



Ian M. Thompson Papers (C4782)

Collection Number: C4782

Collection Title: Ian M. Thompson Papers

Dates: 1921-1978

Creator: Thompson, Ian Murchie, 1921-1977

Abstract: The personal and professional papers of a professor of surgery and chief urologist at the University of Missouri.

Collection Size: 7.5 cubic feet, 35 oversize items, 1 volume
(156 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research but may be stored offsite. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Ian M. Thompson Papers* (C4782); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Marge Thompson on October 4, 1977 (Accession No. CA4112). Additions were made by Betty Anthony on January 12, October 9, and October 20, 1978 (Accession No. CA4134, CA4193, CA4196), and on April 9, 1984 (Accession No. CA4566).

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Ian M. Thompson Papers can be found in the following collections:

[University of Missouri, Department of Anatomy Records](#), (C2515)

[University of Missouri, School of Medicine Records](#), (C3651)

Processed by: Autumn Cuddy, January 22, 2026

Historical Note:

Dr. Ian Murchie Thompson was born July 12, 1921, in Yonkers, New York. His parents were first-generation immigrants: his father, Thomas Thompson, emigrated from Ireland in 1914, and his mother, Janet McKillop Murchie, emigrated from Scotland in 1915; both received naturalization status in 1930. He died following a prolonged illness on February 11, 1977.

Dr. Thompson attended Bard College and Harvard College, earned his A.B. in English, and received a medical doctorate from New York Medical College in 1947. After graduation, Thompson interned at City Hospital on Welfare Island, New York, before joining the medical staff at Charity Hospital in New Orleans. The American Board of Urology certified Thompson as a urology specialist in 1956. While in New Orleans, he met Dr. Marjorie Dale, a member of the resident staff at Southern Baptist Hospital. They married on August 5, 1950, and had two children: Ian Murchie, Jr., and Janet.

In 1953, Ian Thompson received a captain's commission with the United States Army Medical Corps. He served for three years, primarily in South Korea, where he conducted research on the medical effects of Japanese occupation through the end of World War II on the health of the Korea population. While on tour in Korea, Thompson earned commendations from the South Korean government for life-saving emergency medical treatment rendered to civilians.

In addition to medical practice, Dr. Thompson held a career in medical education, working as an assistant professor at the University of Texas and as assistant professor of surgery at the University of Michigan. Thompson joined the University of Missouri-Columbia faculty in 1959 as a professor of surgery and chairman of the urology section in the UM Medical Center. His wife, Marjorie - known colloquially as "Dr. Dale" to avoid confusion - accepted a job as the Director of the Emergency Medicine Department. In 1972, Thompson participated in Project Hope, a two-and-a-half month volunteer mission to treat patients and train local medical workers in Natal, Brazil.

He was also involved in a number of medical and scientific professional organizations around the world. Some of these include: Alaska State Medical Association, American Academy of General Practice, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Surgeons, Canadian Urological Association, International College of Surgeons, Pan-Pacific Surgical Association, Singleton Surgical Society, Sociedad de Urologia de El Salvador, Sociedad Peruana de Urologia, Society of the Sigma Xi, Southern Medical Association, and the American Urological Association, for which he served as president of the South Central section and as editor of the organization's publication, *The Journal of Urology*.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following 12 series:

Awards
Childhood
Correspondence
Death
Education
Events
Medical Practice
Organizations
Photographs
Press
Publications
Oversize Materials

Scope and Content Note:**Awards**

This series contains certificates, ribbons, pins, medals, and other tokens of appreciation presented to Dr. Thompson by various organizations and institutions for his contributions to the medical field and participation in programming, 1930s-1977.

Childhood

This series consists of materials pertaining to Dr. Thompson's birth through early education, including vital records, writings, and school papers from Choir School of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine and Trinity School in New York, 1921-1939.

Correspondence

This series contains letters pertaining to personal and professional matters, primarily between Dr. Thompson and other urological physicians and urological or surgical organizations seeking advice or extending invitations and greetings, 1954-1978. A number of letters received after Dr. Thompson's death are included. Correspondence is arranged chronologically by year.

Death

This series consists of materials pertaining to Dr. Thompson's death, including letters of condolence to his widow and children, announcements of the news in publications from organizations of which he was a member, and memorial writings by his friends, 1977-1978. Condolence notes are arranged alphabetically by last name.

Education

This series contains materials related to each school Dr. Thompson attended after completing high school, including Bard and Harvard Colleges and New York Medical College, 1939-1947, and some additional material generated by these institutions for their alumni.

Events

This series consists of invitations, notices, planning materials, correspondence, travel information, financial records, and other materials pertaining to meetings, engagements, and other events Dr. Thompson attended, organized, or to which he received invitations. The bulk of this series includes planning and attendance materials for professional organization meetings and the annual programs and brochures for these events. Planning materials are arranged alphabetically by organization; programs are arranged chronologically by year.

Medical Practice

This series contains materials related to Dr. Thompson's career as both an educator and practitioner of the medical sciences, specifically urology and surgery, as well as his special interest in pediatric medicine, 1945-1977. The series includes medical licenses and certificates, contract paperwork, workshop programs, lesson plans, and limited correspondence and publications. Additional records pertain to Dr. Thompson's years of service as a captain with the United States Army, 1953-1955, particularly those relating to his tour of duty in South Korea.

Organizations

This series consists of materials pertaining to professional medical and surgical organizations of which Dr. Thompson was a member, including certificates, membership records, ID cards, and by-laws, 1955-1975. Additional records pertaining to annual meetings and conferences can be found in the **Events** series.

Photographs

This series consists of photographs of Dr. Thompson and his family, friends, and associates, including some group images of medical conference attendees, 1930s-1976.

Press

This series contains one folder of newspaper clippings related to Dr. Thompson's military and medical careers, 1956-1970s.

Publications

This series contains newsletters, journals, books, manuscripts, and articles, primarily related to urology and the medical field. A number of these were written by Dr. Thompson or describe his contributions to the field, while others were published by his alma maters or organizations of which he was a member, 1941-1978.

Oversize Materials

This series consists of oversized certificates and photographs documenting graduations, professional achievements, organizational memberships, conference participation, and miscellaneous attainments, 1930s-1976. This series is arranged by type and size. Also included is one bound volume of *Trinity Times* newspaper issues published during Ian Thompson's student years, 1935-1939.

Container List:

Awards

f. 1	Certificates, 1957-1976, undated
f. 2	Objects, 1930s-1976

Childhood

f. 3	Miscellaneous records, 1921-1929, undated
f. 4	Choir School of the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, 1931-1934

Correspondence

f. 5	1954-1958
f. 6	1959
f. 7-8	1960
f. 9	Project Hope, 1960-1974
f. 10-11	Kansas City General Hospital, 1960-1973
f. 12-14	1961
f. 15-17	1962
f. 18-21	1963
f. 22-24	1964
f. 25-26	1965
f. 27-28	1966
f. 29-30	1967
f. 31	Senator Webster, 1967-1968
f. 32-34	1968
f. 35-37	1969
f. 38-40	1970
f. 41-42	1971
f. 43-44	1972
f. 45-46	1973
f. 47	Latin American Fellowship, 1973-1974
f. 48	World Health-India, 1973-1974
f. 49-51	1974
f. 52-54	1975

f. 55-57	1976
f. 58	1977
f. 59	1978
f. 60	Undated

Death

f. 61-66	Condolences, 1977
f. 61	A-D
f. 62	E-H
f. 63	I-L
f. 64	M-R
f. 65	S
f. 66	T-Z
f. 67	Eulogies and memorials, 1977-1978
f. 68	Quotations from friends, 1977

Education

f. 69-72	Bard College, 1939-1941
f. 69	1939-1941, 1949
f. 70-72	Papers, 1939-1941
f. 73	Harvard College, 1939-1943
f. 74	New York Medical College, 1944-1947, 1959, 1962, 1968

Events

f. 75	Miscellaneous, 1950, 1959, 1961, 1973, undated
f. 76	Meeting and speaking engagements, 1957-1976
f. 77	American Geriatrics Society, 1976
f. 78	American Urological Society, Mid-Atlantic Section, 1967-1977
f. 79	American Urological Society, New York Section, 1964-1976
f. 80	American Urological Society, North Central Section, 1954-1972
f. 81	American Urological Society, Northeastern Section, 1962-1965
f. 82	American Urological Society, Southeastern Section, 1961-1977
f. 83	American Urological Society, Western Section, 1962-1977
f. 84	China Medical Board of New York, Inc., 1962
f. 85	Gorgas Hospital, consultancy, 1975-1976
f. 86	International College of Surgeons, 1961-1976
f. 87	International Congress of Pediatrics, 1968-1974
f. 88	International Federation of Surgical Colleges, 1967-1970
f. 89	International Pediatric Urological Seminar, 1976

f. 90	James C. Kimbrough Urological Seminar, 1961-1977
f. 91	Latino-Mediterranean Society of Urology, 1972
f. 92	Mexico Urological Association, 1962-1969
f. 93	Missouri Academy of General Practice, 1962-1967
f. 94	New York Medical College, 1957-1970
f. 95	New York Medical College, Urological Alumni Society, 1967-1972
f. 96	Oklahoma Urological Association, 1964-1965
f. 97	Orange County Urologic Society, 1966
f. 98	Puerto Rico Urological Association, 1968
f. 99	St. Louis Urological Society, 1962-1976
f. 100	Singleton Surgical Society, 1960-1977
f. 101	Sociedad Chilena de Urologia, 1973-1974
f. 102	Sociedad Colombiana de Urologia, 1971-1975
f. 103	Sociedad de Urologia de El Salvador, 1975
f. 104	Sociedad Peruana de Urologia, 1971
f. 105	Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces, 1972-1977
f. 106	South African Urological Association, 1968-1972
f. 107	Southern Medical Association, 1969
f. 108	Urological Congress of the Americas, 1969-1977
f. 109	Urological Society of Australasia, 1972-1976
f. 110	Venezuelan Urologic Seminar, 1976-1977
f. 111	Western Urological Forum, 1963-1977
f. 112-130	Programs, 1952-1976
f. 112	1952, 1956-1959
f. 113	1960
f. 114	1961
f. 115	1962
f. 116	1963
f. 117	1964
f. 118	1965-1966
f. 119	1967
f. 120	1968
f. 121	1969
f. 122	1970
f. 123	1971
f. 124-125	1972
f. 126	1973
f. 127	1974
f. 128	1975
f. 129-130	1976

Medical Practice

f. 131	New York, 1945-1972
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f. 132	Louisiana, 1950-1974
f. 133	Military, 1953-1955
f. 134	Military, Korea, 1954-1955
f. 135	Texas, 1955-1974
f. 136	Michigan, 1957-1974
f. 137	Missouri, 1959-1977
f. 138	C.V. and miscellaneous business papers, 1950s-1972

Organizations

f. 139	Certificates, member or fellow, 1957-1971
f. 140	Certificates, honorary membership, 1961-1972
f. 141	Constitutions and by-laws, 1955-1969
f. 142	ID cards, 1959-1975
f. 143	Membership rosters, 1957-1969

Photographs

f. 144	1930s-1950s
f. 145	1960-1976
f. 146	Undated

Press

f. 147	1956-1970s
--------	------------

Publications

f. 148	Abstracts from presentations, 1968, 1973, 1978
f. 149	American Urological Association Newsletters, 1960-1967
f. 150	Articles by Thompson, 1952-1972
f. 151	Bard College, <i>The Bardian</i> , 1941-1943
f. 152	Journals, 1946-1971
f. 153	Manuscript for <i>Urology</i> , edited by M. Campbell, undated
f. 154	New York Medical College newsletter, 1944-1947
f. 155	Newsletters, 1950-1970, undated
f. 156	Resource books, 1966, 1969

Oversize Materials

Folder 1	items 1-7	Awards
	item 1	Certificate of recognition, Project Hope, 1972
	item 2	Third Award for "Urethral Flap Urethroplasty for Stricture," American Urological Association – South Central Section, October 1967

item 3 First Prize for excellence of a science exhibit, American Urological Association – South Central Section, October 1968

item 4 First Award for "Utero-Pelvic Junction Reconstruction," American Urological Association – South Central Section, October 1963

item 5 Silver Certificate, New York Medical College, June 1972

item 6 Certificate of recognition, Urology Congress of the Americas, 1969

item 7 Certificate of recognition for services as President, American Urological Association – South Central Section, c. 1976

item 8-15 Memberships

item 8 La Sociedad Panameña de Urología, honorary, June 8, 1976

item 9 La Asociación Urológica Centroamericana y Panameña, honorary, December 1963

item 10 Sociedad Peruana de Urología, honorary, August 19, 1971

item 11 Alpha Omega Alpha, alumnus, 1969

item 12 American Urological Association – South Central Section, undated

item 13 Société Internationale D'Urologie, 1970

item 14 Frederick A. Coller Surgical Society, 1964

item 15 Asociación Médica Argentina – Sociedad Argentina de Urología, honorary, March 28, 1974

item 16-17 Miscellaneous

item 16 The Order of the Purple Shaft with Barbed Cluster, December 11, 1951

item 17 Proclamation, appointment as Mayor of La Ciudad de La Villita, September 15, 1976

Folder 2 item 18-19 Photographs

item 18 Ian Thompson with unidentified physician, undated

item 19 Attendees of Seventh South African Urological Congress, September 1968

item 20-29 Diplomas, Degrees, and Certifications

item 20 National Board of Medical Examiners, Diploma, June 28, 1948

item 21 Charity Hospital of Louisiana, Certificate for completion of urology residency, June 30, 1952

item 22 Marquette School of Medicine, Inc., Division of Surgery, appointment to honorary faculty for completion of visiting professorship in surgery, April 1969

item 23 Army of the United States, certificate of Reserve Officer commission at Captain rank, May 14, 1953

item 24 University of the State of New York, medicine and surgery license, September 21, 1948

item 25 Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners, certificate to practice medicine, June 6, 1952

item 26 State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts in Missouri, certificate to practice as physician and surgeon, December 5, 1959

item 27 New York Medical College, Doctor of Medicine degree, June 11, 1947

item 28 Columbia University-Bard College, Bachelor of Arts degree, September 24, 1943

item 29 New York Protestant Episcopal Public School-Trinity School, Diploma, June 2, 1939

item 30-31 South Korea Documents

item 30 Minister of Foreign Affairs, certificate of appreciation for medical services regarding STD and pregnancy prevention, c. 1955

item 31 38th Parallel Medical Society of Korea, membership certificate, c. 1954

item 32 Caricature, undated

items 33-35 Panoramic photographs ****Conservation Lab****

v. 1 *Trinity Times* newspaper, Trinity School, 1935-1939

Index Terms	Folder	Medium	Image
Creative writing	69-74, 138		
Medical education	74-138, 147-150, 152-156	item 22	
Physicians, Missouri	1, 2, 668, 75-130, 137-143, 145-148, 150, 153		
Thompson, Ian M., 1921-1977	1-156	items 1-32, v. 1	
Thompson, Ian M., 1921-1977	3, 132, 138, 144-146	item 18, 19	Yes
Thompson, Marjorie Dale, 1926-2019	58, 59, 61-68, 75, 132-138, 147		
Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, School of Medicine	132		
University of Missouri, Medical Center	5-60, 137, 138		
Urology	1, 2, 5-68, 74-150, 152-156	items 1-15, 18, 19, 21-27, 30-32	