This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri, Research Center-Columbia. If you would like more information, please contact us at research@shsmo.org.

**Dates:** 1940-2006  
**Creator:** Oates, Thomas R., -2017  
**Collection Size:** 7.2 cubic feet

**Introduction**  
A collection of photographs, slides, and negatives of Dr. Thomas R. Oates, a nationally known documentary photographer and Saint Louis University alumnus. Oates did extensive research on rural Missouri and farming, as well as the inner city environment of St. Louis.

**Donor Information**  
The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Thomas R. Oates on 17 July 2009.

**Restriction**  
The Donor retains copyrights he holds in the Papers, with the understanding that researchers are free to use and quote from any of the Papers.

**Box List**

**Box 1**  
Photographs  
- Ireland (with some genealogical narrative), 1973  
- Fiddle Contest, Central Missouri, 1973  
- Rock Shelter, Southern Illinois, 1973  
- Dedication of Church Priory School, St. Louis, Missouri, 1972  
- Cambridge, Massachusetts, Street Scene, 1972  
- Boston Subway, 1972  
- Vermont Portfolio (text and photographs), 1983  
- Roy Stryker, Director of the Historical Section of Farm Security Administration, Interview, October, 1963  
- Correspondence with Marion Post, Farm Security Photographer, 1940-1941  
- Correspondence from Liza Kirwin, Archives Assistant, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington Center, to Mrs. Marion Post Wolcott, regarding the lifting of restrictions on her oral history interview, September 13, 1983  
- Correspondence from James F. Scott, Dept. of English, Saint Louis University, regarding a slide show transfer, January 20, 1984  
- Miscellaneous material: Article on Making Quality Slides, Portion of Article on “Okies” in the 1930s.
Box 2
Photographs: St. Louis-Benton Place, 1969-1970
Photographs of Inner City, Priory Dedication of Church, 1969-1970
Photographs of Missouri Landscapes, 1969-1970
Contact Negatives, Photographs of St. Louis, Urban Scene, 1970-1974
Photographs of Vietnam War Protest, 1972-1974
Contact Negatives; Photographs of Blues Musician, 1972-1973

Transparencies: River Tow Boats North of St. Louis to Missouri Line, Published in Missouri Life Magazine, “First Tow North,” 1972
Contact Negatives; Prints; Material used for Post-Dispatch article on Ex-con, 1973
Photographs
   Living at Dismas House, St. Louis, 1973
   Contact Negatives; Photographs of Jimmy Hoffa, Teamsters, 1974
   Private Auditions, Photo Session, St. Louis, c.1974
   Henry Kissinger at Webster College, c. 1974
Mime Artists, c. 1974
William Kunstler, Civil Rights Lawyer, St. Louis, c. 1974
Jennifer Mueller Dance Group, Webster College; Perry Lennox, “Cry of the [Prophet?]”; St. Michael College, c. 1974
Contact Negative: Some Prints, Text for Missouri Folk Arts Festival story by Bob LaRouche, 1975
Missouri Folk Arts Festival, 1973
Contact Negatives; Photographs of Missouri Wilderness Study, 1973
Missouri Indian Sites, 1973
Missouri Council on Arts, 1973
Newsmagazine: Howell Island on Missouri River near St. Charles, Hunting Preserve, Photos for Post-Dispatch, c.1970s, 1979
Fur Trade Slides, Mississippi River, c. 1970s
Photographs, Missouri Landscape, 1970-1975
Photographs, St. Louis, Missouri, Riverfront in Flood, c.1993
Meramec River Article, 1975

Box 3
Slide Case, Rural Missouri, Inner City, St. Louis, c. 1970s
Slide Notebook, Rural Missouri, Huzzah River, c. 1970s
Photograph Book, Images, Values and Development in Chittenden County, 1984
Photograph Book with text and article, The Fur Trade: Northern Border/Rivers South, c. 1970s
Magazine: Wisconsin Then & Now, Vol. XXIII, No. 4, November, 1976 (T.R. Oates’ Photo Exhibit on Fur Trade Routes)
Saint Louis University Magazine, Vol. 44, No. 1, Spring 1971 (Article, “The Death of


Pamphlet: *Thanksgiving*, November 27, 1980 (Tom Oates Photography Assignment a Loretto Motherhouse, Kentucky

*Missouri Life, The Magazine of Missouri*, Winter, 1975 (Wilderness Article with Photographs by Tom Oates)

*Place Gives Rise to Spirit: Writers on Louisville,* (“Path in Cherokee Creek,” Photographs by Thomas Oates); Signed by Kathleen Driskell, Editor, 2001

Book: *Prayer Against Famine and Other Irish Poems*, John Knoepfle, 2004

Assorted Newspaper and Magazine Articles on Missouri Wilderness, 1974-1981

Correspondence, 1976; *Sunday Pictures, St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, “Working the Land: 1930s/1970s”


Rural Missouri Photographs, c. 1970s (3 folders)

Inter-negatives from Farm Security Administration (F.S.A.) Photographs from Library of Congress, c. 1996

Black and White Proofs, Negatives and Prints of Missouri Farmer’s Exhibit as Displayed at Webster University, Discussion at Missouri Capitol Building, c. 1996

Evaluation Sheets for Missouri Humanities, Preliminary Proposal for Project with Missouri Council on Humanities, c. 1996

Missouri Farmer’s Slide Show Script and 1 Audio Tape; Slides and Print of F.S.A. images used in Missouri Farmer’s Exhibit (Slides from Prints from F.S.A. Collection, Washington, D.C., 1980

Color Inter-Negatives from Transparencies from T.R. Oates, used for printing of Large Exhibit Prints given to Webster University, 1980

*Let Us Now Praise Famous Men* by James Agee and Walker Evans, Copyright renewed, 1988 by John T. Hill, Executor of the Estate of Walker Evans

*Missouri Faces and Places*, by Wes Lyle and John Hall, Copyright 1977

*Land of the Fire*, by Archibald MacLeish, Copyright 1977

*The Aperture History of Photography Series*-Featuring the Photographic Work of Dorothea Lange and Walker Evans, Copyright 1981

**Box 4**

Photographs

Rural Missouri, 1973-1974
St. Louis, Inner-City, 1969-1972

Slides Used for Slide Show and Research, Missouri Farmers, Missouri Landscapes, c.1970-2006

**Box 5**

Slides, Missouri Farmers, c. 1970s
Box 6
Photographs
San Miguel Allende, Mexico, Belize, 1999
Fur Trade, Ontario, 1984
D.C. Canal Road, 1984
Shenandoah River with canoes, 1984
Northern Maine, 1984
Narrative, Missouri Farmer (2 slide trays, 2 audio cassettes)
Photographs, Vermont, 1984-1985

Box 7 (Oversize)
Photographs of rural Missouri and Missouri farmers c. 1970s

Box 8 (Oversize)
Photographs of St. Louis, Inner-City, 1970s