

# Finding Aid for the Charles Allen Thomas Papers

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## **Descriptive Summary**

Repository: University Archives, Department of Special Collections, Washington University Libraries, One Brookings Drive, Campus Box 1061, St. Louis, MO 63130, Telephone: (314) 935-5444 or (314) 935-9730, Fax (314) 935-8320, e-mail: [spec@wumail.wustl.edu](mailto:spec@wumail.wustl.edu), website: <http://library.wustl.edu/units/spec/archives>

Creator: Charles Allen Thomas (1900 - 1982).

Title: Charles Allen Thomas Papers.

Dates: 1916 -1977.

Quantity: 10 linear feet.

Language: English.

## **Biographical Note**

Charles Allen Thomas was born on February 15, 1900 in Lexington, Kentucky. He attended Transylvania College, where he received a BA in 1920 and a D.Sc. in 1933. Thomas also attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he received a MA in 1924. During his early career, Thomas worked at General Motors as a research chemist from 1923 to 1936 and also at Thomas and Hochwalt Laboratories, of which he was also a founder, from 1926 to 1936. Additional employment included: Vice President of Dayton Synthetic Chemicals (1930-34) and Vice President of Carbosolve Corporation (1931-36). The majority of his career, however, was spent at Monsanto where he worked from 1936 to 1970. At Monsanto his positions included President of Monsanto Petroleum Chemicals Division (1934-37), Director of Central Research Department (1936-46), President of Monsanto Chemical Company (1951-60), Chairman of the Board of Directors (1960-65), Chairman of the Technical Committee (1964-67), Chairman of the Finance Committee (1965-68), and numerous other honorary posts.

Thomas specialized in Atomic Energy (specifically Plutonium Purification), Oil Fire Extinguishing, Fossil Fuel Additives, and Synthetic Rubber. He accumulated many honors, and during his lifetime held over 75 patents. Thomas was the recipient of the United States Medal for Merit (1946), the Industry Research Institute Medal (1947), the American Institute of Chemists Gold Medal (1948), the Missouri Award for Distinguished Service in Engineering (1952), the Society of Chemical Industries Perkin Medal (1953), the ACS Priestly Medal (1955), the Order of Leopold (1962), the Societe de Chimie Industrielle Palladium Medal (1963), the American Academy of Achievement Gold Plate Award (1965), and the *Globe-Democrat* Man of the Year (1966).

His involvement in the field of higher education involved serving as curator of Transylvania College, endowing the Charles Allen Thomas Professorship in

Chemistry at Washington University (1976), and serving as chairman of the Board of Trustees at Washington University from 1966 – 1980.

Charles Allen Thomas died on March 29, 1982.

### **Scope and Content Notes**

The collection consists of seven series and is comprised of four (4) cubic foot boxes and eight (8) oversized boxes.

This collection is divided into seven series as follows:

Series 01: Academic Development (arranged alphabetically)

Series 02: Personal Development and Interests (arranged alphabetically)

Series 03: Professional Development Related to Monsanto Company (arranged alphabetically)

Series 04: Patents (arranged chronologically)

Series 05: Professional Development Related to Washington University (arranged alphabetically)

Series 06: Reel-to-Reel Magnetic Tapes

Series 07: Oversized Objects (in original order)

### **Administrative Information**

#### **Source of Collection**

This material was donated to the University Archives.

#### **Accruals**

There are no accruals.

#### **Processing Information**

Compiled by Jay Kempen in February 2001. Updated by Sarah Pabarcus in October 2006.

### **Restrictions**

#### **Access Restrictions**

In Series 05, Box 03, the folder marked “Chancellor Eliot Correspondence” is restricted until 2012.

#### **Use Restrictions**

Users of the collection must read and abide by the Rules for the Use of University Archives Materials.

Users of the collection who wish to use items from this collection, in whole or in part, in any form of publication (as defined in the form) must sign and submit to the Washington University Archives a hard copy of the Notification of Intent to Quote from or Publish University Archives Materials form.

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**Collection Contents**

**Series 01: Academic Development** (arranged alphabetically)

Box No. Folder

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- 01 Awards, Citations, and Honorary Degrees
  - Transylvania College Yearbook, 1916
  - Transylvania College Yearbook, 1917
  - Transylvania College Visit, 1954

**Series 02: Personal Development and Interests** (arranged alphabetically)

Box No. Folder

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- 01 Correspondence, 1936-41
  - Correspondence, 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration
  - Family History and Photographs
  - Identity Papers (Passports, Birth Certificate, etc.)
  - Mackay Point Plantation, 1951
  - Travel Photography

**Series 03: Professional Development Related to Monsanto Company**  
(arranged alphabetically)

Box No. Folder

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- 01 American Chemical Society Correspondence, 1946-48
  - American Institute of Electrical Engineers, 1954
  - Atomic Energy Commission, 1946-50
  - Atomic Energy Commission, 1951-54
  - Atomic Energy Commission (Legislative Passed), 1946-47

## Biographical Accounts

European Visits, 1951-66

Globe Democrat "Man of the Year," 1966

International Chemicals Workers Union Protest, 1946

International Palladium Medal, 1961

International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, 1959-61

Jocular Cartoon Account of Career, 1945

Kirkpatrick Award, 1964-65

M.I.T., 1959-61

National Defense Research Committee, 1943-47

National Materials Advisory Board, 1972

National Republican Citizens Committee (D.D. Eisenhower),  
1961-62

National Security Council, 1953

Office of Defense Mobilization (Petroleum Pipeline), 1951-54

Perkin Medal, 1944

Perkin Medal, 1953

Photographs

02 Publications, 1940's

Publications, 1956-64

Research Notes from E.C. Lingafeller, 1945-48

Retirement, 1970

St. Louis Fund for Arts and Education, 1965

St. Louis University Founders Week, 1961

Societe Chimie Industrielle, 1959-61

Speeches, 1940's

Speeches, 1950's

Speeches, 1960's

Speeches, 1970's

Speeches, N.D.

Texas City Disaster, 1947-48

Thomas and Hochwalt Awards, 1972

Thomas and Hochwalt Laboratories (Contractual Agreements, 1934-36)

Thomas and Hochwalt Laboratories (Correspondence, 1931-44)

Thomas and Hochwalt Laboratories (Employees)

Thomas and Hochwalt Laboratories (Fuel Additive Research, 1930's)

Thomas and Hochwalt Laboratories (Perfumed Detergents)

Thomas and Hochwalt Laboratories (Photographs)

Thomas and Hochwalt Laboratories (Promotional Materials)

Thomas and Hochwalt Laboratories (Synthetic Rubber Program, 1942-43)

Thomas and Hochwalt Laboratories (Resin Research, 1929-31)

Thomas and Hochwalt Laboratories (Resin Research, 1931-34)

Thomas and Hochwalt Laboratories (Resin Research,

1935-36)

Thomas and Hochwalt Laboratories (Speeches, 1929)

United Fund of St. Louis, 1963-64

Westminster College and Churchill Memorial, 1972

**Series 04: Patents** (arranged chronologically)

Box No. Folder

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02 Applications, 1928-29

Applications, 1940-58

**Series 05: Professional Development Related to Washington University**

(arranged alphabetically)

Box No. Folder

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02 Barnes Hospital, 1962-67

03 Barnes Hospital (Committee of Four), 1964

Board Member Candidates and Re-elected Members, 1966-68.

Center for American Business, 1974-76

Chancellor Eliot Correspondence **RESTRICTED MATERIAL**  
**UNTIL 2012**

Commencement, 1947

Dental School, 1967-68

Development Corporation, 1969-73

Engineering Department, 1975

Gifts, Endowed Chairs, etc., 1976

Honorary Degree Committee, 1972-73

Investments Committee, 1971-74

Medical Center, 1973

Nominating Committee for Chancellor, 1970

Patent Program, 1974

R.O.T.C., 1970

Speeches, 1946-75

Tenure Issues, 1972-74

**Series 06: Reel-to-Reel Magnetic Tapes**

Box No. Folder

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03 Globe Democrat "Man of the Year", 1967 (x 4)

**Series 07: Oversized Objects** (in original order)

Box No. Folder

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04 Photographs and ephemeral specimens (1 folder)

Scrapbook (Family Album)

Scrapbook (Monsanto Retirement)

Scrapbook (Ohio Days)

Scrapbook (Visit to Spain)

Service Award Plaque (National Conference of Christians and Jews)

Service Award Plaque (Southwestern Bell)

Service Award Plaque (United Fund of St. Louis)

05 Scrapbook (Friends of the Junior College District Bond Issue Campaign), November 1965

Scrapbook (Newsclippings about Atomic Energy), 1946 – 1947

Scrapbook (Photos and Newsclippings – assorted subjects), 1963 – 1967

- 06 Scrapbook (Assorted materials), 1955 - 1960  
Scrapbook (Monsanto), June 28-29, 1954
- 07 Scrapbook (Correspondence), 1945 - 1956  
Scrapbook (Testimonial Dinner Honoring the Monsanto Chemical Company by the Chamber of Commerce of Metropolitan St. Louis), February 25, 1958  
Scrapbook (Newsclippings), 1953 - 1954
- 08 Plaque (Coatesville Declaration), December 13, 1960  
Scrapbook (includes C.A. Thomas Biography, AEC Quest, Speeches, Patents, Publications, Personal Files Listing)  
History of Dayton's Industries [OH], 1955  
Correspondence, 1958 - 1968  
Scrapbook (Photos and Newsclippings – assorted subjects), 1961
- 09 Scrapbook (C.A. Thomas, Man of the Year), 1966 [Scrapbook #4]  
Scrapbook (C.A. Thomas, President: United Fund of Greater St. Louis), 1963 - 1964 [Scrapbook #3]  
Scrapbook (Newsclippings – assorted subjects), 1962 - 1964
- 10 Scrapbook (Newsclippings – assorted subjects), 1944 - 1945 [Scrapbook #8]  
Scrapbook (Newsclippings – American Chemical Society), 1965 - 1967  
Scrapbook (Tribute to C.A. Thomas upon retirement as chairman of the American Chemical Society), December 5, 1953 [Scrapbook #1]  
Scrapbook (assorted subjects), 1968 - 1977
- 11 Letter from the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission to C.A. Thomas, October 18, 1968



Guest Book (Margaret T. Thomas Memorial Service), October 15, 1975

Testimonial (Metropolitan Life Insurance Company), April 24, 1973

Scrapbook (Photos and Signatures, gift from American Chemical Society Staff)

Scrapbook (assorted materials), 1947 - 1950

Scrapbook (Atomic Energy articles), 1945 - 1950

12 Scrapbook (Newsclippings – assorted subjects), 1946