

# Guide to the Roger Wilkins Papers 1968-2008

Roger Wilkins papers  
1928-2008

## Title Statement

Guide to the Roger Wilkins Papers 1968-2008

**Subtitle:** Roger Wilkins C0212

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

### Collection Number

C0212

### 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-

### Physical Characteristics

3.25 linear feet (9 boxes)

### Repository

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections & Archives

## Administrative Information

### Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions.

### Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions on personal use. Permission to publish material from the Roger Wilkins papers must be obtained from Special Collections Research Center, George Mason University Libraries.

## **Acquisition Information**

Donated by Roger Wilkins in 2012.

## **Processing Information**

Processed by Stephanie Washburn in 2012. EAD markup completed by Stephanie Washburn in 2012.

## **Preferred Citation**

Roger Wilkins papers, C0212, Special Collections and Archives, George Mason University Libraries.

# **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.

# **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**

Special Collections & Archives also holds the papers of other Robinson professors.

# **Index Terms**

## **Persons:**

Wilkins, Roger W., 1932-

## **Corporate Names:**

George Mason University.

## **Geographical Names:**

United States--Politics and government.

## **Subjects:**

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

## **Arrangement**

Organized into 6 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)

## **Contents List**

### **Series 1: Publications,**

**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 Date** 1990-1998

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 1 (Folder)

#### **A Man's Life and reviews,**

**Unit Date** 1982-1991

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 2 (Folder)

#### **Book Reviews,**

**Unit Date** 1972-2006

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 3 (Folder)

#### **Articles discussing Brown v Board,**

**Unit Date** 1989-1995

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 4 (Folder)

#### **Jefferson's Pillow and reviews,**

**Unit Date** 2001-2003

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 5 (Folder)

**Lexus Nexus articles,**

**Unit Date** January 1, 1991

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 6 (Folder)

**Miscellaneous articles,**

**Unit Date** 1990-2003

**Mixed materials** 1 (Box)

**Container** 7 (Folder)

**Articles mentioning Roger Wilkins,**

**Unit Date** 1987-2006

**Mixed materials** 2 (Box)

**Container** 1 (Folder)

**Miscellaneous essays,**

**Unit Date** 1980-2003

**Mixed materials** 2 (Box)

**Container** 2 (Folder)

**Articles about Nelson Mandela and the Free South Africa Movement,**

**Unit Date** 1974-1999

**Mixed materials** 2 (Box)

**Container** 3 (Folder)

**Notes and Speeches,**

**Unit Date** 1968-2007

**Mixed materials** 2 (Box)

**Container** 4 (Folder)

**Articles discussing politics and elections,**

**Unit Date** 1984-2004

**Mixed materials** 2 (Box)

**Container** 5 (Folder)

**Pulitzer Prize,**

**Unit Date** 1987-1988

**Mixed materials** 2 (Box)

**Container** 6 (Folder)

**Articles discussing race and racism,**

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed materials** 3 (Box)

**Container** 1 (Folder)

**Articles discussing race and racism,**

**Unit Date** 1965-1990

**Mixed materials** 3 (Box)

**Container** 2 (Folder)

**Articles discussing race and racism,**

**Unit Date** 1991-1993

**Mixed materials** 3 (Box)

**Container** 3 (Folder)

**Articles discussing race and racism,**

**Unit Date** 1994-2008

**Mixed materials** 3 (Box)

**Container** 4 (Folder)

**Articles with discussions between Shelby Steele and Roger Wilkins,**

**Unit Date** 1989-1993

**Mixed materials** 4 (Box)

**Container** 1 (Folder)

**Articles discussing the Supreme Court,**

**Unit Date** 1988-2005

**Mixed materials** 4 (Box)

**Container** 2 (Folder)

**Conferences, Symposiums, and Lectures,**

**Unit Date** 1983-1990

**Mixed materials** 4 (Box)

**Container** 3 (Folder)

**Conferences, Symposiums, and Lectures,**

**Unit Date** 1991-1995

**Mixed materials** 4 (Box)

**Container** 4 (Folder)

**Conferences, Symposiums, and Lectures,**

**Unit Date** 1996-2007

**Mixed materials** 4 (Box)

**Container** 5 (Folder)

**Conferences, Symposiums, and Lectures: University of Michigan Lecture,**

**Unit Date** 1996-1997

**Mixed materials** 5 (Box)

**Container** 1 (Folder)

**Conferences, Symposiums, and Lectures: DePauw Symposium,**

**Unit Date** 2003

**Mixed materials** 5 (Box)

**Container** 2 (Folder)

**Conferences, Symposiums, and Lectures,**

**Unit Date** 2004-2005

**Mixed materials** 5 (Box)

**Container** 3 (Folder)

**Series 2: General Correspondence,**

**Unit Date** undated; 1987-2006

**General Physical Description note** (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 Date** February 1993

**Mixed materials** 5 (Box)

**Container** 4 (Folder)

### **General correspondence,**

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed materials** 5 (Box)

**Container** 5 (Folder)

### **General correspondence,**

**Unit Date** 1987-1996

**Mixed materials** 5 (Box)

**Container** 6 (Folder)

### **General correspondence,**

**Unit Date** 1997

**Mixed materials** 5 (Box)

**Container** 7 (Folder)

### **General correspondence,**

**Unit Date** 1998-2006

**Mixed materials** 5 (Box)

**Container** 8 (Folder)

## **Series 3: Affiliations,**

**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 Date** 1995-2000

**Mixed materials** 6 (Box)

**Container** 1 (Folder)

### **Citizens' Commission on Civil Rights,**

**Unit Date** 1996-1997

**Mixed materials** 6 (Box)

**Container** 2 (Folder)

### **Legal Defense Fund, NAACP,**

**Unit Date** 1995-1996

**Mixed materials** 6 (Box)

**Container** 3 (Folder)

## **MacArthur Foundation,**

**Unit Date** 1996

**Mixed materials** 6 (Box)

**Container** 4 (Folder)

## **Series 4: Biographical papers,**

**Unit Date** undated; 1928; 1963-2007

**General Physical Description note** (1 box)

### **Scope and Content**

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

## **Biographical articles,**

**Unit Date** 1928; 1963-2007

**Mixed materials** 6 (Box)

**Container** 5 (Folder)

## **Interviews with Roger Wilkins,**

**Unit Date** 1969-2003

**Mixed materials** 6 (Box)

**Container** 6 (Folder)

## **Series 5: George Mason University,**

**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 Date** 2003 and 2005

**Mixed materials** 7 (Box)

**Container** 1 (Folder)

## **Politics and the (Mass) Media,**

**Unit Date** 1991-1999

**Mixed materials** 7 (Box)

**Container** 2 (Folder)

## **Politics and the (Mass) Media,**

**Unit Date** 2000-2006

**Mixed materials** 7 (Box)

**Container** 3 (Folder)

## **Provost Search,**

**Unit Date** January - April 1990

**Mixed materials** 7 (Box)

**Container** 4 (Folder)

## **Race, Law and Culture,**

**Unit Date** 1991-1995

**Mixed materials** 7 (Box)

**Container** 5 (Folder)

**Race, Law and Culture,****Unit Date** 1996-1999**Mixed materials** 8 (Box)**Container** 1 (Folder)**UNIV 190,****Unit Date** 1996-2002**Mixed materials** 8 (Box)**Container** 2 (Folder)**Series 6: Audio/Visual,****Unit Date** undated; 1995-2004**General Physical Description note** (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 Date** undated; 2004**Mixed materials** 8 (Box)**Container** 3 (Folder)**George N. Lindsay funeral speech,****Unit Date** 1995**Mixed materials** 8 (Box)**Container** 4 (Folder)**With Good Reason "Political Literacy: What Americans Should Know Before Voting",****Unit Date** undated**Audio** 9 (Box)**Container** 1 (Cassette)**Harry Belafonte #1,****Unit Date** undated**Audio** 9 (Box)**Container** 2 (Cassette)**Harry Belafonte #2,****Unit Date** undated**Audio** 9 (Box)**Container** 3 (Cassette)**Bateson Lecture,****Unit Date** undated**Audio** 9 (Box)**Container** 4 (Cassette)**Breakfast with Roger Wilkins,****Unit Date** Dec 6, 1995**Audio** 9 (Box)**Container** 5 (Cassette)

**Close Up on CSPAN,**

**Unit Date** Dec 7, 1995

**Audio** 9 (Box)

**Container** 6 (Cassette)

**Bateson Lecture #1,**

**Unit Date** Feb 22, 1996

**Audio** 9 (Box)

**Container** 7 (Cassette)

**Bateson Lecture #2,**

**Unit Date** Feb 22, 1996

**Audio** 9 (Box)

**Container** 8 (Cassette)

**Roger Wilkins Lecture #1,**

**Unit Date** Mar 20, 1996

**Audio** 9 (Box)

**Container** 9 (Cassette)

**Roger Wilkins Lecture #2,**

**Unit Date** Mar 20, 1996

**Audio** 9 (Box)

**Container** 10 (Cassette)

**Vassily Aksyonov #1,**

**Unit Date** Apr 15, 1997

**Audio** 9 (Box)

**Container** 11 (Cassette)

**Vassily Aksyonov #2,**

**Unit Date** Apr 15, 1997

**Audio** 9 (Box)

**Container** 12 (Cassette)

**Media Meet #9810 Civil Rights,**

**Unit Date** January 19, 1998

**Audio** 9 (Box)

**Container** 13 (Cassette)

**A. Scott Bullitt Lecture in American History,**

**Unit Date** January 14, 2003

**Audio** 9 (Box)

**Container** 14 (Cassette)

**For the Record #1105,**

**Unit Date** May 6, 2004

**Audio** 9 (Box)

**Container** 14 (Cassette)

**Ceremonial Stage photo,**

**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.