



Austin Seminary Archives, Stitt Library

CURRIE (THOMAS WHITE, JR.) PAPERS, 1936-2001

Descriptive Summary

Title: Thomas White Currie, Jr. papers

Dates: 1936-2001

Accession Number(s): 1996-011; 2007-003; 2007-005

Extent: 7 feet, 8 inches of manuscript material, 1 inch of photographs, 0.5 inch of negatives, 2.5 inches of microfiche

Language: Materials are written in English.

Biographical Note:

Thomas White Currie, Jr. (1914-2004), a Presbyterian pastor, historian, and writer, was born in Austin, Texas in 1914 to Thomas White Currie, the third President of the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He grew up on the campus of the seminary, and though he first earned degrees from the University of Texas and Union Theological Seminary, New York, Currie later returned to Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary for his Th.M., which he earned in 1952. While earning his Th.D. at Union Seminary in Virginia, Currie made the history of APTS through the end of his father's presidency in 1943 the topic of his thesis. Currie married in 1939 and had five children including Thomas White Currie III and James Stuart Currie, both pastors.

Currie was ordained and installed at Eliasville, Texas, in 1941, and served at churches in Dallas and Houston, including a long pastorate at Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church in Dallas. In 1963 Currie was elected Moderator of the Synod of Texas, and from 1963 to 1967 served as Executive Secretary for Church Extension for the Presbytery of Brazos, during which time he played a role in the founding of several churches. A great lover of history, Currie helped found the Presbyterian Historical Society of the Southwest and served as its executive secretary for the Synod of the Sun. He revised, updated, and published his thesis at the urging of then-APTS President Prescott Williams, Jr. with the financial sponsorship of Thomas F. Williams, Jr., as *Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary: A Seventy-Fifth Anniversary History* in 1978. Currie was the author of several other books and articles, including *Great Protestant Leaders*, which he co-authored with his wife, Anne Alison Harrison, in 1952, and *Our Cities for Christ* (1954), as well as informal church histories, pamphlets, and newspaper articles. Thomas White Currie, Jr. retired in 1983, and passed away in 2004 at the age of 90.

Scope and Contents:

Seven feet, eight inches of manuscript material, one inch of photographs, .5 inches of negatives, and 2.5 inches of microfiche (1936-2001) document Thomas White Currie, Jr.'s creation of *A History of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary* and *Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary: A Seventy-Fifth Anniversary*, and his extensive career at the pulpit. A small amount of material documents other aspects Currie's life, particularly as a retired pastor. The materials are divided into five series: Th.D. Thesis—*A History of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary* (1955-1958), *Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary History: A Seventy-Fifth Anniversary History* (1972-1977), Sermons and Related Material (1944-2001), Creative Works (1977-1993), and General (1936-2001). The bulk of the material dates from 1954-1978, and a very small amount dates back to 1936 and up to 2001.

The first series, Th.D. Thesis—*A History of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary* (1955-1958), chronicles Thomas White Currie, Jr.'s experiences writing his thesis, from devising the topic to unsuccessfully petitioning for publication. The second and most voluminous series, *Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary History: A Seventy-Fifth Anniversary History* (1972-1977), documents Currie's updated seminary history from conception to publication. Correspondence with Prescott Williams, Jr. reveals the project's humble beginnings, with Currie originally envisioning the updated history as a series of supplements in the APTS bulletin. The difficulties of the publication process are documented in correspondence with Lois Boyd, the volume's editor at Trinity University Press. The historically rich recollections of board members, faculty, and alumni, which Currie solicited and upon which he based much of the volume, record firsthand accounts of warm, tender, and often humorous moments from across the seminary's history. The third series, Sermons and Related Material, contains Currie's collected sermons from 1944-2001. The sermons are in typed form, as well as on microfiche. Of special note in this series are materials related to Currie's time as an interim-minister at Columba Church in the Oamaru Presbytery in New Zealand. The fourth series, Creative Works (1977-1993), includes Currie's various writings. Of note in this series are two folders of material relating to a biographical chapter Currie wrote about his deceased brother as an introduction to APTS Professor Gene March's *Texts and Testaments*, a book of critical essays dedicated to and inspired by Stuart Currie's memory. Also, notes from two of his Bible Study sessions are included in the Writing subseries. The fifth series, General (1936-2001), is a small group of materials, predominately from later in Currie's life.

The material in this collection represents separate accessions of material donated by Thomas White Currie, Jr., and James Stuart Currie, Thomas White Currie, Jr.'s son. The accession #1996-011, was donated by Currie himself in 1996. The remaining material, accessions #2007-003 and #2007-005, were donated by James Stuart Currie in 2007. Material can be assumed to be from accession #1996-011 unless otherwise noted.

Restrictions:

Materials are available by appointment only. Contact the archivist for details.

Index Terms:

Currie, Stuart Dickson, 1922-1975.
Currie, Thomas White.
Currie, Thomas White, 1879-1943.
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.
First Presbyterian Church (Cumby, Tex.)
Milford Presbyterian Church (Milford, Tex.)
Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church (Dallas, Tex.)
Park Presbyterian Church (Italy, Tex.)
Ridglea Presbyterian Church (Fort Worth, Tex.)
St. Paul Presbyterian Church (Houston, Tex.)
Presbyterian Church--Education.
Presbyterian Church--Texas--History.
Sermons, American--Texas.

Preferred Citation: Thomas White Currie, Jr. papers, 1936-2001, Austin Seminary Archives, Stitt Library, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Inventory:

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C095	Th.D. Thesis, <i>A History of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary</i>: Correspondence: 1955-1957 1957-1958 Publication, 1957-1958 Alumni response cards, 1955 Alumni recollections: 1955 1955-1956 1955-1957 D.A. Penick oral history notes, 1957 Research material—copy of Austin School of Theology charter and constitution, undated Notes, 1957 and undated Final correspondence, drafts, and research, 1957-1958 Various chapter drafts, undated
C096	Various chapter drafts, undated Manuscript:

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	Ch. 1-3, 1958 Ch. 4-7, 1958 Ch. 8-11, 1958 Ch. 12-14, 1958 Ch. 15-Appendices, 1958
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B045a	Negatives, undated
C096	<i>Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary History: A Seventy-Fifth Anniversary History:</i> Correspondence: 1972-1975 1975-1978 Pictures, 1976-1977 Tom Williams, publication, 1976 Publication: 1976-1977 1977-1978
C097	Board member recollections, 1975 Faculty recollections: 1975 1975-1976 Alumni recollections: 1975 1975-1977 Consent from authors for publication: 1975-1977 1977 Research notes and correspondence: 1975 and undated 1976 and undated Research notes, 1975 and undated
C098	Research material, 1965-1973 Research material—Alumni, 1975 and undated Research correspondence—How Seminary Helped Small Churches, 1975 Brian Holt—Work scholarship student researcher, 1975-1976 Maps, Acquisition and disposition of property, 1975 Documentation of photographs, undated

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B025a	Photographs: Undated Portraits, undated
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B151a	Related material: Sermon indices, 1944-2001 New Zealand notes and printed materials, 1983
D025	New Zealand photographs, 1983
B151a	"Half a Century in a Presbyterian Pulpit" [Currie's introduction to microfiche], 2001
C099	Creative works: Writing [2007-005], 1985-1993 "Texts and Testaments," Stuart Currie bio chapter, 1977-1979 Drafts—"A Brother Beloved" (from <i>Texts and Testaments</i>), undated
C054	Annotated book— <i>Missions Tomorrow</i> , by K.S. Latourette [2007-005], 1936
C099	General: Correspondence [2007-005], 1954-1976 <i>Great Protestant leaders : biographical sketches of nine great leaders—Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Knox, John Wesley, William Carey, Daniel Baker, John R. Mott, Toyohiko Kagawa, John J. Eagan</i> , prepared by Alison H. and Thomas W. Currie, Jr., ca. 1952 Handwritten notes [2007-005], undated Printed material [2007-005], 1948-1995 Creative works of others [2007-005], 1954, circa 1990s