San Jose State University
SJSU ScholarWorks

Special Collections and Archives | University Library

1-1-2010

Guide to the Thomas Autograph Collection

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarworks.sjsu.edu/speccoll_archives

Recommended Citation
Thomas Autograph Collection, MSS-2010-06-28, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by the University Library at SJSU ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Special Collections and Archives by an authorized administrator of SJSU ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact scholarworks@sjsu.edu.

http://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/kt5j49s1rv
No online items

Guide to the Thomas Autograph Collection

SJSU Special Collections & Archives
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library
San José State University
One Washington Square
San José, CA 95192-0028
Phone: (408) 808-2062
Fax: (408) 808-2063
Email: special.collections@sjsu.edu
URL: http://www.sjlibrary.org/research/special/special_coll/
© 2010
Trustees of the California State University. All rights reserved.

Guide to the Thomas Autograph Collection

Collection number: MSS-2010-06-28

SJSU Special Collections & Archives
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library
San José State University
One Washington Square
San José, CA 95192-0028
Phone: (408) 808-2062
Fax: (408) 808-2063
Email: special.collections@sjsu.edu
URL: http://www.sjlibrary.org/research/special/special_coll/

Finding aid funded by the generous support of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

Processed by:

Jeffra D. Bussman, Lisa Zakharova

Date Completed:

2010

Encoded by:

Lisa Zakharova

© 2010 Trustees of the California State University. All rights reserved.

Descriptive Summary

Title: Thomas Autograph Collection

Dates: 1870-1945

Bulk Dates: 1885-1910

Collection number: MSS-2010-06-28

Creator: Thomas, Henriette

Collection Size: 3 boxes,4.5 linear feet

Repository: San José State University. Library.

San José, California 95192-0028

Abstract: The Thomas Autograph Collection, 1870-1945 (bulk 1885-1910) contains correspondence collected by the Thomas family, who were active community members of Woodland, California. Charles W. Thomas collected the autographs of well-known literary and public figures during the late 19th Century. This collection of autograph letters includes George Washington Cable, Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), Oliver Wendell Holmes, David Starr Jordan, and others. The collection also includes correspondence from Thomas relatives and close friends, such as the Markham family and Calthea C. Vivian. Henriette G. Thomas, the daughter of Charles W. Thomas, inherited her parents' autograph and correspondence collection, and added to it some of her own letters, before donating the collection to the San Jose State College Library in 1965.

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Copyright is assigned to the San José State University Special Collections & Archives. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Director of Special Collections. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Special Collections & Archives. Copyright restrictions may apply to digital reproductions of the original materials. Use of digital files is restricted to research and educational purposes.

Preferred Citation

Thomas Autograph Collection, MSS-2010-06-28, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Jeffra D. Bussman. Additional processing by Lisa Zakharova. Finding aid EAD encoded by Lisa Zakharova. Reviewed by Danelle Moon and Erin Louthen.

Project Information

This finding aid was created as part of the Survey and Cataloging Project, a two-year San José State University Library grant project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The project began in 2008. The Project Director is Danelle Moon. The Project Archivist is Erin Louthen.

Family History

Born in October 1852 to George W. and Doritha M. Thomas, Charles W. Thomas lived in Kentucky until the late 1850s when his family moved to Missouri. He attended Missouri State Normal School of the First District, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts and Didactics in 1875. On August 5th, 1879, Charles married classmate and fellow graduate Serelda Gilstrap. Both worked as teachers in Missouri, but Mr. Thomas soon left the teaching profession to pursue law. He passed the Missouri bar in 1878 and worked as a clerk of the Missouri Senate Judiciary Committee in 1879. Mrs. Thomas continued to teach while earning a Master of Arts and Didactics degree. In the 1880s, the Thomas family moved to Woodland, California, where they were active charter members of the Woodland Shakespeare Club. In 1882, Mrs. Thomas became a book reviewer for the local newspaper, The Woodland Democrat. Charles W. Thomas was an avid collector of autographs by well known literary and public figures from the 19th century. It was their daughter, Henriette G. Thomas, a local San Jose High School librarian, who inherited the correspondence collection, which she added to before she bequeathed the autograph collection to the San Jose State College library in 1965.

Scope and Content of Collection

The Thomas Autograph Collection, 1870-1945 (bulk 1885-1910), consists primarily of correspondence collected by the Thomas family, who were active community members of Woodland, California. This collection includes autographs of well-known individuals such as George Washington Cable, Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), Oliver Wendell Holmes, David Starr Jordan, and others. The collection also includes correspondence from Thomas family relatives and close friends, such as the Markham family and Calthea C. Vivian. Henriette G. Thomas, a San Jose High School librarian and the daughter of Charles W. Thomas, inherited her parents' autograph and correspondence collection, and added to it some of her own letters. Also included is a small collection of miscellany that consists of newspaper clippings, an autograph book, an audio cassette tape of an interview with Mrs. Ralph Wyckoff, who was a close friend of Mrs. Henriette Thomas, program and poem booklets, and photographs. The bulk of the material dates from 1885-1910. All of the original correspondence related to Edwin Markham have been separated from this collection, and are now part of the Edwin Markham Collection.

Arrangement

This single series collection is arranged alphabetically by author surname, and chronologically by date. Additional ephemera and miscellaneous items are located in box 3.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Autographs

Signatures (Writing)

Twain, Mark, 1835-1910

Markham, Edwin, 1852-1940

Thomas, Henriette G.

Related Material

Edwin Markham collection, MSS-2005-10-01, San Jose State University Library Special Collections and Archives.

Boxes 1-3 I **Autographs 1870-1945 (bulk 1885-1910)**

Physical Description: 3 boxes

Scope and Content Note

This series documents the incoming and outgoing correspondence of the Thomas family. A significant portion of the collection consists of letters(1889-1907) from contemporary writers, literary figures, government officials, and organization leaders. Serelda G. Thomas corresponded with contemporary writers and other literary figures between 1890 and 1905. Letters with notable autographs are those written by Lyman Abbott, George Washington Cable, Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), Oliver Wendell Holmes, David Starr Jordan, Charles Fletcher Lummis, Henry Morton Stanley, and Benjamin Ide Wheeler. One of the folders for David Starr Jordan contains original copies of his "What Shall We Say?" articles. The largest segment of the correspondence is comprised of the incoming and outgoing letters representing the Thomas family and friends, including Mrs. Edwin Markham (Anne Catherine Murphy) and Calthea C. Vivian, the head of the Art Department at San Jose State Normal School between 1900 and 1916. The friendly and prolific correspondence between Anne Catherine Markham and Serelda Thomas spans nearly six decades. The final section of the collection contains miscellaneous items, such as a notebook of additional Thomas-collected autographs (1870-1889), an audio cassette recording of an interview of Mrs. Ralph Wyckoff, who was a close friend of Henriette G. Thomas, poem cards, program pamphlets, and photographs. Also included are biographical index cards of the authors, which were created during the first iteration of processing this collection in the late 1960s.

Arrangement

This single series collection is arranged alphabetically by author surname, and chronologically by date. Additional ephemera and miscellaneous items are located in box 3.

Below are letters authored by persons of particular historical significance.

Box 1, Folder 1 **Abbott, Lyman 1891**

Physical Description: 1 folder

Box 1, Folder 2 **Adams, Oscar Ray 1891**

Physical Description: 1 folder

Box 1, Folder 3 **Aldrich, Thomas Bailey 1890**

Physical Description: 1 folder

Box 1, Folder 4 **Alger, William L. 1891**

Physical Description: 1 folder

Box 1, Folder 5 **Alden, James Lane 1892**

Physical Description: 1 folder

Box 1, Folder 6 **Atherton, Gertrude 1897**

Physical Description: 1 folder

Box 1, Folder 12 **Budd, James Herbert 1890**

Physical Description: 1 folder

Box 1, Folders 13-14 **Cable, George Washington 1889**

Physical Description: 2 folders

Box 1, Folder 15 **Clemens, Samuel 1890**

Physical Description: 1 folder

Box 1, Folders 19-20 **Curtin, Jeremiah 1890 1891**

Physical Description: 2 folders

Box 1, Folder 21	**Custer, Elizabeth B. 1891** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 1, Folder 22	**Donnelly, Ignatius 1890** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 1, Folder 23	**Fair, James G. 1890** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 1, Folders 24-26	**Field, Kate 1891** **Physical Description:** 3 folders
Box 1, Folder 27	**Fisher, George P. 1890** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 1, Folders 28-29	**Foote, Mary Hallock 1892** **Physical Description:** 2 folders
Box 1, Folder 30	**Forsyth, George A. 1895** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 1, Folder 32	**French, Alice 1896** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 1, Folder 33	**Gale, Zona undated** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 1, Folder 34	**Gayley, Charles Mills 1898** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 1, Folder 35	**Gilder, Jeanette L. 1901** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 1, Folders 36-37	**Gilder, Joseph Benson 1897 1907** **Physical Description:** 2 folders
Box 1, Folders 38-39	**Gilder, Richard Watson 1890 1893** **Physical Description:** 2 folders
Box 1, Folder 45	**Grant, Robert 1893** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 1, Folders 46-47	**Hale, Edward Everett 1891** **Physical Description:** 2 folders
Box 1, Folders 48-51	**Harris, William Torrey 1889-1897** **Physical Description:** 4 folders
Box 1, Folder 52	**Hay, Henry H. 1890** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 1, Folders 53-55	**Hill, Thomas 1896** **Physical Description:** 3 folders

Box 1, Folders 56-57	**Holmes, Oliver Wendell 1890** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 1, Folder 58	**Hopper, James 1909** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 1, Folder 59	**Howells, William Dean. 1895** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 1, Folder 60	**Hutton, Laurence 1895** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 1, Folder 63	**Johnson, Grove L. 1890** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 1, Folders 64-74	**Jordan, David Starr. 1899-1915** **Physical Description:** 10 folders
Box 1, Folder 76	**LeConte, Joseph 1890** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 1, Folders 77-80	**Lummis, Charles Fletcher 1895-1897** **Physical Description:** 4 folders
Box 2, Folders 198-199	**McMaster, John Bach 1890, 1895** **Physical Description:** 2 folders
Box 2, Folders 200-201	**Miller, George N. 1891** **Physical Description:** 2 folders
Box 2, Folders 202-204	**Miller, Joaquin 1895 1896** **Physical Description:** 3 folders
Box 2, Folders 205-210	**Morgan, James Appleton 1889-1892** **Physical Description:** 5 folders
Box 2, Folder 215	**Muttersbach, Alice 1903** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 2, Folder 216	**Owen, Mary Alica 1893** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 2, Folder 217	**Page, Thomas Nelson 1894** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 2, Folder 218	**Pardee, George Cooper 1903** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 2, Folders 231-232	**Porter, Charlotte 1889, 1890** **Physical Description:** 2 folders
Box 2, Folder 234	**Putnam, George Israel 1895** **Physical Description:** 1 folder

Box 2, Folder 235	**Reed, Elizabeth Armstrong 1893** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 2, Folders 236-237	**Repplier, Agnes 1891** **Physical Description:** 2 folders
Box 2, Folders 239-241	**Rolfe, W. J. 1890** **Physical Description:** 3 folders
Box 2, Folders 242-244	**Roseboro, Viola 1892, 1893** **Physical Description:** 3 folders
Box 2, Folder 247	**Scott, Frank H. 1890** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 2, Folder 248	**Scudder, H. E. 1897** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 2, Folder 249	**St. Nicholas 1890** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 2, Folder 250	**Stanley, Henry Morton 1890** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 2, Folders 254-256	**Thomas, Edith M. 1890-1899** **Physical Description:** 3 folders
Box 3, Folders 278-279	**Voorsanger, Jacob 1890** **Physical Description:** 2 folders
Box 3, Folder 280	**Ward, Elizabeth Steward Phelps 1899** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 3, Folder 281	**Warde, Frederick 1890** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 3, Folder 284	**Wheeler, Benjamin Ide 1903** **Physical Description:** 1 folder
Box 3, Folders 285-287	**White, Eliza Orne 1895** **Physical Description:** 3 folders
Box 3, Folders 288-289	**Wickson, Edward 1903** **Physical Description:** 2 folders
Box 3, Folders 290-291	**Wildman, Rounsevelle 1896** **Physical Description:** 2 folders
Box 3, Folders 292-297	**Miscellany 1870-1945** **Physical Description:** 6 folders