2)
7. Clippings
8. Colonial Dames of America
9. "Commercial Photography in Gilded Age Mobile"
10. Cooper, Chip
11. Dabney, Robert
12. Drawings
13. Ewert, George
14. Faculty Activity Reports, 1980-2004
15. Fogleman, Aaron
16. Grant –African American Newspapers in Mobile
17. Grant – Focus on Women in Mobile, 1920-1945 (1981)
18. Grant – *The Image of Progress* Final Report
19. Grant – Macon County, Alabama (1982)
20. Grant – Miscellaneous

21. Grant –*Mobile: American River City*
22. Grant – *Trying Times* (1984)
23. Grant – *Trying Times* Final Report
24. Grant – Work and Leisure in South Alabama (1978)
25. Harkins, Ned
26. Heart of Dixie Railroad Museum
27. Hightower Projects
28. History Department (University of South Alabama) – Endowed Chair
29. History Department (University of South Alabama) – Notes
30. History Department (University of South Alabama) – Search, 1984
31. History Department (University of South Alabama) – Search, 1989
32. History Department (University of South Alabama) – Search for Department Chair, 1997-1998
33. *The Image of Progress*
34. *The Image of Progress* – Correspondence, 1977-1982
35. *The Image of Progress* – Exhibit
36. *The Image of Progress* – Grant Addenda
37. Letters to the Editor

Box 6

1. McLaurin, Melton, "The Image of the Negro in Deep South Public School History Books"
2. Magnolia Cemetery
3. McSwain, Jim
4. Miscellaneous Presentations
5. Miscellaneous Presentation about Mobile
6. Miscellaneous Printed Material (University of South Alabama)
7. Miscellaneous Printed Material (1 of 3)
8. Miscellaneous Printed material (2 of 3)
9. Miscellaneous Printed material (3 of 3)
10. Miscellaneous Scholarly Articles
11. Mobile at the Turn of the Century
12. "Mobile Photographers Record the Depression"
13. *Mobile: The New History of Alabama's First City*
14. Museum of Mobile

15. Museum of Mobile –Barbara Taylor
16. New Archivist Search (2005)
17. Overton, Robert
18. Parker, H.T.
19. Parker, Harold
20. Photographs and Slides
21. Poore, Ralph
22. Presentation: "Little Tin Gods," Southern Historical Association, 1973
23. Purvis, Tom
24. Senior Warden's Report, All Saint's Church, 1986
25. Sledge, John
26. Society of American Archivists Convention, 1982 (Boston, Massachusetts)
27. Tourism/National Register of Historic Places
28. Travel and Reimbursement Requests (**NOTE: This Folder is Restricted**)
29. *Trying Times* Exhibit Correspondence, 1985-1986
30. "Two Photographers Record History"
31. Understanding Alabama
32. University of South Alabama Grant – John LeFlore Papers Microfilming Project
33. University of South Alabama Senior Faculty Caucus
34. Vitae
35. World War I
36. World War II: A Time Remembered
37. Xeroxes (Miscellaneous)
38. Zone VI Workshop (1987)

Series 3: Correspondence

Box 7

1. Correspondence, 1968-1976
2. Correspondence, 1977-1979
3. Correspondence, 1980
4. Correspondence, 1981
5. Correspondence, 1982-1983
6. Correspondence, 1984
7. Correspondence, January – June, 1985
8. Correspondence, July – December, 1985

9. Correspondence, 1986
10. Correspondence, January – June, 1987
11. Correspondence, July – December, 1987
12. Correspondence, 1988
13. Correspondence, 1989
14. Correspondence, 1990
15. Correspondence, 1991
16. Correspondence, January – June, 1992
17. Correspondence, July – December, 1992
18. Correspondence, 1993
19. Correspondence, 1994
20. Correspondence, 1995
21. Correspondence, 1996
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24. Correspondence, 1999
25. Correspondence, 2000
26. Correspondence, 2001
27. Correspondence, 2002
28. Correspondence, 2003-2004
29. Correspondence, 2005
30. Correspondence, Undated

Series 4: Courses Taught

Box 8

1. Africa Since 1800
2. African History – Appalachian State University
3. African History (1997)
4. African History (Spring 1997)
5. African History (Fall 2001)
6. African History (2004)
7. African History (Summer 2004)
8. African History Lecture Notes
9. African History Maps
10. African History Reading Lists

11. African History Tests
12. African Politics (Spring 1980)
13. The Africans
14. Alabama History (Winter 1982)
15. Alabama History (Winter 1982)
16. Alabama History (Fall 1982)
17. Alabama History (Summer 1993)
18. Alabama History (Spring 1998)
19. Alabama History (Summer 2000)
20. Alabama History (Summer 2003)
21. Alabama History (2004)
22. Alabama History (Fall 2005)
23. Alabama History (2006)
24. Alabama History Lectures
25. Alabama History Summer
26. Alabama History for High School Teachers
27. Archives Practicum
28. Archives Practicum (Fall 2004)
29. Archival Practice (Spring 2002)
30. Bush, Lindy
31. Connelly, Jeannie
32. Continuing Education/Adult Learning Courses
33. Directed Studies – Appalachian State University
34. Free, Joseph
35. Fundamentals of Photography (Fall 1987)
36. History of Photography
37. History of Photography (Spring 1982)
38. History of Photography (Winter 1992)
39. History of Photography (Spring 1995)
40. Introduction to Photography (Winter 1994)
41. Miscellaneous Tests and Evaluations
42. Miscellaneous Class Spreadsheets
43. Mobile History (Spring 2000)
44. Mobile History (Spring 2002)
45. Mobile History (Fall 2003)

46. Mobile History (Fall 2004)
47. Mobile History (2006)
48. Mobile History Lectures
49. Moss, Wilda
50. Photography Lectures and Notes
51. Problems in Photography (1990)
52. Professional Studies
53. Urpschot, Michael
54. Western Civilization
55. Western Civilization (Winter 1976)
56. Western Civilization (Fall 1982)

Box 9

1. History of Photography Lecture Notes
2. Miscellaneous Lecture Notes (1 of 2)
3. Miscellaneous Lecture Notes (2 of 2)
4. Miscellaneous Grade Books

Series 5: Gulf South Historical Association

Box 10

1. Board of Directors Minutes
2. Bylaws
3. *Down the Years: Article on Mobile's History* (2001)
4. Correspondence, 1984-1985; 1996-2005
5. Correspondence, Undated
6. Financial Records
7. Gulf Coast History and Humanities Conference – The Gilded Age
8. *Gulf Coast/South Historical Review* Layout and Design
9. Miscellaneous Printed Material
10. Submission Evaluations
11. Subscription Lists

Series 6: Date Books and Journals

Box 11

Arranged Chronologically

Series 7: World War I Material

Box 12

1. March 2005 Revision
2. April 2005 Revision
3. Editorial Comments/Questions
4. Final Revision
5. Correspondence, May 2004 – June 2005
6. USA Library
7. Notes
8. Research Material