

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Thomas, Craig Robert (1946-1957)** **MC 2001.18**

Material: Papers and Photographs (1951-1956)

Volume: 0.25 linear feet (1 Document Box, 2 Artifacts, and 14 Photograph Folders)

Donation: Bequest of Robert John Thomas, 2001

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Craig Robert Thomas was born in 1946 and diagnosed with cerebral palsy. At the age of seven, his parents, the Reverend and Mrs. Robert John Thomas, both graduates of Dickinson College, aided in the formation of a collection of autographed photos and letters of famous personalities of the day. This diversion resulted in national attention for young Craig, and as a result of this pursuit, he was named an honorary citizen of several states as well as a Junior Member of the United States Secret Service. Among other highlights in his brief life, Craig was appointed the first honorary cadet in the Civil Air Patrol in 1951, and in 1954, at the age of eight, Craig was one of the three United Cerebral Palsy poster children to be greeted by Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower. Craig died in 1957.

Craig's father, Rev. Robert John Thomas, grew up in northeastern Pennsylvania. He was a ranger in the Carlsbad National Park for two and a half years when he decided that the ministry offered greater opportunity for service. He graduated from Dickinson College in 1940. In 1941, he enrolled in Yale University's Divinity School and then went on to receive his S.T.B. degree from Boston University School of Theology in 1944. He served many churches in places from San Francisco to Gloucester, Massachusetts before settling in Syracuse, New York at the Rockefeller Memorial Methodist Church with his wife, Beatrice and son, Craig. Robert and his wife were extremely active with the United Cerebral Palsy Foundation. Rev. Thomas served as the chairman for its National Convention the same year that young Craig was the poster boy, and Mrs. Thomas also was active with the Cerebral Palsy Auxiliary of Syracuse.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Craig Robert Thomas Collection was a bequest of Robert John Thomas. The collection consists of letters, autographs, and photographs from prominent celebrities and political and military figures who sent their warm wishes and personal regards to Craig Robert Thomas. Another collection of related material (MC 2000.7) was donated by Robert and Beatrice Thomas in 1959, and contains many more documents and photographs of a similar nature. This

collection is housed in one document box, one artifact box, and 14 photograph folders, and is arranged into the following three categories: Correspondence; Artifacts; and Photographs.

The Correspondence are arranged alphabetically by the author of each letter or autograph. To the right of each personality's name within the inventory listing of correspondence, it is indicated if there is also a photo of that person within the Photograph section of the collection. (Note that some letters in this collection have corresponding photos in PC 2000.7.)

The Photograph section of the collection is arranged alphabetically by name. Some of the photos were press release images. In such cases, corresponding press releases or short biographies are included in the folder with the photo. For those photos which are autographed, the notation "PS" appears beside the personality's name in the inventory listing.

The Artifact section of the collection consists of a gavel autographed by Sam Rayburn and a deck piece from the USS *Missouri*. These are separately housed as AC 2001.18.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 2001.18

CORRESPONDENCE

- Folder 01) Acheson, Dean - undated
Beau, Lucas V. - Feb. 26, 1952
Bonnet, Henri - undated
Byrd, Harry F. - Mar. 4, 1952
Byrnes, James F. - Mar. 7, 1952
Cates, C. B. - undated
Christenberry, R. K. - Feb. 20, 1952
Clark, Mark W. - Feb. 7, 1952
Collins, J. Lawton - undated
Dean, Gordon - Feb. 19, 1952
- Folder 02) Donaldson - undated
Douglas, Paul H. - Feb. 7, 1952
Eden, Anthony - Feb. 29, 1952
Eisenhower, Milton S. - Mar. 6, 1952
Farley, James A. - Mar. 7, 1952
Gabrielson, Guy George - Mar. 11, 1952
Hickenlooper, Bourke B. - Mar. 11, 1952
Hill, H. W. - Feb. 2, 1952
Hoffman, Paul G. - Feb. 8, 1952
Hughes, Charles E. - undated
- Folder 03) Kagawa, Tonohiko - undated
Kaiser, Henry J. - undated
Kefauver, Estes - Jan. 14, 1952
Kerr, Robert S. - Mar. 7, 1952
Killian, James R. Jr. - undated
Lodge, Henry Cabot Jr. - Jan. 31, 1952
Loluie, Maurice J. - Feb. 14, 1952
Marshall, George C. - undated
Martin, Joseph W. Jr. - Mar. 6, 1952 (2)

BOX 1 - MC 2001.18 (cont.)

CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

- Folder 04) Pace, Frank Jr. - Dec. 21, 1951
Parnis, Mollie - Mar. 6, 1956 (photo)
Pepper, George Wharton - undated
Rayburn, Sam - Feb. 15, 1952
Ridgway, M. B. - undated
Russell, Richard B. - Mar. 4, 1952
Sawyer, Charles - Feb. 4, 1952
Sylvester, John - Feb. 28, 1952
Smith, Hurlbut W. - Nov. 12, 1951
Snyder, John W. - Feb. 2, 1952
Stasson, Harold E. - undated
Stevenson, Adlai E. - Jan. 31, 1952
- Folder 05) Taft, Robert A. - undated
Touve, H. - undated
Vinson, Fred M. - Feb. 18, 1952
Wainwright, J. M. - undated
Warren, Charles S. - undated
Warren, Fuller - Feb. 18, 1952
Waters, John K. - Oct. 16, 1951 and Jan. 15, 1952
Williams, G. Mennen - Feb. 18, 1952
Windsor, Edward and Wallis - undated

PHOTOGRAPHS - PC 2001.18

- Folder 01) Adrien
Folder 02) Berin, Harvey, w/ Karen Stark
Folder 03) Boyer, Charles
Folder 04) Carnegie, Hattie
Folder 05) Chapman, Ceil
Folder 06) Cotton, Joseph
Folder 07) Dache, Lilly
Folder 08) Fath, Jaques - PS
Folder 09) Lawford, Peter
Folder 10) Norell, Norman
Folder 11) Nufer, Albert - PS
Folder 12) Parnis, Mollie
Folder 13) Simpson, Adele
Folder 14) Trigere, Pauline

ARTIFACTS - AC 2001.18

- Item 01) Gavel, autographed by Sam Rayburn
Item 02) Deck piece from the USS *Missouri*