A Finding Aid to the Alma Thomas Papers, circa 1894-2001, in the Archives of American Art

Jean Fitzgerald, Erin Kinhart, and Stephanie Ashley

Funding for the processing and digitization of the Alma Thomas paper is provided by The Walton Family Foundation and The Friends of Alma Thomas

May 29, 2012, April 30, 2018
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Collection Overview

Repository: Archives of American Art
Title: Alma Thomas papers
Identifier: AAA.thomalma
Date: circa 1894-2001
Extent: 5.5 Linear feet
Creator: Thomas, Alma
Language: English
Summary: The papers of Washington, D.C. painter and art educator Alma Thomas, date from circa 1894-2001 and measure 5.5 linear feet. The papers document Thomas's work as a teacher, and her development and success as a painter of the Washington Color School, through biographical material, letters, notes and writings, personal business records, exhibition files, printed materials, scrapbooks, photographs, an audio recording, and two video recordings.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information
J. Maurice Thomas, the artist's sister, loaned portions of the collection for microfilming in 1979. Most, but not all of this material was then later donated in several accretions by J. Maurice Thomas, between 1979 and 2004. Charles Thomas Lewis, Thomas' nephew, gave additional papers in 2010.

Separated Materials
In 1979, J. Maurice Thomas loaned papers for microfilming. Most, but not all, of the loaned material was later donated and is described in this finding aid. Loaned materials not donated at a later date are available on reels 1541-1543 and are not described in the container listing of this finding aid.

Available Formats
The bulk of the collection was digitized in 2018 and is available on the Archives of American Art website. Materials which have not been digitized include blank pages, blank versos of photographs, family photographs not picturing Thomas, and duplicates. In some cases, exhibition catalogs and other publications have had their covers, title pages, and relevant pages digitized. Some publications have not been digitized.

The sound recording in the collection has been digitized for research access and is available at Archives of American Art offices. Researchers may view the original cassette for the archival notations on it, but the original cassette is not available for playback due to fragility.
Materials lent for microfilming are available on 35mm microfilm reels 1541-1543 at the Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan.

Processing Information

The Alma Thomas papers were merged and processed by Jean Fitzgerald in August 2007. Additional papers, donated in 2010, were integrated and processed in 2012 by Erin Kinhart. Further processing and finding aid revision was completed by Stephanie Ashley in 2018, and the collection was digitized with funding provided by The Walton Family Foundation and The Friends of Alma Thomas.

Preferred Citation


Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives’ Washington, D.C., Research Center. Use of archival audiovisual recordings with no duplicate copies requires advance notice.

Conditions Governing Use

The Alma Thomas papers are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

Biographical Note

Washington, D.C. painter and art educator Alma Thomas (1891-1978) was known for her abstract paintings filled with dense patterns of color, and was considered a major artist of the Washington Color School.

Thomas was born in Columbus, Georgia, in 1894, and was the eldest of the four daughters of John Harris Thomas and Amelia Cantey Thomas. The family moved to Washington, D.C. in 1906 and Thomas was first introduced to art classes at Armstrong Technical High School. Following her graduation in 1911 she took a course in kindergarten teaching at the Miner Normal School, and subsequently worked as a substitute teacher in the Washington, D.C. public school system until 1914, when she took a teaching position on the Eastern shore of Maryland. From 1916 to 1923 she taught kindergarten at Thomas Garrett Settlement House in Wilmington, Delaware.

Thomas originally enrolled at Howard University in Washington, D.C. as a home economics major in 1921, but after studying under Lois Mailou Jones amd James V. Herring in Herring's newly established art department, she earned a Bachelor's degree in Fine Art in 1924, and became the first person to graduate from the program. Thomas then began her teaching career at Shaw Junior High School in Washington, D.C. that lasted from 1924, until her retirement in 1960. During this time she established community arts programs that would encourage her students to develop an appreciation of fine arts. Activities included marionette programs, distribution of student-designed holiday menu cards for dinners given for soldiers at the Tuskegee Veterans' Hospital, art clubs, lectures, and student exhibitions. In 1943 she became the founding vice president of Barnett Aden Gallery, which was established by James V. Herring and Alonzo Aden and was the first integrated gallery in Washington, D.C.
In 1934 Thomas earned an M.A. degree in Art Education from Columbia University. At American University in Washington, D.C., she studied creative painting under Joe Summerford, Robert Gates, and Jacob Kainen from 1950 to 1960, and began to break away from representational painting and experiment more seriously with Abstract Expressionism. In 1958 she participated in a tour of the art centers of Western Europe under the auspices of the Tyler School of Fine Arts at Temple University in Philadelphia.

Following her retirement from teaching in 1960, Thomas devoted herself full-time to painting, and continued to develop her signature style. She was inspired by nature and the desire to express beauty through composition and color, and refused to be constrained by societal expectations related to her race, gender, and age, achieving her greatest success in the last decade of her life. Her work was exhibited at the Dupont Theatre Art Gallery, Franz Bader Gallery, and the Howard University Gallery of Art, before she was honored in 1972 with exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

Thomas's work has been exhibited at the White House and can be found in the permanent collections of major museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Museum of Women in the Arts, and the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

Scope and Contents

The papers of Washington, D.C. painter and art educator Alma Thomas, date from circa 1894-2001 and measure 5.5 linear feet. The papers document Thomas's work as a teacher, and her development and success as a painter of the Washington Color School, through biographical material, letters, notes and writings, personal business records, exhibition files, printed materials, scrapbooks, photographs, an audio recording, and two video recordings.

Biographical material includes identity cards, chronologies, an audio recording including a biographical account, and scattered documentation of Thomas's education and teaching careers with D.C. Public Schools, Howard University, and Thomas Garrett Settlement in Wilmington, Delaware. Also found are records relating to Thomas's participation in a summer marionette class taught by Tony Sarg in 1934, and a tour of European art centers which Thomas took in 1958.

Letters relate primarily to the exhibition of Thomas's work and related events and are from galleries, museums, other art institutions, colleagues, and friends including Franz Bader, Adelyn Breeskin, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Howard University Gallery of Art, Martha Jackson Gallery, Nathalie J. Cole Johnson, Vincent Melzac, Celine Tabary, and Joshua Taylor.

Notes and writings include four notebooks and autobiographical writings by Thomas, a "Birthday Book," and an annotated engagement calendar. J. Maurice Thomas's writings about Alma Thomas, her research for a bibliography on James Weldon Johnson, and writings by others, including Jacob Kainen, about Alma Thomas, are also found here.

Personal business records include price lists, gift and loan receipts, and files concerning the Art in Embassies Program, the Martha Jackson Gallery, a benefit auction for the Corcoran School of Art, and the designation of the Thomas family home in Washington, D.C. as a historic property.

Eleven scrapbooks document Thomas's teaching career through the activities of the art classes she taught at Shaw Junior High School.

Printed materials include announcements and catalogs for exhibitions and other events; clippings which document Thomas's career and subjects of interest to her; Christmas cards featuring block prints designed by Thomas; and other programs and publications featuring Thomas.

Photographs are of Alma Thomas, family, and friends and colleagues including Sam Gilliam, James V. Herring, and Nathalie V. Cole Johnson; art classes taught by Thomas; Thomas's homes in Columbus, Georgia and Washington, D.C.; and exhibitions not documented in Series 4: Exhibition Files, including photographs of Alma Thomas at an opening at Barnett Aden Gallery with Alonzo Aden and others.

Arrangement

The papers have been arranged into 8 series:

- Series 1: Biographical Material, 1911-2001 (Box 1; 0.5 linear feet)
- Series 2: Letters, circa 1930-2001 (Boxes 1-2; 0.6 linear feet)
- Series 3: Notes and Writings, circa 1920s-circa 1998 (Box 2; 0.7 linear feet)
- Series 4: Exhibition Files, 1951-2000 (Boxes 2-3, OV 7; 0.8 linear feet)
- Series 5: Personal Business Records, circa 1950s-1994 (Box 3; 0.2 linear feet)
- Series 6: Printed Material, circa 1908-2000 (Boxes 3-5, OV 7; 1.8 linear feet)
- Series 7: Scrapbooks, 1930-1946 (Box 5; 0.3 linear feet)
- Series 8: Photographs, circa 1894-2001 (Boxes 5-6; 0.6 linear feet)

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:
- African American artists
- Painting, American
- Washington Color School (Group of artists)
- Women artists

Types of Materials:
- Audiocassettes
- Photographs
- Scrapbooks
- Video recordings

Names:
- Art in Embassies Program (U.S.)
- Bader, Franz, 1903-1994
- Breeskin, Adelyn Dohme, 1896-1986
Johnson, Nathalie J. Cole
Martha Jackson Gallery
Sarg, Tony, 1882-1942
Tarbary, Celine
Taylor, Joshua Charles, 1917-
Thomas, J. Maurice (John Maurice), 1900 or 1901-

Occupations:
Educators -- Washington (D.C.)
Painters -- Washington (D.C.)
Series 1: Biographical Material, 1911-2001

0.5 Linear feet (Box 1)

This series includes awards, biographical accounts, chronologies of Thomas's life and career, guest books from two unidentified events, identity cards, Thomas's death certificate, and a sketch, clippings, and playbills relating to Thomas's painting of Pearl Bailey in Hello Dolly for Scott Kirkpatrick. Also found is an audio recording produced by Guidance Associates to accompany an educational filmstrip from their Profiles of Black Achievement series, in which Thomas provides an autobiographical account.

Records relating to Thomas's education include scattered programs and other printed material; report cards relating to her high school and college education; and letters, a notebook, printed material, an illustrated diploma, and Thomas's sketch of a skeleton marionette, documenting her participation in Tony Sarg's marionette class in 1934.

Thomas's teaching career is briefly documented through school employment and promotion records; teacher rating sheets from her career at Shaw Junior High School; clippings and photographs recording her work at the Thomas Garrett Settlement in Wilmington, Delaware; and Thomas's passport, receipts, notes, and printed material from a study abroad trip which she took as a professional development opportunity offered by Temple University, in 1958.

At the end of the series is a group of files related to Thomas's younger sister, J. Maurice Thomas.

This series has been scanned in entirety.

Box 1, Folder 1  Awards, 1967-1975

Box 1, Folder 2  Biographical Accounts and Notes, circa 1950s-circa 1970s

Box 1, Folder 3  Chronologies, circa 1968-1970s

Box 1, Folder 4  Death Certificate, 1978

Education

Box 1, Folder 5  Armstrong Technical High School, Washington, D.C., 1911

Box 1, Folder 6  Howard University Costume Design, circa 1921-circa 1924

Box 1, Folder 7  Miner Normal School, Washington, D.C., circa 1912
Series 1: Biographical Material

Box 1, Folder 8  
Report Cards, 1930-1957
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 9  
Tony Sarg Marionette Class, 1934-1936
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 10  
Tony Sarg Marionette Class, 1934-1936
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 11  
Family History, circa 1948, 1993
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 12  
Family History, 1981
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 13  
Guest Book, 1970-1975
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 14  
Guest Book, 1976
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 15  
Identity Cards, circa 1920s-circa 1970s
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 16  
Painting of Pearl Bailey for Scott Kirkpatrick, 1967-1995
Image(s)

Teaching Career

Box 1, Folder 17  
DC Public Schools, Employment and Promotion Records, 1924-1960
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 18  
DC Public Schools, Teachers Rating Sheets, 1925-1957
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 19  
Study Abroad Trip, 1958
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 20  
Study Abroad Trip, 1958
Image(s)

Box 1, Folder 21  
Study Abroad Trip, 1958
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box, Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1, 22</td>
<td>Image(s) Thomas Garrett Settlement, Wilmington, Delaware, circa 1920</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 sound cassette |
| 1, 24       | Image(s) J. Maurice Thomas Attestation of Pilgrimage, circa 1960s |
| 1, 25       | Image(s) Biographical Information, circa 1960-2001 |
| 1, 26       | Image(s) Centenarian Awards, 2000-2001 |
| 1, 27       | Image(s) Lock of Hair, circa 1980s |
| 1, 28       | Image(s) Oral History Transcript, 1986 |

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Series 2: Letters, circa 1930-2001

0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2)

This series consists primarily of incoming letters from colleagues and art institutions concerning the exhibition of Thomas's work and related activities; there are only three copies of outgoing letters written by Alma Thomas found in the folders for 1972, 1973, and 1977.

There are letters from individuals, galleries, museums, and educational institutions including Franz Bader and Franz Bader Gallery; Adelyn Breeskin and the Smithsonian National Museum of American Art; Harold Hart and Martha Jackson Gallery; Vincent Melzac and the Corcoran Gallery of Art; the Columbus Museum; Howard University Gallery of Art; Fisk University; and Fort Wayne Museum of Art.

Also found are scattered letters from Valliere Auzenne, poet Nathalie J. Cole Johnson, Celine Tabary, and Joshua Taylor. Following Alma Thomas's death, J. Maurice Thomas dealt with the various galleries interested in exhibiting her sister's work and annotated many of the letters in this series.

Letters are arranged chronologically.

This series has been digitized in entirety.

Box 1, Folder 29  Letters, Surnames Unknown, circa 1930-circa 2000  Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 30  Letters, Surnames A-M, circa 1930-circa 2000  Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 31  Letters, Surnames N-Z, circa 1930-circa 2000  Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 32  Letters, 1935-1939  Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 33  Letters, 1941-1946  Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 34  Letters, 1953-1964  Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 35  Letters, 1965-1969  Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 36  Letters, 1970  Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 37  Letters, 1971  Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 38  Letters, 1972
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 39</th>
<th>Letters, 1973</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 40</td>
<td>Letters, 1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 41</td>
<td>Letters, 1975 January-September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 42</td>
<td>Letters, 1975 October-December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 43</td>
<td>Letters, 1976 January-May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 44</td>
<td>Letters, 1976 June-September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 45</td>
<td>Letters, 1976 October-December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 46</td>
<td>Letters, 1977</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 47</td>
<td>Letters, 1978-1979</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 48</td>
<td>Letters, 1980-1985</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 49</td>
<td>Letters, 1986-1989</td>
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<td>Box 1, Folder 50</td>
<td>Letters, 1990</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 51</td>
<td>Letters, 1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 52</td>
<td>Letters, 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 53</td>
<td>Letters, 1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 1</td>
<td>Letters, 1994 January-May</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 2</td>
<td>Letters, 1994 June-December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 3</td>
<td>Letters, 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 4</td>
<td>Letters, 1996-1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 5</td>
<td>Letters, 1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 6</td>
<td>Letters, 1999-2001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Series 3: Notes and Writings, circa 1920s-circa 1998

0.7 Linear feet (Box 2)

This series is arranged as three subseries.

- 3.1: By Thomas, 1936-circa 1970s
- 3.2: By J. Maurice Thomas, circa 1920s-circa 1990s
- 3.3: By Others, circa 1970s-circa 1998

3.1: By Thomas, 1936-circa 1970s

Thomas's writings include autobiographical essays and fragments, one of which has a painted sketch on the reverse, and one entitled "Year of the woman" in which Thomas eschews involvement with men who oppress women and expresses pride in remaining unmarried; four notebooks; an engagement calendar annotated with appointments and inspirational quotations; and "Alma's Birthday Book" containing lists of friends' birthdays. Thomas discusses her childhood, her education, her relationships with individuals such as the founders of the Barnett Aden Gallery, Alonzo Aden and James V. Herring, her motivation for painting, and her desire to not be constrained by societal expectations related to race and gender.

This series has been digitized in entirety with the exception of calendar pages with no annotations.

Box 2, Folder 7  Autobiographical Writings, circa 1960s-circa 1970s
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 8  Birthday Book, 1936
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 9  Engagement Calendar, 1968
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 10  Notebook, circa 1970s
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 11  Notebook, circa 1970s
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 12  Notebook, circa 1970s
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 13  Notebook, circa 1970s
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 14  Notes, circa 1950s-circa 1970s
Image(s)

3.2: By J. Maurice Thomas, circa 1920s-circa 1970s

Writings by J. Maurice Thomas include notes on Alma Thomas and Thomas family history. Her chronologies for her sister list Alma Thomas's achievements, solo and group exhibitions, the significance of events in which Thomas participated, works exhibited, and press coverage. Some of the notes appear
to relate to contributions J. Maurice Thomas proposed for an biographical work on Alma Thomas by Valliere Auzene, which is referenced in Series 2: Letters.

Research notes for a bibliography on James Weldon Johnson are also included here.

The bulk of this series has been digitized. The index cards for J. Maurice Thomas's bibliography on J. Weldon Johnson have not been digitized as the information they contain appears to have been included in Thomas's notes on Johnson.

Box 2, Folder 15  Autobiographical and Family History Notes and Writings, circa 1970s-circa 1990s
Image(s)

Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 17  Notes on Alma Thomas, circa 1970s-circa 1990s
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 18  Notes on Alma Thomas, circa 1970s-circa 1990s
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 19  Notes on Alma Thomas, circa 1970s-circa 1990s
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 20  Notes on Alma Thomas, circa 1970s-circa 1990s
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 21  Notes on Alma Thomas, Chronologies (1955-1971), circa 1970s-circa 1990s
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 22  Notes on Alma Thomas, Chronologies (circa 1962-circa 1976), circa 1970s-circa 1990s
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 23  Notes on Alma Thomas, Index Cards, circa 1951-circa 1980
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 24  Notes on Alma Thomas, Photographs, circa 1970s-circa 1990s
Image(s)


Box 2, Folder 25  Correspondence, 1934-1941
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 26  Index Cards, circa 1920s-circa 1940s
3.3: By Others

Writings by others are primarily about Alma Thomas and include an essay by Jacob Kainen, and a thesis by Sandra Fitzpatrick.

This series has been digitized in entirety.

- Box 2, Folder 34: Benjamin, Tritobia Hayes, "What is More Far Reaching Than Beauty?: From Academic Representation to Poetic Abstraction in the Art of Alma Woodsey Thomas", circa 1998
  - Image(s)

  - Image(s)

  - Image(s)

- Box 2, Folder 37: Kainen, Jacob, Essay About Thomas, circa 1970s
  - Image(s)

- Box 2, Folder 38: Unidentified, "General Outline: 'The Black Woman' Exhibition", circa 1970s
  - Image(s)

- Box 2, Folder 39: Various Authors, Writings About Thomas, circa 1970s
Series 4: Exhibition Files, 1951-2000

0.8 Linear feet (Boxes 2-3, OV 7)

Exhibition files document Thomas's solo and group exhibitions through letters, lists of artwork, loan records, receipts, printed material such as clippings, exhibition announcements, and catalogs, and photographs.

Individual correspondents from this series include Franz Bader, David Driskell, and Vincent Melzac. In addition to photographs of installations, there are photographs of Thomas at exhibition openings, including her solo exhibition at the Whitney Museum, and photographs of her pictured with individuals including William Buckner, Jeff Donaldson, David Driskell, James W. Herring, and Vincent Melzac. Also found is a photograph of the 1951 Little Paris Studio Group including Lois Mailou Jones, Celine Tabary, and Thomas.

The file for Alma W. Thomas: A Retrospective of the Paintings contains two video recordings related to this exhibition at two separate locations: the Columbus Museum and the Fort Wayne Museum of Art.

The bulk of this series has been digitized. Duplicates and blank versos of photographs have not been digitized.

Box 2, Folder 40  
*First Annual Exhibition of the Little Paris Studio Group* (1951), Inspiration House, 1951  
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 41  
*Hilda Shapiro/Alma Thomas* (1959), Watkins Gallery at American University, 1959  
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 42  
*Watercolors by Alma Thomas* (1960), Dupont Theatre Gallery of Art, 1960  
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 43  
Image(s): Alma W. Thomas: A Retrospective Exhibition 1959-1966 (1966), Howard University Gallery of Art,

Box 2, Folder 44  
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 45  
*Alma Thomas: Recent Paintings* (1968), Franz Bader Gallery, 1968  
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in OV 7

Box 2, Folder 46  
Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 47  
Box 2, Folder 48  

Image(s)

Oversized material housed in OV 7

Box 2, Folder 49  

Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 50  

Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 51  

Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 52  

Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 53  

Image(s)

Box 2, Folder 54  

Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 1  

Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 2  
*Alma W. Thomas Retrospective Exhibition* (1972), Corcoran Gallery of Art, Printed Material, 1972

Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 3  
*Alma W. Thomas Retrospective Exhibition* (1972), Corcoran Gallery of Art, Photographs, 1972

Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 4  
*Alma W. Thomas Retrospective Exhibition* (1972), Corcoran Gallery of Art, Slides, 1968-1972

Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 5  
*Alma W. Thomas Paintings* (1973), Martha Jackson Gallery, 1973
Series 4: Exhibition Files

Box 3, Folder 6  

Box 3, Folder 7  

Box 3, Folder 8  

Box 3, Folder 9  
*Alma W. Thomas: Recent Paintings* (1975), Howard University Gallery of Art, 1975

Box 3, Folder 10  
*Heritage Days: The Black Perspective* (1976), Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, 1976

Box 3, Folder 11  

Box 3, Folder 12  

Box 3, Folder 13  

Box 3, Folder 14  

Box 3, Folder 15  
*A Life in Art: Alma Thomas 1891-1978* (1982), Columbus Museum of Arts and Sciences, 1982

Box 3, Folder 16  
*Twenty Works by Alma Thomas and Her Contemporaries* (1982), Shaw Junior High School Alma Thomas Memorial Gallery, 1982

Box 3, Folder 17  
Box 3, Folder 18  
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 19  
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 20  
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 21  
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 22  
*Alma W. Thomas: A Retrospective of the Paintings* (1999), Tampa Museum of Art, 1999  
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 23  
*Alma W. Thomas: A Retrospective of the Paintings* (1999), New Jersey State Museum, 1999  
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 24  
*Alma W. Thomas: A Retrospective of the Paintings* (1999), Anacostia Museum Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, 1999  
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 25  
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 26  
2 videocassettes (s-vhs)  
*Image(s)*

Video recording of the exhibition at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art in 1998; and a video recording of a lecture given by Sachi Yanaru-Rizzo at the opening of the exhibition in Columbus in October 2000.

Box OV 7  
Oversized *Alma Thomas: Recent Paintings* (1968), Franz Bader Gallery, digitized with Box 2, Folder 45

Box OV 7  
Oversized *Alma Thomas: Earth and Space Paintings* (1970), Franz Bader Gallery, digitized with Box 2, Folder 48

0.2 Linear feet (Box 3)

Personal business records include price lists, gift and loan receipts for museums and galleries including Martha Jackson Gallery, and files concerning loans to the Art in Embassies Program and a benefit auction for the Corcoran School of Art. There are also records documenting J. Maurice Thomas's successful efforts to have the Thomas family home in Washington, D.C. designated as a historic property, and lists and receipts relating to Alma Thomas's estate.

This series has been digitized in entirety.

Box 3, Folder 27        Art in Embassies Program, circa 1969-1994
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 28        Benefit Auction for Corcoran School of Art, 1977
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 29        Gift and Loan Receipts, 1969-1981
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 30        Historic Landmark Designation, 1983-1987
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 31        Historic Landmark Designation, 1983-1987
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 32        Lists of Artwork, circa 1970s
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 33        Lists of Artwork, Martha Jackson Gallery, circa 1970s
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 34        Lists of, and Receipts for, Household Items/Alma Thomas Estate, 1978
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 35        Price Lists, circa 1950s-circa 1970s
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 36        Receipts, Martha Jackson Gallery, 1966-1977
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 37        Receipts, Other, circa 1970s-1993
Image(s)
Series 6: Printed Material, 1908-2000

1.8 Linear feet (Boxes 3-5, OV 7)

Printed material is comprised primarily of announcements and catalogs for Thomas's exhibitions and news clippings related to her activities and to subjects of interest to her. The series includes clippings that J. Maurice Thomas continued to collect about her sister after Alma Thomas's death. Some of the clippings relate to curators and gallery owners who showed Thomas's work and that of other African American and Washington Color School artists.

Other printed material includes a catalog of six linoleum block print Christmas cards designed by Thomas, calendars of events, programs, publications featuring Thomas, reproductions of art work by Thomas and others, and two yearbooks from Saint Luke's Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C., of which Alma and J. Maurice Thomas were members.

The bulk of this series has been digitized. Material not digitized includes duplicates; some exhibition catalogs and other publications for which only covers, title pages, and/or relevant pages have been digitized; and some of the Howard University and miscellaneous publications not related to Alma Thomas.

Box 3, Folder 38  Announcements and Catalogs, circa 1950s-circa 1990s
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 39  Announcements and Catalogs, 1952-1954
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 40  Announcements and Catalogs, 1955
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 41  Announcements and Catalogs, 1956
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 42  Announcements and Catalogs, 1957-1959
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 43  Announcements and Catalogs, 1960-1961
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Box 3, Folder 44  Announcements and Catalogs, 1962-1963
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 45  Announcements and Catalogs, 1964-1967
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Box 3, Folder 46  Announcements and Catalogs, 1968
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 47  Announcements and Catalogs, 1969
Box 3, Folder 48  Announcements and Catalogs, 1970 April-May
Image(s)

Box 3, Folder 49  Announcements and Catalogs, 1970 November-December
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Box 3, Folder 50  Announcements and Catalogs, 1971 January-April
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Box 3, Folder 51  Announcements and Catalogs, 1971 May-December
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Box 3, Folder 52  Announcements and Catalogs, 1972-1973
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Box 4, Folder 1  Announcements and Catalogs, 1974
Image(s)

Box 4, Folder 2  Announcements and Catalogs, 1975-1976 July
Image(s)
Oversized material housed in OV 7

Box 4, Folder 3  Announcements and Catalogs, 1976 September-November
Image(s)

Box 4, Folder 4  Announcements and Catalogs, 1977-1978
Image(s)

Box 4, Folder 5  Announcements and Catalogs, 1980-1981
Image(s)

Box 4, Folder 6  Announcements and Catalogs, 1982-1990
Image(s)

Box 4, Folder 7  Announcements and Catalogs For Others, circa 1950s-circa 1960s
Image(s)

Box 4, Folder 8  Announcements and Catalogs For Others, 1931-1949
Image(s)

Box 4, Folder 9  Announcements and Catalogs, For Others, 1953-1959
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Box 4, Folder 10  Announcements and Catalogs For Others, 1961-1962
Box 4, Folder 11  Announcements and Catalogs For Others, 1967-1968
Box 4, Folder 12  Announcements and Catalogs For Others, 1970-1971
Box 4, Folder 13  Announcements and Catalogs For Others, 1972-1973
Box 4, Folder 14  Announcements and Catalogs For Others, 1974-1978
Box 4, Folder 15  Announcements and Catalogs For Others, 1982-1998
Box 4, Folder 16  Calendars Containing Reproductions of Artwork by Thomas, 1969-1970
Box 4, Folder 17  Calendars Containing Reproductions of Artwork by Thomas, 1994
Box 4, Folder 18  Calendars of Events Featuring Thomas, 1977-1997
Box 4, Folder 19  Christmas Cards Designed by Thomas, circa 1940s
Box 4, Folder 20  Clippings, circa 1930s-circa 1990s
Box 4, Folder 21  Clippings, 1919-1949
Box 4, Folder 22  Clippings, 1951-1960
Box 4, Folder 23  Clippings, 1961-1962
Box 4, Folder 24  Clippings, 1963
Box 4, Folder 25  Clippings, 1964-1969
Box 4, Folder 26  Clippings, 1970 March-May

Box 4, Folder 27  Clippings, 1970 June-December

Box 4, Folder 28  Clippings, 1971

Box 4, Folder 29  Clippings, 1972-1973

Box 4, Folder 30  Clippings, 1974

Box 4, Folder 31  Clippings, 1975 January-September

Box 4, Folder 32  Clippings, 1975 October-December

Box 4, Folder 33  Clippings, 1976 January-April

Box 4, Folder 34  Clippings, 1976 May-December

Box 4, Folder 35  Clippings, 1977

Box 4, Folder 36  Clippings, 1978-1982

Box 4, Folder 37  Clippings, 1983

Box 4, Folder 38  Clippings, 1984-1986

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<td>Box 5, Folder 15</td>
<td>Publications, Miscellaneous, circa 1960s-circa 1990s</td>
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</table>
Box 5, Folder 16  Reproductions of Artwork, circa 1970s
   Image(s)

   Image(s)

Box OV 7  Oversized Announcements and Catalogs digitized with Box 4, Folder 2

Box OV 7  Oversized Clippings digitized with Box 4, Folder 2
Series 7: Scrapbooks from Shaw Junior High School, 1930-1946

0.3 Linear feet (Box 5)

The eleven Shaw Junior High School scrapbooks in this series document a variety of school activities initiated by Thomas in order to involve her students in community service and stimulate their appreciation of the arts through art clubs, lectures, exhibitions, and community events. The scrapbooks have been dismantled and contain letters, notes, clippings, programs with block print covers designed by students, miscellaneous printed material, and scattered photographs of students.

Scrapbooks are arranged according to a numerical system from the original records.

This series has been digitized in entirety.

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<td>Image(s)</td>
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<td>Box 5, Folder 26</td>
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<td>Box 5, Folder 27</td>
<td>Scrapbook &quot;C3b Exhibit 3&quot;, 1936-1946</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Image(s)</td>
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<td>Box 5, Folder 28</td>
<td>Scrapbook &quot;C3b Exhibit 3&quot;, 1936-1946</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Image(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 29</td>
<td>Scrapbook &quot;C3b Exhibit 4&quot;, 1936-1939</td>
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Box 5, Folder 31  Scrapbook "C3b Exhibit 8", 1936
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Box 5, Folder 32  Scrapbook "C3b Exhibit 9", 1938-1939
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Box 5, Folder 33  Scrapbook "C4 Exhibit 1", 1934
Image(s)

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Series 8: Photographs, circa 1894-2001

0.6 Linear feet (Boxes 5-6)

Photographs are of Alma Thomas, family members, friends and colleagues, art classes, her residence and garden, miscellaneous exhibition openings not contained in exhibition files, events including Howard University Charter Day where Thomas was honored in 1975, and works of art by Thomas and others. Included in the family photographs are many of J. Maurice Thomas, and of Thomas's parents, grandparents, and extended family. Photographs of friends and colleagues include some taken during Thomas's work at the Thomas Garrett Settlement House in Wilmington, Delaware; a photograph of James V. Herring with Sam Gilliam; and photographs of poet and founding member of UNICEF, Nathalie V. Cole Johnson.

Also found is a family photograph album with photographs of friends, family, and colleagues from the 1920s, and a photographs album compiled in the 1980s and given to J. Maurice Thomas, documenting Alma Thomas's life.

The bulk of this series has been digitized. Duplicates, negatives for which corresponding prints exist, blank versos of photographs, some of the photographs of J. Maurice Thomas's 100th birthday party, and some family photographs not picturing Thomas have not been digitized.

Box 5, Folder 34 Of Alma Thomas, circa 1915-circa 1938
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 35 Of Alma Thomas, circa 1915-circa 1958
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 36 Of Alma Thomas, 1950s-1960s
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 37 Of Alma Thomas, 1970s
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 38 Of Alma Thomas, Howard University Charter Day, 1975
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 39 Of Alma Thomas, Studio Portraits, circa 1972
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 40 Of Family Members, Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles, circa 1894
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 41 Of Family Members, J. Maurice Thomas and Others, circa 1912-circa 1990s
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 42 Of Family Members, Nephew, Niece, and Others, circa 1920s-1974
Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 43 Of Family Members, Parents (copy of circa 1888 photograph), circa 2000

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Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 44 Of Friends and Colleagues, 1911 Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 45 Of Friends and Colleagues, circa 1920s Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 46 Of Friends and Colleagues, circa 1920s Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 47 Of Friends and Colleagues, circa 1920s Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 48 Of Friends and Colleagues, circa 1920s Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 49 Of Friends and Colleagues, circa 1920-1968 Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 50 Of Friends and Colleagues in Wilmington, DE, circa 1916-circa 1920 Image(s)

Box 5, Folder 51 Thomas's Art Class at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 1960s Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 1 Thomas's Costumes Designed for Howard University Players, 1923 or 1924 Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 2 Thomas's Exhibition Installation at the Martha Jackson Gallery, circa 1960s Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 3 Thomas's Exhibition Openings at Barnett Aden Gallery, circa 1960s Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 4 Thomas's Garden in Washington, D.C., circa 1970-1971 Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 5 Thomas's Garden and Residence in Washington, D.C., circa 1990-circa 1994 Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 6 Thomas's House in Columbus, GA, 1982-circa 1990 Image(s)

Box 6, Folder 7 Thomas, J. Maurice, 100th Birthday Party, 1998
Box 6, Folder 8  
Thomas, J. Maurice, 100th Birthday Party, 1998

Box 6, Folder 9  
Thomas, J. Maurice, 100th Birthday Party, 1998

Box 6, Folder 10  
Thomas, J. Maurice, at Various Events, 1991-2001

Box 6, Folder 11  
Thomas, J. Maurice, Living Room, circa 1980s

Box 6, Folder 12  
Of Steamboats (Copy Prints of circa 1900 images), circa 1990s

Box 6, Folder 13  
Of Artwork by Thomas, circa 1920s-1994

Box 6, Folder 14  
Of Artwork by Others, circa 1940s-circa 1980s

Box 6, Folder 15  
Photograph Album, 1920s

Box 6, Folder 16  
Photograph Album, 1920s

Box 6, Folder 17  
Photograph Album, 1920s

Box 6, Folder 18  
Photograph Album, 1982

Box 6, Folder 19  
Negatives, circa 1920s-circa 1990s