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Winifred Smeaton Thomas papers

Collection Overview

Repository: National Anthropological Archives
Creator: Thomas, Winifred Smeaton, 1903-1987
Title: Winifred Smeaton Thomas papers
Dates: 1927-1980
Bulk Dates: 1932-1935
Quantity: 2.5 linear feet, 8 boxes
Abstract: Winifred Smeaton Thomas (1903-1987) was an anthropologist whose main focus was the Near and Middle East, particularly Iraq where she lived from 1932 to 1935. Her papers largely document her time in Iraq and include her work on the Field Museum Anthropological Expedition in 1934, writings about her time in Iraq, and her doctoral studies at University of Chicago. The collection includes writings and publications, correspondence, field diaries, photographs, passports, and notes from Thomas's time as a doctoral student and later as a professor.
Language: Collection is primarily in English. A driving license and one published book are in Arabic.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
These papers were donated to the National Anthropological Archives by Winifred Smeaton Thomas's husband, Homer Leonard Thomas, in 1996.

Processing Information
For the most part, original organization of the collection's first series has been maintained and original folder titles used where applicable. Duplicate copies of Thomas's reprinted articles as well as a copy negative of WST.626 have been removed from the collection.

Processed and encoded by Sarah Ganderup, 2015.

Preferred Citation
Winifred Smeaton Thomas papers, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions on Access
The Winifred Smeaton Thomas papers is open for research.

Original nitrate negatives are in cold storage and require special arrangements for viewing.
Biographical Note

Winifred Smeaton Thomas (1903-1987) was an anthropologist whose main focus was the Near and Middle East, particularly Iraq where she lived from 1932 to 1935. Born April 21, 1903 in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Thomas attended Stanford University for some time before earning a B.A. (1924) and M.A. (1927) from the University of Michigan. In 1932, she traveled to Baghdad, Iraq, where she lived with the family of Ali Jawdat. Thomas conducted anthropological fieldwork throughout her time in Iraq; her studies on women were later published in *New Orient* (1936) and her studies on tattooing were later published in the *American Anthropologist* (1937). In 1934, Thomas took part in the Field Museum Anthropological Expedition, which traversed the country to collect anthropometric and other data on various ethnic groups in and around Iraq. Also in 1934 and 1935, she taught an English class at the Central High School for Girls in Baghdad. Thomas earned her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Chicago in 1940. From 1943 to 1945, she worked as a Research Analyst for the U.S. War Department, Military Intelligence Division. Thomas taught a World Literature class at Stevens College (1952-1953) and was Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Missouri (1960-1962). From 1954 to 1967 she served as Associate Editor of *Archeology* magazine, published by the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA). Thomas died May 18, 1987.

Scope and Content Note

The Winifred Smeaton Thomas papers comprise professional and research materials of Winifred Smeaton Thomas, in particular documenting her time in Iraq, 1932-1935. The collection includes writings, publications, correspondence, field diaries, photographs, passports, and class notes from Thomas's time as a student and later as a professor. It includes Thomas's photographs, writings, and research from the Field Museum Anthropological Expedition in 1934 and her time with the Jawdat family in Baghdad. There are also materials related to Thomas's doctoral training at University of Chicago, teaching materials from her time as a professor at Stevens College and University of Missouri, and some correspondence from her time with U.S. Military Intelligence during World War II.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into 4 series: (1) Writings and professional activities, 1927-1968; (2) Passports and Iraq driving license, 1932-1986; (3) Iraq field notes, 1932-1935; (4) Photographs, 1932-1974.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:
Types of Materials:
- Correspondence
- Field notes
- Lantern slides
- Passports
- Photographs

Names:
- Field Museum of Natural History.

Geographic Names:
- Iraq

Selected Bibliography

1940 "Individuals measured in Royal Hospital, Baghdad." Appendix E in *The Anthropology of Iraq, Part I, Number 1*. By Henry Field. Chicago: Field Museum of Natural History, Anthropology Series.
Series 1: Writings and professional activities, 1927-1968

This series includes writings, notes, and correspondence documenting Thomas's educational and professional work. The bulk consists of personal narratives from her time in Iraq, class papers or notes from undergraduate and graduate school, and published articles. It also includes correspondence relating to her work for the United States War Department during World War II and teaching notes from her time at Stevens College and the University of Missouri.

The original arrangement of this series has been maintained, with folders in rough chronological order followed by reprints and correspondence with Henry Field. There were three changes to this original order: (1) Thomas's Ph.D. diploma has been moved from after U.S. Army to the University of Chicago to reflect its intellectual association with that institution, (2) the corrected version of "Arab Holiday" was relocated from the Baghdad file to the Arab Holiday file, and (3) the Anthropology of Iraq volumes and a book in Arabic were integrated to reflect their association with Thomas's time in Iraq.

Box 1

Vitae, circa 1960s
1 folder
This file includes a curriculum vitae, a copy of Thomas's letter of commendation from the War Department, a portrait of Thomas, and some biographical notes.

Box 1

University of Michigan AB and MA, 1927
1 folder
This file consists of Thomas's paper on "Social Organization in Highland Scotland," submitted in June 1927.

Box 1

Field Museum - Iraq: Anthropometry, April-July 1934
1 folder

Box 1

Field Museum - Iraq: Tattooing, 1936
1 folder
This file includes Thomas's writings on tattooing as well as related correspondence and reading notes.

Box 1

Field Museum - Iraq: Ur and Warka, 1934
1 folder
This file consists of Thomas's narrative of her trip to Ur and Warka in 1934.

Box 1

Field Museum - Iraq: Women of Iraq, 1936
1 folder

Box 1

Field Museum - Iraq: Arab Holiday, circa 1935
1 folder

Box 1

Field Museum - Iraq: Sulman Pak and Tel Umar, circa 1935
1 folder

Box 1

Field Museum - Iraq: Baghdad, circa 1935
1 folder
Box 1  
*The Anthropology of Iraq* publications based on the Field Museum Expedition, 1939-1952  
4 books  
Several of the publications have slips of paper marking where Field acknowledges Thomas's role in the expedition.

Box 1  
Published book, probably in Arabic, circa 1930s-circa 1940s  
1 book

Box 2  
Oxford University, circa 1934  
1 folder  
This file consists of a pamphlet describing Oxford's School of Anthropology, possibly related to Thomas's doctoral education.

Box 2  
University of Chicago, 1936-1940  
1 folder  
This file includes Thomas's dissertation, diploma, correspondence, and administrative records.

Box 2  
University of Chicago: Syriac Grammar, 1936-1940  
1 folder

Box 2  
University of Chicago: Manichaean Book Art, 1936-1940  
1 folder

Box 2  
University of Chicago: Chaldean Ambon, 1936-1940  
1 folder

Box 2  
University of Chicago: Semitic Linguistics, 1936-1940  
1 folder

Box 2  
U.S. Army - G-II, 1943-1945  
1 folder  
This file includes correspondence and forms from Thomas's work with the U.S. War Department, Military Intelligence.

Box 2  
Stevens College: World Literature, 1952-1953  
1 folder

Box 2  
University of Missouri: Roman History, 1960-1962  
1 folder

Box 2  
University of Missouri: Anthropology, October 27, 1961  
1 folder  
This file consists of a memo of termination of Thomas's appointment in the University of Missouri, Department of Anthropology.

Box 2  
AIA Archaeology: *Archaeology* magazine, 1954-1968  
1 folder  
This file consists of correspondence relating to Thomas's tenure as Associate Editor of *Archaeology Magazine*.

Box 2  
Reprints: Women in Iraq, 1936, 1936-1937  
1 folder  
This file consists of reprints of "Women in Iraq" and "Tattooing among the Arabs of Iraq" as well as four volumes of Henry Field's *The Anthropology of*
Iraq based on the Field Museum Expedition to Iraq and thanking Thomas for her contributions.

Box 2  
Reprints: Tattooing, 1937
1 folder

Box 2  
Reprints: Reviews, 1967-1970
1 folder
This file consists of reprints of reviews written by Thomas for *Archaeology* magazine.

Box 2  
Correspondence: Henry Field, 1939-1980
1 folder
This file consists of correspondence with Henry Field, mostly related to Thomas's research in Iraq during the years 1932-1935. There are also some field notes and data tables with the correspondence.
Series 2: Passports and Iraqi driving license, 1932-1986

1 folder; Box 3

This series includes ten passports used by Winifred Smeaton Thomas between 1932 and 1986. It also includes an Iraqi drivers license, possibly used by Thomas or Henry Field, circa 1932-1935.
Series 3: Iraq field notes, 1932-1935

5 notebooks; Box 3

This series consists of Thomas’s field notes from Iraq, 1932-1935. It includes diaries for each year as well as a book of notes and drawings, possibly from the Field Museum Expedition in 1934.

The bulk of this series consists of photographs made by Thomas during her time in Iraq, 1932-1935. These include photographs relating to the Field Museum Expedition in 1934 (noted in the file title by the prefix "Field Museum Expedition") as well as trips that Thomas made with the Jawdat family and general views of Baghdad. It includes photographic prints, nitrate negatives, and lantern slides. There are some photographs by Eleanor Kamar and Henry Field, souvenir photographs of Stanford University, and a bound volume of rotogravure prints relating to Iraq.

This series has been rearranged to improve access. Photographs were found in numerous envelopes as well as two photographic albums. Four prints which were glued into one album remain there and the album is now filed with the subseries to which the photographs relate. The remainder of photographs were removed and integrated into the larger, approximately chronological, arrangement.

Original enclosures for the prints and negatives, including the empty photograph album, are filed before this series, at the end of Box 3. Boxes 4 and 5 contain prints. Boxes 6 and 7 contain negatives. Box 8 contains lantern slides.

Box 4, Folder 1
Aboard ship and in England, on way to Iraq, 1932
WST.1-WST.13
13 photographic prints

Box 4, Folder 2
Alexandria, Egypt, October 24-25, 1932
WST.14-WST.23
10 photographic prints

Box 4, Folder 3
Beirut, Lebanon, October 30-November 2, 1932
WST.24-WST.30
7 photographic prints

Box 4, Folder 4
Damascus, Syria, November 3-5, 1932
WST.31-WST.35
5 photographic prints
1 nitrate negative

Box 4, Folder 5
Khaniqiu palace and household, December 24-26, 1932
WST.36-WST.46
2 nitrate negatives
11 photographic prints

Box 4, Folder 6
Women and huts on the outskirts of Baghdad, late 1932-early 1933
WST.47-WST.51
5 photographic prints

Box 4, Folder 7
Trips to Babylon and Hillah, including Beduins met on the road, 1932-1933 (bulk 1933 February)
WST.52-WST.73
3 nitrate negatives
22 photographic prints

Box 4, Folder 8
Trip to Salman Pak and Seleucia (Tel Umar), January 1933
WST.74-WST.99
22 photographic prints
10 nitrate negatives
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 4, Folder 9</th>
<th>Karbala, February 1933</th>
<th>WST.101-WST.105</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 6 (negatives)</td>
<td>5 photographic prints</td>
<td>4 nitrate negatives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 4, Folder 10</th>
<th>Shrine of Sheikh Adi, March 1933</th>
<th>WST.106-WST.114</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 6 (negatives)</td>
<td>9 photographic prints</td>
<td>5 nitrate negatives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 4, Folder 11-12</th>
<th>&quot;First trip north,&quot; including Kirkuk, Mosul, Khorsabad, Alqosh and Tel Kaif, March 28-30, 1933</th>
<th>WST.115-WST.146</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 6 (negatives)</td>
<td>32 photographic prints</td>
<td>16 nitrate negatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8 (slides)</td>
<td>1 lantern slide</td>
<td>The title &quot;first trip north&quot; was taken from original enclosures for negatives and prints in this file.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 4, Folder 13</th>
<th>Trip to Dohuk, April 2-3, 1933</th>
<th>WST.147-WST.156</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 6 (negatives)</td>
<td>7 nitrate negatives</td>
<td>10 photographic prints</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 4, Folder 14</th>
<th>Trips to Asia, including Egypt, Turkey, and Bahrain, July and October 1933</th>
<th>WST.157-WST.164</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 6 (negatives)</td>
<td>8 photographic prints</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 4, Folder 15</th>
<th>Taq Kisra, Kazimain Mosque, Haidar Khaneh Mosque, and Majidiyah Park, February 1934</th>
<th>WST.165-WST.176</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 6 (negatives)</td>
<td>6 nitrate negatives</td>
<td>12 photographic prints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8 (slides)</td>
<td>1 lantern slide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 4, Folder 16-17</th>
<th>Trip to Nasiriyah, including Samawah, Ur, Uruk, and Kut, February 3-7, 1934</th>
<th>WST.177-WST.217</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 6 (negatives)</td>
<td>41 photographic prints</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 8 (slides)</td>
<td>4 lantern slides</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 nitrate negatives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 4, Folder 18</th>
<th>Picnic at Ba'qubah, probably March 16, 1934</th>
<th>WST.218-WST.221</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 photographic prints</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 4, Folder 19</th>
<th>Basra and the surrounding areas, early April 1934</th>
<th>WST.222-WST.240</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19 photographic prints</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 nitrate negative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 4, Folder 20</th>
<th>Al Litlatah, April 1934</th>
<th>WST.241-WST.253</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13 photographic prints</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 4, Folder 21  Qurnah, Shatt al-Arab, and Sheikh Falih’s youngest son, April 1934
Box 6 (negatives);  4 photographic prints
Box 8 (slides)  3 nitrate negatives
1 lantern slide

Box 4, Folder 22  Qal’at Salih, April 1934
Box 6 (negatives)  8 photographic prints
2 nitrate negatives

Box 4, Folder 23  Field Museum Expedition: Traveling, April-July 1934
Box 6 (negatives)  3 nitrate negatives
28 photographic prints

Box 4, Folder 24  Field Museum Expedition: Anthropometric studies, April-July 1934
Box 6 (negatives)  5 photographic prints

Box 4, Folder 25  Field Museum Expedition: Dohuk, May 1934
Box 6 (negatives)  6 photographic prints
1 nitrate negative

Box 4, Folder 26  Field Museum Expedition: Mosul, May 1934
Box 6 (negatives)  8 photographic prints
3 nitrate negatives

Box 5, Folder 1  Field Museum Expedition: Zawita, May 16, 1934
Box 6 (negatives)  6 nitrate negatives
2 lantern slides
14 photographic prints

Box 5, Folder 2  Field Museum Expedition: Aiu Tellawa and Tel Matar, May 26-June 3, 1934
Box 6 (negatives)  7 nitrate negatives
17 photographic prints

Box 5, Folder 3  Field Museum Expedition: Balad Sinjar and Syria, June 3-8, 1934
Box 6 (negatives)  5 photographic prints
3 nitrate negatives

Box 5, Folder 4  Field Museum Expedition: Agra, India, June 20-21, 1934
Box 6 (negatives)  4 photographic prints
2 nitrate negatives

Box 5, Folder 5  Field Museum Expedition: Yezidis, June 1934
Box 6 (negatives)  4 nitrate negatives
13 photographic prints
Box 5, Folder 6  Ba'albek temples, October 1934
WST.366-WST.372
7 photographic prints

Box 5, Folder 7  Unloading boats near Royal Hospital, 1934
WST.373-WST.375
Box 6 (negatives)
3 photographic prints
2 nitrate negatives

Box 5, Folder 8  Albu Muhammad, 1934
WST.376-WST.377
2 photographic prints

Box 5, Folder 9  Boy Scouts procession in Baghdad, 1934 or 1935
WST.378-WST.382
5 photographic prints

Box 5, Folder 10-11  Wedding at Suq al-Shuyukh, March 1935
WST.383-WST.421
Box 6 (negatives)
39 photographic prints
37 nitrate negatives

Box 5, Folder 12-13  Trip to Nasiriyah and Eridu, March-April 1935
WST.422-WST.466
Box 6 (negatives)
44 photographic prints
36 nitrate negatives

Box 5, Folder 14  Tigris River during flood and guffa race, Spring-Summer 1935
WST.467-WST.475
Box 7 (negatives)
9 photographic prints
4 nitrate negatives

Box 5, Folder 15  Central High School students and view, June 1935
WST.476-WST.481
Box 7 (negatives)
6 photographic prints
2 nitrate negatives

Box 5, Folder 16  Trip to Jerusalem and Ram Allah, Jordan, July 2-7, 1935
WST.482-WST.502
Box 7 (negatives)
3 lantern slides
18 photographic prints
1 nitrate negative

Box 5, Folder 17  Seleucia on the Tigris (Tel Umar), 1935
WST.503-WST.508
Box 7 (negatives);
6 photographic prints
Box 8 (slides)
4 nitrate negatives
1 lantern slide

Box 5, Folder 18  Sheikh Falih and Sheikh Khaz'al in Drowers' garden, 1935
WST.509-WST.513
5 photographic prints
Box 5, Folder 19
Box 7 (negatives);
Box 8 (slides)

Box 7

Box 5, Folder 20
Box 7 (negatives)

Box 5, Folder 21
Box 7 (negatives)

Box 5, Folder 22
Box 7 (negatives)

Box 5, Folder 23
Box 7 (negatives)

Box 5, Folder 25
Box 7 (negatives)

Box 5, Folder 25
Box 7 (negatives)

Box 5, Folder 26
Box 7 (negatives)

Box 5, Folder 27
Box 7 (negatives)

Box 5
Box 7 (negatives)