

**S0810 Tomas, Henry (1918-2002), Papers,
1950-1985 5 Boxes, 32 Folders, 90 Photographs,
43 Volumes**

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Henry J. Tomas donated the Henry Tomas Papers to the WHMC in 1988.

Henry Justine Tomas was born on May 13, 1918 near Smolensk, Russia and grew up in independent Lithuania. In Lithuania he rendered his name "Henrikas Tomas-Tamasauskas." He was an only child. After the end of World War II, Tomas attended university in Western Germany. He married his wife Gisela Roesch on February 26, 1949 in her hometown of Karlsruhe. Their son, Helmut Eugen Tomas, was born the previous year on September 28, 1948. Helmut was their only child.

Henry, Gisela and Henry immigrated to in Detroit, Michigan in 1951, but it seems that Gisela was unhappy and did not like living away from Germany, and Gisela returned to Germany with Helmut to live with her parents from 1959-1964, and also on other occasions. In 1962, Henry J. Thomas moved to St. Louis while his wife and son were in Germany. After a few years of living in an apartment, Henry J. bought a home on Arsenal Street across the road from Benton Park. Helmut attended high school in Germany while both his parents were living in St. Louis, and then attended Washington University in St. Louis in the 1970s. In the United States, Helmut went by the name "Henry" E. Tomas, and he also went by the name "Eric." The couple separated in 1974 and formally divorced in 1975. Gisela settled in Achern, Germany.

Henry J. Tomas wrote plays about Lithuanians enslaved in Germany which were performed 1968-1970. He published *Lietusviskasis Pamarys: Pakalnes ir Labguvos apskritys* ("The Lithuanian Seashore: with local names and map") in 1975. The book was published by the Lithuanian News Publishing Company, Chicago, Illinois. The book was a collection of reminiscences of indigenous Lithuanian people from before World War II. (In 1944, the Lithuanian people were driven out of their homelands and resettled in Western Germany, and the Soviet Union reoccupied Lithuania with new people.)

Henry Tomas spoke fluent Russian, German, Lithuanian, and English. He worked as a translator for the United States intelligence services in Detroit and St. Louis. In May 1983, he retired from the Defense Mapping Agency Aerospace Center. After retiring he moved to California Avenue. He died December 30, 2002 at the age of 84.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Henry Tomas Papers include correspondence, sheet music, collections of stamps and postcards and photographs. It also contains a series of newspaper clippings in Lithuanian.

FOLDER LIST

BOX 1 (050634)

Series 1 – Correspondence, 1956-1985, Folders 1 – 24

1. Letters Between Henry, Gisela and Helmut Tomas, English and German, 1956-1973
2. Letters Between Henry, Gisela and Helmut Tomas, English and German, 1974-1975
3. Letters Between Henry, Gisela and Helmut Tomas, English and German, 1976-1978
4. Letters Between Henry, Gisela and Helmut Tomas, English and German, 1979
5. Letters Between Henry, Gisela and Helmut Tomas, English and German, 1980-1981
6. Letters Between Henry, Gisela and Helmut Tomas, English and German, 1982
7. Letters Between Henry, Gisela and Helmut Tomas, English and German, 1983
8. Letters Between Henry, Gisela and Helmut Tomas, English and German, 1984-1985
9. Letters to Gisela Tomas, German, 1964-1985
10. Letters to Gisela Tomas, German, 1967-1984
11. Letters to Gisela Tomas, German, 1960-1979
12. Letters to Gisela Tomas, German, 1969-1985
13. Letters to Helmut Tomas, 1967-1971
14. Letters to Helmut Tomas, 1967-1985
15. Letters to Helmut Tomas, 1971-1976
16. Letters to Helmut Tomas, 1967-1984
17. Letters to Helmut Tomas, 1965-1973

BOX 2 (050635)

18. Letters to Helmut Tomas, German, 1967-1970
19. Letters to Helmut Tomas, German, 1962-1969
20. Letters to Henry Tomas, English and German, 1961-1983
21. Letters to Henry Tomas, Lithuanian, 1977-1983
22. Letters to Henry Tomas, Lithuanian, 1972-1985
23. Letters from Henry Tomas to Petras and John Tvaroras, Lithuanian, 1968-1970
24. Family Documents, 1959-1975 (Including Helmut's Passport)

Series 2 – Published Media, Folders 25 – 31

25. Book: *Lietuviskasis Pamarys (The Lithuanian Seashore)* by Henry Tomas, 1975
26. Blank Postcards
27. Sheet music in German
28. Sheet music in German
29. Sheet music in German
30. Stamp Collection
31. Stamp Collection, First Issues

Series 3 – Photographs, Folder 32

32. Photographs 810.1-810.90

Series 4 – Newspaper Clippings, 1950-1982, Boxes 3-5

BOX 3 (050636)

Scrapbooks with Lithuanian Newspaper Clippings, 1950-1982 (15 Volumes)

BOX 4 (050637)

Scrapbooks with Lithuanian Newspaper Clippings, 1950-1982 (14 Volumes)

BOX 5 (050638)

Scrapbooks with Lithuanian Newspaper Clippings, 1950-1982 (14 Volumes)