

Guide to Roger Wilkins papers C0212

Roger Wilkins papers
1928-2008



Title Statement

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

C0212

Unit ID

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Unit Date

1928-2008

Language

English

Abstract

The papers document Wilkins' career while he was a professor at George Mason University. The documents include correspondence, publications, and speeches. There are also 14 videotape cassettes with lectures by other Robinson professors and media appearances by Wilkins.

Creator

Wilkins, Roger W., 1932-2017

Extent

3.25 Linear Feet 9 boxes

Physical Location

Map Case 11.5

Repository

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions.

Use Restrictions

The copyright and related rights status of this collection have not been evaluated (See <http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/CNE/1.0/>)

Acquisition Information

Donated by Roger Wilkins in 2012.

Processing Information

Processed by Stephanie Washburn in 2012. EAD markup completed by Stephanie Washburn in 2012. Finding aid updated by Amanda Brent in February 2021.

Preferred Citation

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Biographical Information

Born in 1932 in Kansas City, Missouri, Roger Wilkins attended the University of Michigan and earned his Bachelor's degree in 1953 and his J.D. in 1956. He interned with Thurgood Marshall at the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund during his studies and his uncle, Roy Wilkins, served as the executive secretary of the NAACP from 1955 to 1977. In his early career, Roger Wilkins worked with the Ohio Welfare Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and as the assistant attorney general under President Lyndon B. Johnson. Following this, Wilkins pursued a successful career in journalism writing for The New York Times, The Washington Times, and editing The Washington Star. In 1972, as a member of The Washington Post's editorial staff, Wilkins along with Bob Woodward, Carl Bernstein, and Herbert Block earned the Pulitzer Prize for their coverage of the Watergate Scandal that led to President Nixon's resignation. A widely published author, Wilkins wrote "A Man's Life," his autobiography, published first in 1982 and reprinted in 1991. In addition, Wilkins co-authored "Quiet Riots: Race and Poverty in the United States" with Fred Harris in 1988 and published "Jefferson's Pillow: the Founding Fathers and the Dilemma of Black Patriotism" in 2001. In 1986 he joined George Mason University as the Clarence Robinson Professor of History and American Culture and retired in 2007. Wilkins passed away in 2017. George Mason University named the Roger Wilkins Plaza after him that same year.

Scope and Content

The papers document Wilkins' career while he was a professor at George Mason University. The documents include correspondence, publications, and speeches. There are also 14 videotape cassettes with lectures by other Robinson professors and media appearances by Wilkins.

Series 1 contains the publications of Roger Wilkins and the various conferences, lecture series, and symposiums he attended and contributed to. The series includes articles he wrote organized by general subject, two of the books he published with various book reviews of the works, and the various flyers and papers of the conferences. The series is organized alphabetically by folder and then chronologically.

Series 2 contains Wilkins' general correspondence during his time as a Robinson professor. This series is organized chronologically by folder.

Series 3 contains the papers on the various organizations in which Wilkins was involved such as the African American Institute, the MacArthur Foundation, and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. The series is organized alphabetically by folder and then chronologically.

Series 4 is made up of biographical material on Roger Wilkins. It includes articles he wrote describing himself as a father as well as other documents discussing his mother's and uncle's work for civil rights. There are also several transcribed interviews, one of which was conducted by one of his daughters. The series is arranged alphabetically by folder and then chronologically.

Series 5 contains various syllabi and notes from the classes Wilkins taught while at George Mason from 1990 through 2006. In addition there is information about the provost search in the spring of 1990. The series is organized alphabetically by folder and then chronologically.

Series 6 contains photographs, two cassette tapes of speeches, and 14 VHS tapes of lectures by Wilkins and other professors from 1995 through 2004. The series includes a funeral speech for George N. Lindsay given by Roger Wilkins as well as a letter from Lindsay's widow. This series is organized by medium and then chronologically.

Related Material

The Special Collections Research Center also holds the papers of other Robinson professors.

Keywords

African Americans -- Civil rights -- History -- 20th century

United States -- Politics and government

Correspondence

Photographs

Sound recordings

Video recordings

Education, Higher

Education, Higher -- Virginia

George Mason University

George Mason University--Faculty

Wilkins, Roger W., 1932-2017

Arrangement

Organized by into six series: series 1 - Publications, 1965-2008, (Boxes 1-5) series 2 - General Correspondence, [undated] 1987-2006, (Box 5) series 3 - Affiliations, 1995-2000, (Box 6) series 4 - Biographical papers, [undated] 1923, 1963-2007, (Box 6) series 5 - George Mason University, 1990-2006, (Boxes 7 and 8) series 6 - Audio/Visual, [undated] 1995-2004, (Boxes 8 and 9)

Organized into 6 series

Series

- Series 1: Publications, 1965-2008, (Boxes 1-5)
- Series 2: General Correspondence, 1987-2006) (Box 5)
- Series 3: Affiliations, 1995-2000, (Box 6)
- Series 4: Biographical papers, 1928, 1963-2007 (Box 6)
- Series 5: George Mason University, 1990-2006, (Boxes 7-8)
- Series 6: Audio/Visual, 1994-2004, (Boxes 8-9; oversize 1)

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1: Publications

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82118

Unit Date 1965-2008

Original Format (4.5 boxes)

Scope and Content

This series includes articles and books written by Roger Wilkins, lectures, conferences, symposiums at

which Roger Wilkins spoke, and the notes of the Pulitzer Prize committee.

Affirmative Action articles

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82119

Unit Date 1990-1998

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

A Man's Life and reviews

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82120

Unit Date 1982-1991

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Book Reviews

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82121

Unit Date 1972-2006

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Articles discussing Brown v Board

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82122

Unit Date 1989-1995

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Jefferson's Pillow and reviews

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82123

Unit Date 2001-2003

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Lexus Nexus articles

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82124

Unit Date January 1, 1991

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

miscellaneous articles

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82125

Unit Date 1990-2003

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Articles mentioning Roger Wilkins

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82126

Unit Date 1987-2006

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Miscellaneous essays

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82127

Unit Date 1980-2003

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Articles about Nelson Mandela and the Free South Africa Movement

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82128

Unit Date 1974-1999

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Notes and Speeches

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82129

Unit Date 1968-2007

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Articles discussing politics and elections

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82130

Unit Date 1984-2004

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Pulitzer Prize

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82131

Unit Date 1987-1988

Mixed Materials 2 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Articles discussing race and racism

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82132

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Articles discussing race and racism

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82133

Unit Date 1965-1990

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Articles discussing race and racism

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82134

Unit Date 1991-1993

Mixed Materials 3 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Articles discussing race and racism**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/82135**Unit Date** 1994-2008**Mixed Materials** 3 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Articles with discussions between Shelby Steele and Roger Wilkins****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/82136**Unit Date** 1989-1993**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Container** 1 (folder)**Articles discussing the Supreme Court****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/82137**Unit Date** 1988-2005**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Container** 2 (folder)**Conferences, Symposiums, and Lectures****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/82138**Unit Date** 1983-1990**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Container** 3 (folder)**Conferences, Symposiums, and Lectures****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/82139**Unit Date** 1991-1995**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Conferences, Symposiums, and Lectures****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/82140**Unit Date** 1996-2007**Mixed Materials** 4 (box)**Container** 5 (folder)**Conferences, Symposiums, and Lectures: University of Michigan Lecture****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/82141**Unit Date** 1996-1997**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)**Container** 1 (folder)**Conferences, Symposiums, and Lectures: DePauw Symposium****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/82142**Unit Date** 2003**Mixed Materials** 5 (box)**Container** 2 (folder)

Conferences, Symposiums, and Lectures

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82143

Unit Date 2004-2005

Mixed Materials 5 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Series 2: General Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82144

Unit Date undated, 1987-2006

Extent (1 box)

Scope and Content

This series contains Roger Wilkins correspondence from 1987 to 2006. It is organized chronologically.

Correspondence dealing with his work at NPR

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82145

Unit Date February 1993

Mixed Materials 5 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

General correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82146

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 5 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

General correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82147

Unit Date 1987-1996

Mixed Materials 5 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

General correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82148

Unit Date 1997

Mixed Materials 5 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

General correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82149

Unit Date 1998-2006

Mixed Materials 5 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Series 3: Affiliations

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82150

Unit Date 1995-2000

Original Format (0.5 box)

Scope and Content

This series includes organizations in which Roger Wilkins participated or headed from 1995 to 2000. It is organized alphabetically by organization then chronologically.

African American Institute

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82151

Unit Date 1995-2000

Mixed Materials 6 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Citizens' Commission on Civil Rights

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82152

Unit Date 1996-1997

Mixed Materials 6 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Legal Defense Fund, NAACP

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82153

Unit Date 1995-1996

Mixed Materials 6 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

MacArthur Foundation

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82154

Unit Date 1996

Mixed Materials 6 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Series 4: Biographical papers

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82155

Unit Date undated, 1928, 1963-2007

Extent (1 box)

Scope and Content

This series includes interviews with Roger Wilkins and biographical articles about him and his family.

Biographical articles

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82156

Unit Date 1928; 1963-2007

Mixed Materials 6 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Interviews with Roger Wilkins

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82157

Unit Date 1969-2003

Mixed Materials 6 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Series 5: George Mason University

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82158

Unit Date 1990-2006

Original Format (1.5 boxes)

Scope and Content

This series contains notes and syllabi of the classes Roger Wilkins taught while a Clarence Robinson professor of History and American Culture at George Mason University.

HNRS 130

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82159

Unit Date 2003 and 2005

Mixed Materials 7 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Politics and the (Mass) Media

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82160

Unit Date 1991-1999

Mixed Materials 7 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Politics and the (Mass) Media

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82161

Unit Date 2000-2006

Mixed Materials 7 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Provost Search

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82162

Unit Date January - April 1990

Mixed Materials 7 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Race, Law and Culture

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82163

Unit Date 1991-1995

Mixed Materials 7 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Race, Law and Culture

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82164

Unit Date 1996-1999

Mixed Materials 8 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

UNIV 190

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82165

Unit Date 1996-2002

Mixed Materials 8 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Series 6: Audio/Visual

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82166

Unit Date undated, 1995-2004

Extent (1.5 boxes)

Scope and Content

This series contains audio tapes and VHS tapes of lectures given by Roger Wilkins and other Robinson professors.

Photographs

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82167

Unit Date undated; 2004

Mixed Materials 8 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

George N. Lindsay funeral speech

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82168

Unit Date 1995

Mixed Materials 8 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

With Good Reason "Political Literacy: What Americans Should Know Before Voting"

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82169

Unit Date undated

Audio 9 (box)

Container 1 (cassette)

Harry Belafonte #1

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82170

Unit Date undated

Audio 9 (box)

Container 2 (cassette)

Harry Belafonte #2

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82171

Unit Date undated

Audio 9 (box)

Container 3 (cassette)

Bateson Lecture

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82172

Unit Date undated

Audio 9 (box)

Container 4 (cassette)

Breakfast with Roger Wilkins

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82173

Unit Date Dec 6, 1995

Audio 9 (box)

Container 5 (cassette)

Close Up on CSPAN

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82174

Unit Date Dec 7, 1995

Audio 9 (box)

Container 6 (cassette)

Bateson Lecture #1

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82175

Unit Date Feb 22, 1996

Audio 9 (box)

Container 7 (cassette)

Bateson Lecture #2

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82176

Unit Date Feb 22, 1996

Audio 9 (box)

Container 8 (cassette)

Roger Wilkins Lecture #1

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82177

Unit Date Mar 20, 1996

Audio 9 (box)

Container 9 (cassette)

Roger Wilkins Lecture #2

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82178

Unit Date Mar 20, 1996

Audio 9 (box)

Container 10 (cassette)

Vassily Aksyonov #1

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82179

Unit Date Apr 15, 1997

Audio 9 (box)

Container 11 (cassette)

Vassily Aksyonov #2

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82180

Unit Date Apr 15, 1997

Audio 9 (box)

Container 12 (cassette)

Media Meet #9810 Civil Rights

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82181

Unit Date January 19, 1998

Audio 9 (box)

Container 13 (cassette)

A. Scott Bullitt Lecture in American History

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/82182

Unit Date January 14, 2003

Audio 9 (box)

Container 14 (cassette)

For the Record #1105**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/82183**Unit Date** May 6, 2004**Audio** 9 (box)**Container** 14 (cassette)**Ceremonial Stage photo****Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/82184**Unit Date** May 18, 2005**Graphic Materials** 1 (oversize)**Scope and Content**

The American Academy of Arts and Letters where Roger Wilkins was a keynote speaker. Wilkins is in the first row sixth from the right.