



The New York Public Library  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**Doris Thompson papers**

1899-1988 [bulk 1925-1988]

Sc MG 745

Home to Harlem Project, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

## Summary

**Creator:** Thompson, Doris M., 1894-2001

**Title:** Doris Thompson papers

**Date:** 1899-1988 [bulk 1925-1988]

**Size:** 1.42 linear feet (2 boxes)

**Source:** Gift, Doris Thompson, 1988

**Revision History:** This finding aid was updated by Allison Hughes.

**Abstract:** Doris Thompson moved in social and cultural circles in Chicago and Harlem where she met and became friends with many African-American artists, writers, and professionals, among them the artist William Edouard Scott, newspaper editor Wendell Dabney, Manet Harrison Fowler, founder of the Mwalimu School in Chicago, and bibliophiles Arthur A. Schomburg and Henry P. Slaughter. She was married four times; her third husband was Andrew Robinson, a graduate of Lincoln University (Pennsylvania). According to one source, she was a professional dressmaker, and in the 1940s during her marriage to Andrew Robinson, she was an active member of the Ladies Auxiliary of Lincoln University. The Doris Thompson Papers reflect a few aspects of Thompson's life and that of her third husband, Andrew Robinson. Thompson maintained a correspondence with several individuals and organizations including William Lloyd Imes, pastor of Harlem's St. James Presbyterian Church; Manet Harrison Fowler, founder/director of the Mwalimu School, who featured Thompson in recital (1938) in one of the New York chapter's programs; and actress Vinie Burrows, whom Thompson met during Burrow's childhood.

**Preferred citation:** [Item], Doris Thompson papers, Sc MG 745, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

## Creator History

Doris Thompson moved in social and cultural circles in Chicago and Harlem where she met and became friends with many African-American artists, writers and professionals, among them the artist

William Edouard Scott, newspaper editor Wendell Dabney, Manet Harrison Fowler, founder of the Mwalimu School in Chicago, and bibliophiles Arthur A. Schomburg and Henry P. Slaughter. She was married four times; her third husband was Andrew Robinson, a graduate of Lincoln University (Pennsylvania). According to one source, she was a professional dressmaker, and in the 1940s during her marriage to Andrew Robinson, she was an active member of the Ladies Auxiliary of Lincoln University.

## Scope and Content Note

The Doris Thompson Papers reflect a few aspects of Thompson's life and that of her third husband, Andrew Robinson. Thompson maintained a correspondence with several individuals and organizations including William Lloyd Imes, pastor of Harlem's St. James Presbyterian Church; Manet Harrison Fowler, founder/director of the Mwalimu School, who featured Thompson in recital (1938) in one of the New York chapter's programs; and actress Vinie Burrows, whom Thompson met during Burrow's childhood.

Thompson (1894-2001) was president of the New York Chapter of Lincoln University's Ladies Auxiliary while married to Andrew Robinson (class of 1891). Her files contain correspondence with Horace Mann Bond (1940s), president of the University, and programs for various activities sponsored by the auxiliary, some held at St. James Presbyterian Church. Lincoln University files include a 1955 speech given by the dean, H. F. Grim. Thompson's file relating to Arthur A. Schomburg contains a typescript of his review of the play *The Kingdom of God* and a few articles. There is also a folder containing letters from Jean Blackwell Hutson, chief of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture from 1948 to 1980. Hutson's letters discuss personal matters and Thompson's gifts of material to the Schomburg Center in 1957, and 1976-1987, including a painting of Thompson by William E. Braxton. A scrapbook includes news clippings (1929-1936) of noteworthy events in Haiti and Liberia.

Several folders pertain to her husband, Andrew M. Robinson, who was one of the founders of the St. James Presbyterian Church and president of its Thompkins Memorial Association. His files include correspondence and programs regarding Church events.

## Key Terms

### Subjects

African American women  
African Americans -- Correspondence  
African Americans -- Social life and customs  
Civic leaders -- United States

### Genre/Physical Characteristic

Scrapbooks

### Names

Bond, Horace Mann, 1904-1972  
Burrows, Vinie  
Grim, H. F. (Harold Fetter)  
Hutson, Jean Blackwell, 1914-1998  
Imes, William Lloyd, 1889-1986  
Robinson, Andrew M.

Schomburg, Arthur Alfonso, 1874-1938  
Thompson, Doris M., 1894-2001  
Lincoln University (Pa.)  
Lincoln University (Pa.). Ladies Auxiliary  
Mwalimu School for the Development of African Music and Creative Art.  
St. James Presbyterian Church (Harlem, New York, N.Y.)

## Container List

### Correspondence 1899-1988

#### General 1925-1988

- b. 1 f. 1 1925-1948
- b. 1 f. 2 1947-1959
- b. 1 f. 3 1960-1978
- b. 1 f. 4 1980-1988
- b. 1 f. 5 Burrows, Vinie 1958-1984
- b. 1 f. 6 Carter, Oscar S 1943-1948
- b. 1 f. 7 Chapman, Daniel A 1947-1950
- b. 1 f. 8 Dabney, Wendell P 1930-1948
- b. 1 f. 9 Hutson, Jean Blackwell 1957-1987
- b. 1 f. 10 Imes, William Lloyd 1933-1979

#### Lincoln University 1944-1971

- b. 1 f. 11 1946-1949
- b. 2 f. 1 1951-1971
- Ladies Auxiliary 1944-1962
- b. 2 f. 2 1944-1949
- b. 2 f. 3 1950-1962
- b. 2 f. 4 Mwalimu School 1938-1961
- b. 2 f. 5 Patterson, Boydie and Raymond 1980-1988

#### Robinson, Andrew M 1899-1976

#### Correspondence 1899-1976

- b. 2 f. 6 1899-1948
- b. 2 f. 7 1949-1976
- b. 2 f. 8 James S. Watson 1941-1948
- b. 2 f. 9 Lincoln University Certificate 1954
- b. 2 f. 10 Death 1960
- b. 2 f. 11 Roosevelt, Eleanor 1947-1949
- b. 2 f. 12 Schomburg, Arthur 1929-1939

#### Diaries and Appointment Books 1974-1988

- b. 2 f. 13 1974
- b. 2 f. 14 1975
- b. 2 f. 15 1979
- b. 2 f. 16 1981
- b. 2 f. 17 1987-1988

#### Guest Books 1948-1980

- b. 2 f. 18 1948-1960
- b. 2 f. 19 1965-1980
- b. 2 f. 20 Scrapbook 1929-1936