

THOMAS G. FORD PAPERS AND BOOKS, 1880-1980

Collection Type

Personal Papers

Extent

5.0 linear feet (20 pp. documents, 62 books, 100 page scrapbook)

Record Type

Textual

Access

Open.

Copyright

Thomas Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain.

Processed by

Leesa Tobin, September 1985

Biography

Thomas G. Ford

1918 - Born, Grand Rapids, Michigan (half-brother of Gerald R. Ford, Jr.)

1941 - Graduated, University of Michigan (BS)

1958-64 - Kent County Board of Supervisors

1958-64 - Ford Paint and Varnish Company

1964-72 - State representative from Michigan's 91st district

1972-80 - Legislative audit coordinator for the Michigan House and Senate appropriations committees

1980 - Retired to South Carolina

1995 - Died, St. Johns Island, South Carolina

Scope and Content Note

The papers and books that constitute the Thomas Ford collection include materials originally belonging to Gerald R. Ford, Jr., Gerald R. Ford, Sr., Dorothy Ford, and other members of the family, as well as Thomas Ford himself.

The collection is arranged in three parts: a small amount of correspondence and autographed banquet programs; books belonging to members of the Ford family, many of which are inscribed or autographed; and a scrapbook compiled by Tom Ford covering his career as a Michigan state representative and brother of the president.

In general the content of the letters is routine, although one letter from Gerald R. Ford, Jr. to his mother written from his fraternity house in Ann Arbor about 1933 concerning university activities is interesting. The banquet programs and Christmas card are included because they are autographed by famous individuals.

The book collection includes many books Gerald Ford, Jr. owned as a child and young man and some belonging to his mother and adopted father, Gerald R. Ford, Sr. Most of these are in very delicate condition and should be handled with care.

The scrapbook of approximately 100 pages partially documents Thomas Ford's career in the Michigan legislature and his public relationship with his brother after he became vice president and president. Included are newspaper clippings, photographs, correspondence and memorabilia. Gaps in the coverage include details of Thomas Ford's 1970 House race and his relationship with his brothers and family before Gerald Ford became vice president. Researchers are requested to use a microfilm copy of the scrapbook available from the reference archivist.

For a detailed inventory of the items donated to the Library by Thomas Ford see the appendix following the container list.

Related Materials

The Ford Library has a small amount of additional material on Thomas Ford's relationship with President Ford, including some clippings in the vertical file and correspondence, invitations, and similar routine items in the White House Central Files.

Approximately five linear feet of official files kept by Ford while state representative from 1966-1971 are located in the Archives of the State of Michigan, 3405 N. Logan, Lansing, Michigan 48906. A brief container list is available in the Library vertical file.

Last Modified Date

2024-05-16

Box 1 - Miscellaneous Correspondence

Status	Title
OPEN	Gerald R. Ford, Jr. correspondence
OPEN	Mrs. Gerald R. (Dorothy) Ford, Sr. correspondence
OPEN	Gerald R. Ford, Sr. correspondence
OPEN	James F. Ford correspondence
OPEN	Programs

Status	Title
OPEN	Proclamation by George Romney [former Michigan governor]
OPEN	Christmas card from General William Westmoreland
OPEN	Transfer to museum collection

Box 2 - Books

Status	Title
OPEN	MacDonald, George, At the Back of the North Wind (Philadelphia: McKay, 1919)
OPEN	Halliburton, Richard, The Royal Road to Romance (Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1925)
OPEN	Grimm, Wilhelm, Grimm's Fairy Tales: A New Translation by Mrs. H. B. Paul (New York: International Book Company, n.d.)
OPEN	Naval Leadership. With Some Hints to Junior Officers and Others (Annapolis, Maryland: The United States Naval Institute, 1939)
OPEN	Wright, William H. Ben the Black Bear (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1910)
OPEN	Frost, William Henry, The Court of King Arthur. Stories from the Land of the Round Table (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1920)
OPEN	Stevenson, Robert Louis, A Child's Garden of Verses (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, n.d.)

Box 3 - Books

Status	Title
OPEN	Morgan, Anna, Art of Speech and Deportment (Chicago: A.C. McClurg & Co., 1909)
OPEN	Garnett, Louise Ayres, The Merry Makers (Chicago: Rand McNally, 1918)
OPEN	Jameson, J. Franklin, Dictionary of United States History (Boston: Puritan Publishing Co., 1894)
OPEN	Detmold, E. J., The Book of Baby Dogs (New York: Hodder & Stoughton, n.d.)

Box 4 - Books

Status	Title
OPEN	McCabe, James, A Tour Around the World by General Grant (Cincinnati: Jones Brothers & Co., 1879)
OPEN	Emerson, Ralph Waldo, Emerson's Essays (New York: Dodge Publishing Co. n.d.)
OPEN	Grew, Joseph C., Report from Tokyo: A Message to the American People (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1942)
OPEN	Smith, Hannah Whitall, Difficulties Concerning the Will (Philadelphia: Henry Altemus Co., 1897)
OPEN	Bulfinch, Thomas, The Age of Fable or Beauties of Mythology (New York: Tudor, 1937)
OPEN	Zanuck, Darryl F., Tunis Expedition (New York: Random House, 1943)
OPEN	Scott, Sir Walter, Poetical Works (London: Gall and Inglis, n.d.)
OPEN	Roberts, Kenneth, Northwest Passage (Garden City: Doubleday, 1937)

Box 5 - Books

Status	Title
OPEN	Sylvester, Charles H., Journeys Through Bookland (Chicago: Bellows-Reeve Company, 1909) Vols. 1-4

Box 6 - Books

Status	Title
OPEN	Journeys Through Bookland Vols. 5-8

Box 7 - Books

Status	Title
OPEN	The Book of Knowledge: The Children's Encyclopedia (New York: The Grolier Society, 1919) Vols. 1-6

Box 8 - Books

Status	Title
OPEN	The Book of Knowledge Vols. 7-13

Box 9 - Books

Status**Title**

OPEN

The Book of Knowledge Vols. 14-20

Box 10 - Books**Status****Title**

OPEN

Toudouze, Gustave and Leloir, Maurice, Le Roy Soleil
(Paris: Bowen & Cie, Editeurs, 1917)**Box 11 - Miscellaneous Printed Material****Status Title****Box 12 - Miscellaneous Printed Material****Status Title****Box 13 - Scrapbook (request microfilm copy from the reference archivist)****Status Title**