



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

Guide to the

Ross Thalheimer papers

1940-1978

Sc MG 267

Schomburg NEH Automated Access to Special Collections Project

Summary

Creator: Thalheimer, Ross, 1905-

Title: Ross Thalheimer papers

Date: 1940-1978

Size: 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Gift of Helen Thalheimer, 1989, and William R. Coleman, 2005.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: The Ross Thalheimer papers consist of materials related to Thalheimer's activities as a civil rights supporter from the 1940s to the 1970s. Files relate primarily to the funding and presentation of the Thalheimer Award to the National Urban League, including the prize winning essays written by students, and the Thalheimer Awards he funded for the NAACP, including information about the recipients and associated programs, 1942-1976. The collection also contains letters from Kenneth B. Clark and Lester B. Granger; typescripts of interviews given by Thalheimer; copies of an advertisement placed in The New York Times in 1964 by the Psychologists' Committee on Interracial Relations concerning violence and race relations; and telegrams to Thalheimer from Martin Luther King, Jr., inviting him to join King on what would become known as the Selma to Montgomery March on March 9 and 21, 1965. Also included are an address that Thalheimer delivered in 1940 called "The Need for Equal Educational Opportunity in a Democracy"; an article that he wrote entitled "What Can the Church Do About Juvenile Delinquency", 1954; biographical information about Thalheimer prepared by his widow; and expressions of sympathy upon his death.

Preferred citation: [Item], Ross Thalheimer papers, Sc MG 267, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Accessioned by Berlena Robinson, 1990, and Janice Quinter, 2005.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs.

Creator History

Ross Thalheimer, psychologist, university professor, and author, was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1905. Thalheimer received his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University. He was a faculty member at Johns Hopkins from 1927-1928, the University of Washington (Seattle) from 1928-1929, and intermittently the University of Baltimore and Johns Hopkins from 1929-1938. Before entering the Army in 1941, Thalheimer was National Legislative Representative of the American Federation of Teachers for two years. In 1946, he entered private practice as a psychotherapist and in 1953, founded the Community Guidance Service, a service agency staffed by psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers, providing low-cost personal guidance services at private offices throughout the New York City area. He was also the founder and executive director of the American Institute for Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis.

Beginning in about 1937, Thalheimer endowed the annual Thalheimer Awards, presented by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for outstanding branch fundraising program activities. He also made an annual grant to the National Urban League from 1945 until the 1960s. Initially, this award was presented to the branches with the largest number of subscriptions to *Opportunity Magazine*, but from 1948-1953, awards were given to students who wrote the best essay for its vocational Opportunity Campaign. In 1954, this prize was replaced with cash awards provided to local branches for notable achievements in the field of vocational guidance. Thalheimer served as chairman of the Psychologists' Committee on Interracial Relations in the 1960's. He died in 1977.

Scope and Content Note

The Ross Thalheimer papers consist of materials related to Thalheimer's activities as a civil rights supporter from the 1940s to the 1970s. Files relate primarily to the funding and presentation of the Thalheimer Award to the National Urban League, including the prize winning essays written by students, and the Thalheimer Awards he funded for the NAACP, including information about the recipients and associated programs, 1942-1976. The collection also contains letters from Kenneth B. Clark and Lester B. Granger; typescripts of interviews given by Thalheimer; copies of an advertisement placed in *The New York Times* in 1964 by the Psychologists' Committee on Interracial Relations concerning violence and race relations; and telegrams to Thalheimer from Martin Luther King, Jr., inviting him to join King on what would become known as the Selma to Montgomery March on March 9 and 21, 1965. Also included are an address that Thalheimer delivered in 1940 called "The Need for Equal Educational Opportunity in a Democracy"; an article that he wrote entitled "What Can the Church Do About Juvenile Delinquency", 1954; biographical information about Thalheimer prepared by his widow; and expressions of sympathy upon his death.

Key Terms

Subjects

African Americans -- Civil rights
Civil rights workers
College teachers
Educational equalization
Social service -- Vocational guidance

Occupations

Philanthropists.

Psychologists.

Names

Clark, Kenneth Bancroft, 1914-2005

Granger, Lester B. (Lester Blackwell), 1896-1976

King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968

Thalheimer, Ross, 1905-

American Federation of Teachers

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

National Urban League

Psychologists' Committee on Interracial Relations (New York, N.Y.)

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-2 Miscellaneous 1940-1978
- b. 1 f. 3 "The Need for Equal Educational Opportunity in a Democracy", speech delivered at the Education for Democracy Annual Conference 1940 April
- b. 1 f. 4 Report of the Legislative Representative to the 24th Annual Convention of the American Federation of Teachers 1940 August
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Thalheimer Awards
- b. 1 f. 5 1942-1949
- b. 1 f. 6 1950-1956
- b. 1 f. 7 1959-1976
National Urban League, Thalheimer Awards
Vocational Opportunity Campaign essays
- b. 1 f. 8 1946-1948
- b. 1 f. 9 1949-1953
- b. 1 f. 10 Vocational guidance 1954-1962