SUMMARY INFORMATION

Title: Joseph M. Greer Collection of Thomas Wolfe
Dates: circa 1930s-1940s
Accession #: 0000-004
Creator: Greer, Joseph Michael, 1917-1976
Physical Description: 0.25 linear ft. (1 box)
Languages: Collection material in English.
Processing Information: Julia A. Cowart processed the collection in 2015 and updated the finding aid in 2017.
Collection Summary: Documents related to Thomas Wolfe collected by a Furman graduate while in the military.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Acquisition:
The collection was bequeathed to Furman University by Joseph Michael Greer’s will. The date of donation is unknown, but it was likely to have been donated in 1978.

Related Material:
- Furmaniana file - Michael Greer ’39
- Inside Design by Michael Greer, 1962
- Your future in interior design by Michael Greer, 1963

Biographical Sketch:
Joseph Michael Greer was a Monroe, Georgia native who graduated from Furman in 1939. Originally named Joseph Moore Greer, he later changed his name to Joseph Michael Greer, but as an internationally known interior decorator and designer, he was known professionally as Michael Greer.
At Furman Greer was a member of the Cloister, an honorary club for superior English students, and contributed to the annual student literary magazine, the Echo, even serving as editor. Greer studied interior design on the Greenville Woman’s College campus while at Furman. After graduation, Greer did graduate work, and then spent time in the Army Air Corps beginning in 1941.

It was during his time in service that he collected material by and about Thomas Wolfe (1900-1938). Wolfe was an American novelist of the early twentieth century who wrote four lengthy novels as well as many short stories, dramatic works, and novellas. Retiring from service at the rank of Major, Greer studied at the New York School of Interior Design and the Parsons School of Design in New York. Upon completing his studies, Greer joined the oldest interior decorating firm in the United States, Nancy McClelland, Inc., and eventually started his own firm in 1956. Greer quickly became a distinguished figure in his field, decorating homes or rooms for clients in the U.S. and abroad. As a founder and early president of the National Society of Interior Designers, his appreciation of American antiques gained him an invitation to decorate rooms in the White House during the Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson administrations. At a special convocation at Furman in October 1963, the Funderburk Room and the Greer Memorial Fountain, both designed by Greer, were dedicated.

Greer’s life ended tragically in April 1976, when he was found murdered in his Manhattan apartment.

**USING THE COLLECTION**

**Access Restrictions:** None.

**Preferred Citation:** [Identification of item], Joseph M. Greer Collection of Thomas Wolfe, [Folder #], Special Collections and Archives, Furman University, Greenville, S.C.

**ARRANGEMENT**

This collection is arranged chronologically.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT**

The bulk of this collection dates from the mid-1930s to the mid-1940s. The collection consists mainly of journals that include stories written by Thomas Wolfe and newspaper clippings about Wolfe and his family.
COLLECTION INVENTORY

Folder 1. Lt. J. M. Greer Letters and Papers on Thomas Wolfe
Folder 2. Selections from Thomas Wolfe’s works
Folder 3. *Look Homeward, Angel* and the Apprenticeship Theme in Fiction
Folder 4. *Face of America* adapted by William A. Bacher and Malcolm Meacham
Folder 5. Letter from Aline Bernstein to Mr. Winthrop Palmer
Folder 6. “Bibliography of Thomas Wolfe” by Emily M. Hoffman
Folder 7. Newspaper Clippings
Folder 8. Cancelled Check signed by Thomas Wolfe, Dec. 18, 1936
Folder 15. Julia Wolfe’s Information