



Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Guide to the Winifred Smeaton
Thomas papers, 1927-1980

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Winifred Smeaton Thomas papers
Identifier:	NAA.1996-13
Date:	1927-1980 (bulk 1932-1935)
Extent:	2.5 Linear feet (8 boxes)
Creator:	Thomas, Winifred Smeaton, 1903-1987
Language:	Collection is primarily in English. A driving license and one published book are in Arabic.
Summary:	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.

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

The Winifred Smeaton Thomas papers is open for research.

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

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

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 Contents

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.

Selected Bibliography

1936 "Women in Present-Day Iraq." *New Orient*: 22-30.

1937 "Tattooing Among the Arabs of Iraq." *American Anthropologist* 39(1): 53-61.

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.

1949 "Anthropometric Data from an Nasirya Liwa." In *The Anthropology of Iraq, Part I, Number 2, The Lower-Euphrates-Tigris Region*. By Henry Field. Chicago: Field Museum of Natural History, Anthropological Series.

1956 "Anthropometric Data." Appendix B in *Ancient and Modern Man in Southwestern Asia*. By Henry Field. Coral Gables: University of Miami Press.

1958 "Glossary (of Tattooing Terms from Iraq)." Appendix B in *Body-Marking in Southwestern Asia*. By Henry Field. Cambridge: Peabody Museum.

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

Container Listing

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
<i>1 Folder</i>
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
<i>1 Folder</i>
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
<i>1 Folder</i> |
| Box 1 | Field Museum - Iraq: Tattooing, 1936
<i>1 Folder</i>
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
<i>1 Folder</i>
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
<i>1 Folder</i> |
| Box 1 | Field Museum - Iraq: Arab Holiday, circa 1935
<i>1 Folder</i> |
| Box 1 | Field Museum - Iraq: Sulman Pak and Tel Umar, circa 1935
<i>1 Folder</i> |

- 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: Manichaeon 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.

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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.

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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.

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Series 4: Photographs, 1932-1974 (bulk 1933-1935)

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	WST.1-WST.13: Aboard ship and in England, on way to Iraq, 1932 <i>13 Photographic prints</i>
Box 4, Folder 2	WST.14-WST.23: Alexandria, Egypt, October 24-25, 1932 <i>10 Photographic prints</i>
Box 4, Folder 3	WST.24-WST.30: Beirut, Lebanon, October 30-November 2, 1932 <i>7 Photographic prints</i>
Box 6; Box 4, Folder 4	WST.31-WST.35: Damascus, Syria, November 3-5, 1932 <i>1 Nitrate negative</i> <i>5 Photographic prints</i>
Box 4, Folder 5; Box 6	WST.36-WST.46: Khaniqiu palace and household, December 24-26, 1932 <i>11 Photographic prints</i> <i>2 Nitrate negatives</i>
Box 4, Folder 6	WST.47-WST.51: Women and huts on the outskirts of Baghdad, late 1932-early 1933 <i>5 Photographic prints</i>
Box 6; Box 4, Folder 7	WST.52-WST.73: Trips to Babylon and Hillah, including Beduins met on the road, 1932-1933 (bulk 1933-02-1933-02) <i>22 Photographic prints</i> <i>3 Nitrate negatives</i>
Box 6; Box 4, Folder 8	WST.74-WST.99: Trip to Salman Pak and Seleucia (Tel Umar), January 1933 <i>22 Photographic prints</i> <i>10 Nitrate negatives</i>
Box 6;	WST.101-WST.105: Karbala, February 1933

- Box 4, Folder 9 *5 Photographic prints*
4 Nitrate negatives
- Box 6;
Box 4, Folder 10 WST.106-WST.114: Shrine of Sheikh Adi, March 1933
9 Photographic prints
5 Nitrate negatives
- Box 8;
Box 6;
Box 4, Folder 11-12 WST.115-WST.146: "First trip north," including Kirkuk, Mosul, Khorsabad, Alqosh
and Tel Kaif, March 28-30, 1933
32 Photographic prints
16 Nitrate negatives
1 Lantern slide
The title "first trip north" was taken from original enclosures for negatives and
prints in this file.
- Box 6;
Box 4, Folder 13 WST.147-WST.156: Trip to Dohuk, April 2-3, 1933
10 Photographic prints
7 Nitrate negatives
- Box 4, Folder 14 WST.157-WST.164: Trips to Asia, including Egypt, Turkey, and Bahrain, July and
October 1933
8 Photographic prints
- Box 8;
Box 6;
Box 4, Folder 15 WST.165-WST.176: Taq Kisra, Kazimain Mosque, Haidar Khaneh Mosque, and
Majidiyah Park, February 1934
6 Nitrate negatives
12 Photographic prints
1 Lantern slide
- Box 6;
Box 8;
Box 4, Folder 16-17 WST.177-WST.217: Trip to Nasiriyah, including Samawah, Ur, Uruk, and Kut ,
February 3-7, 1934
12 Nitrate negatives
41 Photographic prints
4 Lantern slides
- Box 4, Folder 18 WST.218-WST.221: Picnic at Ba'qubah, probably March 16, 1934
4 Photographic prints
- Box 4, Folder 19 WST.222-WST.240: Basra and the surrounding areas, early April 1934
1 Nitrate negative
19 Photographic prints
- Box 4, Folder 20 WST.241-WST.253: Al Litlatah, April 1934
13 Photographic prints
- Box 4, Folder 21;
Box 6; WST.254-WST.257: Qurnah, Shatt al-Arab, and Sheikh Falih's youngest son,
April 1934

- Box 8 *4 Photographic prints*
 3 Nitrate negatives
 1 Lantern slide
- Box 4, Folder 22;
Box 6 WST.258-WST.265: Qal'at Salih, April 1934
 2 Nitrate negatives
 8 Photographic prints
- Box 4, Folder 23;
Box 6 WST.266-WST.293: Field Museum Expedition: Traveling, April-July 1934
 3 Nitrate negatives
 28 Photographic prints
- Box 4, Folder 24 WST.294-WST.298: Field Museum Expedition: Anthropometric studies, April-July 1934
 5 Photographic prints
- Box 6;
Box 4, Folder 25 WST.299-WST.304: Field Museum Expedition: Dohuk, May 1934
 6 Photographic prints
 1 Nitrate negative
- Box 4, Folder 26;
Box 6 WST.305-WST.312: Field Museum Expedition: Mosul, May 1934
 3 Nitrate negatives
 8 Photographic prints
- Box 8;
Box 6;
Box 5, Folder 1 WST.313-WST.326: Field Museum Expedition: Zawita, May 16, 1934
 6 Nitrate negatives
 14 Photographic prints
 2 Lantern slides
- Box 6;
Box 5, Folder 2 WST.327-WST.343: Field Museum Expedition: Aiu Tellawa and Tel Matar, May 26-June 3, 1934
 17 Photographic prints
 7 Nitrate negatives
- Box 6;
Box 5, Folder 3 WST.344-WST.348: Field Museum Expedition: Balad Sinjar and Syria, June 3-8, 1934
 3 Nitrate negatives
 5 Photographic prints
- Box 5, Folder 4;
Box 6 WST.349-WST.352: Field Museum Expedition: Agra, India, June 20-21, 1934
 2 Nitrate negatives
 4 Photographic prints
- Box 5, Folder 5;
Box 6 WST.353-WST.365: Field Museum Expedition: Yezidis, June 1934
 4 Nitrate negatives
 13 Photographic prints
- Box 5, Folder 6 WST.366-WST.372: Ba'albek temples, October 1934

7 Photographic prints

- Box 6;
Box 5, Folder 7 WST.373-WST.375: Unloading boats near Royal Hospital, 1934
3 Photographic prints
2 Nitrate negatives
- Box 5, Folder 8 WST.376-WST.377: Albu Muhammad, 1934
2 Photographic prints
- Box 5, Folder 9 WST.378-WST.382: Boy Scouts procession in Baghdad, 1934 or 1935
5 Photographic prints
- Box 5, Folder 10-11;
Box 6 WST.383-WST.421: Wedding at Suq al-Shuyukh, March 1935
39 Photographic prints
37 Nitrate negatives
- Box 6;
Box 5, Folder 12-13 WST.422-WST.466: Trip to Nasiriyah and Eridu, March-April 1935
44 Photographic prints
36 Nitrate negatives
- Box 5, Folder 14;
Box 7 WST.467-WST.475: Tigris River during flood and guffa race, Spring-Summer
1935
4 Nitrate negatives
9 Photographic prints
- Box 5, Folder 15;
Box 7 WST.476-WST.481: Central High School students and view, June 1935
2 Nitrate negatives
6 Photographic prints
- Box 8;
Box 5, Folder 16;
Box 7 WST.482-WST.502: Trip to Jerusalem and Ram Allah, Jordan, July 2-7, 1935
1 Nitrate negative
18 Photographic prints
3 Lantern slides
- Box 7;
Box 8;
Box 5, Folder 17 WST.503-WST.508: Seleucia on the Tigris (Tel Umar), 1935
6 Photographic prints
4 Nitrate negatives
1 Lantern slide
- Box 5, Folder 18 WST.509-WST.513: Sheikh Falih and Sheikh Khaz'al in Drowers' garden, 1935
5 Photographic prints
- Box 7;
Box 8;
Box 5, Folder 19 WST.514-WST.522: Restoration of Baghdad citadel, 1935
8 Photographic prints
7 Nitrate negatives
2 Lantern slides
- Box 7 WST.523-WST.528: Boat cruise, probably with the Jawdat family, 1932-1935

6 Nitrate negatives

- Box 5, Folder 20;
Box 7
- WST.529-WST.554: Jawdat family, 1932-1935
25 Photographic prints
4 Nitrate negatives
- Box 7;
Box 5, Folder 21
- WST.555-WST.577: Employees of the Jawdat family, 1932-1935
9 Nitrate negatives
23 Photographic prints
- Box 7;
Box 5, Folder 22
- WST.578-WST.585: Thomas's friends in Iraq, 1932-1935
6 Photographic prints
3 Nitrate negatives
Includes photographs of Eleanor Kamar and Mr. Bellingham.
- Box 7;
Box 5, Folder 23
- WST.586-WST.614: Views of Baghdad, 1932-1935
26 Photographic prints
11 Nitrate negatives
Includes images of the Tigris and areas near the Jawdat houses.
- Box 5, Folder 25
- WST.615-WST.626: Photographs of ships and people in Iraq, from Eleanor Kamar and Henry Field, circa 1935
12 Photographic prints
- Box 5, Folder 25
- WST.627-WST.665: Drawings and photographs probably used to illustrate Thomas's publications, circa 1930s
23 Drawings (visual works)
16 Photographic prints
- Box 5, Folder 26
- WST.666-WST.674: Personal photographs and greeting cards, 1937-1974
8 Photographic prints
1 Prints (visual works)
- Box 5, Folder 27
- WST.675-WST.676: Stanford University, possibly 1940s
2 Photographic prints
- Box 5
- Bound volume of rotogravure prints relating to Iraq, circa 1930s
1 Book

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