

# Telford, Robert S. (SC-05)

Robert S. Telford Personal Papers (SC-05)

1959-2008, undated



## Title Statement

Telford, Robert S. (SC-05) Finding Aids to the Special Collections in the VMFA Archives | Robert S. Telford Personal Papers SC-05

**Subtitle:** Special Collection 05 (SC-05)

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## Publication Statement

**Publisher:** Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Archives

Margaret R. and Robert M. Freeman Library  
200 N. Arthur Ashe Boulevard  
Richmond, VA 23220-4007  
Business Number: 804-340-1495  
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URL: <https://vmfa.museum/library/special-collections-archives/>



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## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2024-03-12 07:02:03 -0400.

**Language Usage:** Description is written in: English, Code for undetermined script script.

## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

SC-05

### Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/268

### Unit Date

1959-2008, undated

### Mixed Materials

SC-05 Box 1 (box)

### Language

English .

### Abstract

The collection documents the life and career of Robert (Bob) S. Telford from 1959-2008. Telford, director of the Virginia Museum Theatre from 1955-1966, helped to strengthen the program and is known for casting African American actors in productions with white actors at a time when interracial casting was illegal in Virginia.

**Creator**

Telford, Robert S.

**source**

Telford, Robert S.

**Extent**

0.4 Linear Feet 1 box, 4 folders; 60 items

**Repository**

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Archives

## Administrative Information

**Conditions Governing Access**

The collection is open for research.

**Conditions Governing Use**

The collection is subject to all copyright laws. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by copyright, beyond that allowed by fair use, requires the researcher to obtain permission of copyright holders.

**Processing Information**

In general, during processing, all publications are removed and added to the VMFA Library's holdings and original newspaper clippings are photocopied, with identifiers transferred, and then destroyed. Original folder titles are retained, when provided.

**Preferred Citation**

Robert S. Telford Personal Papers (SC-05). VMFA Archives, Richmond, Virginia.

## Biographical Note

As the director of the Virginia Museum Theater from 1958-1966, Robert S. Telford dramatically grew subscriptions to the theater, stabilized management and formed a strong volunteer corps. He also introduced the VMT's first musical production, "Kiss Me Kate." He is probably best known for his casting of African-American actors at a time when it was illegal in Virginia to have black and white actors together on the same stage. In 1966, he cast two black actors in the theater's production of "You Can't Take It With You," marking a major milestone in Virginia theater history. After his departure, Telford went on to direct theaters in Texas and Oklahoma, finally landing in California, where he had a successful television acting career in the 1980s and published several books.

Source: of "The Dark Side of Ambition"

## Scope and Contents

This collection's inclusive dates are 1959-2008. It is comprised of newspaper clippings, letters (mainly from Mallory Freeman, fellow Virginia Museum Theater actor), event invitations and programs, and an audiotape.

## Keywords

Telford, Robert S.

Telford, Robert S.

Virginia Museum Theatre (Richmond, Va.)

## Custodial History

The collection was donated by Robert S. Telford.

## Arrangement

The collection is organized into one series, and items are generally organized chronologically within each folder.

## Description of Subordinate Components

## **Series 1: Personal Papers**

**Unit ID** SC-05-01

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48653

**Unit Date** 1959-2008, undated

**Language** English

### **Folder 1**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48654

**Language** English

#### **April, 1962 edition of Chapter One**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.001

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48658

**Unit Date** 1962

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.001 (Item)

**Language** English

#### **September 5, 1962 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: Miss VA contest**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.002

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48659

**Unit Date** 1962

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.002 (Item)

**Language** English

#### **October 18, 1962 article from The Richmond News Leader re: National Cultural Center in DC**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.003

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48660

**Unit Date** 1962

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.003 (Item)

**Language** English

#### **December 19, 1962 article from The Richmond News Leader re: Santa role**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.004

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48661

**Unit Date** 1962

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.004 (Item)

**Language** English

#### **February 24, 1963 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: VMT**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.005

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48662

**Unit Date** 1963

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.005 (Item)

**Language** English

**February 25, 1963 article from Richmond News Leader re: VMT**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.006

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48663

**Unit Date** 1963

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.006 (Item)

**Language** English

**March 31, 1963 article from The State and the Columbia Record re: Playwright Award Competition**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.007

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48664

**Unit Date** 1963

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.007 (Item)

**Language** English

**April 5, 1963 article from The Nashville Tennessean re: SETA and controversial plays**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.008

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48665

**Unit Date** 1963

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.008 (Item)

**Language** English

**April 5, 1963 article from the Nashville Banner re: SE Theater Convention**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.009

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48666

**Unit Date** 1963

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.009 (Item)

**Language** English

**April 5, 1963 article from The Nashville Tennessean re: Theater Conference**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.010

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48667

**Unit Date** 1963

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.010 (Item)

**Language** English

**April 7, 1963 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: Mellon Exhibition**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.011

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48668

**Unit Date** 1963

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.011 (Item)

**Language** English

**April 7, 1963 article from the Richmond Times Dispatch re: "Olivet to Calvary"**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.012

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48669

**Unit Date** 1963

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.012 (Item)

**Language** English

**April 17, 1963 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: Gainsborough exhibit**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.013

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48670

**Unit Date** 1963

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.013 (Item)

**Language** English

**May 18, 1963 article from the Richmond News Leader re: speaking engagement at 1st Unitarian Church**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.014

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48671

**Unit Date** 1963

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.014 (Item)

**Language** English

**June 8, 1963 front page of The Richmond News Leader**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.015

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48672

**Unit Date** 1963

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.015 (Item)

**Language** English

**June 14, 1963 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: the Parody Ball**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.016

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48673

**Unit Date** 1963

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.016 (Item)

**Language** English

**January 12, 1964 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: "The World of Shakespeare"**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.017

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48674

**Unit Date** 1964

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.017 (Item)

**Language** English

**October 18, 1964 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: Thalhimers Italian extravaganza**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.018

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48675

**Unit Date** 1964

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.018 (Item)

**Language** English

**November 1, 1964 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: 'Local Theatricals'**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.019

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48676

**Unit Date** 1964

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.019 (Item)

**Language** English

**January 7, 1965 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: state Artmobile**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.020

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48677

**Unit Date** 1965

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.020 (Item)

**Language** English

**May 11, 1965 edition of the Washington County News**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.021

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48678

**Unit Date** 1965

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.021 (Item)

**Language** English

**July 21, 1965 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: conversational French class**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.022

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48679

**Unit Date** 1965

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.022 (Item)

**Language** English

**September 12, 1965 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: Jim Walsh**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.023

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48680

**Unit Date** 1965

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.023 (Item)

**Language** English

**November 4, 1965 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: food at VA Museum**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.024

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48681

**Unit Date** 1965

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.024 (Item)

**Language** English

**February 13, 1966 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: museum architecture**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.025

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48682

**Unit Date** 1966

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.025 (Item)

**Language** English

**February 26, 1966 article from unknown pub. re: awards**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.026

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48683

**Unit Date** 1966

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.026 (Item)

**Language** English

**March 19, 1966 letters to the editor from unknown pub.**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.027

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48684

**Unit Date** 1966

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.027 (Item)

**Language** English

**May 29, 1966 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: quadrennial exhibition**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.028

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48685

**Unit Date** 1966

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.028 (Item)

**Language** English

**September 7, 1989 article from the Los Angeles Time re: Telford's video store**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.029

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48686

**Unit Date** 1989

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.029 (Item)

**Language** English

**November 12, 1989 article from the Richmond Times-Dispatch re: Cheek Award**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.030

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48687

**Unit Date** 1989

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.030 (Item)

**Language** English

**Several smaller articles re: VMT from various pubs.**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.031

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48688

**Unit Date** undated

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.031 (Item)

**Language** English

**Several smaller articles re: VMT and death of John Koenig from various pubs.**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.032

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48689

**Unit Date** undated

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.032 (Item)

**Language** English

**Undated article from unknown pub. re: Janet Kennedy**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.033

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48690

**Unit Date** undated

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.033 (Item)

**Language** English

**Undated article from unknown pub. re: Telford as judge for Playwright's Award Contest in Columbia, S.C.**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.034

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48691

**Unit Date** undated

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.034 (Item)

**Language** English

**Undated article from unknown pub. Re: death of Nat King Cole**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.035

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48692

**Unit Date** undated

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.035 (Item)

**Language** English

**Undated article from unknown pub. Re: theater training**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.036

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48693

**Unit Date** undated

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.036 (Item)

**Language** English

**Undated article from unknown pub. Re VMFA**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.037

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48694

**Unit Date** undated

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 1

**Container** SC05.01.0.037 (Item)

**Language** English

**Folder 2**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48655

**Language** English

**Postcard to Mr. and Mrs. Telford from friends in Egypt**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.038

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48695

**Unit Date** 1962

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 2

**Container** SC05.01.0.038 (Item)

**Language** English

**Rafting Trip Invitation**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.039

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48696

**Unit Date** 1962

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 2

**Container** SC05.01.0.039 (Item)

**Language** English

**Program for "An American Pageant of the Arts"**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.040

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48697

**Unit Date** 1962

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 2

**Container** SC05.01.0.040 (Item)

**Language** English

**Receipt for Scott Telford Talent Fee**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.041

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48698

**Unit Date** 1963

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 2

**Container** SC05.01.0.041 (Item)

**Language** English

**Program for Richmond Symphony**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.042

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48699

**Unit Date** 1963

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 2

**Container** SC05.01.0.042 (Item)

**Language** English

**Invitation to the White House for Mr. and Mrs. Schaeffer**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.043

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48700

**Unit Date** 1963

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 2

**Container** SC05.01.0.043 (Item)

**Language** English

**Program for The Stuart Avenue Theater production of "The Visitors"**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.044

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48701

**Unit Date** 1963

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 2

**Container** SC05.01.0.044 (Item)

**Language** English

**Thank you letter for donation to John Koenig collections fund**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.045

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48702

**Unit Date** 1963

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 2

**Container** SC05.01.0.045 (Item)

**Language** English

**VMFA Fellows Dinner Program**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.046

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48703

**Unit Date** 1963

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 2

**Container** SC05.01.0.046 (Item)

**Language** English

**Invitation to Virginia Civil War Commission Stonewall Jackson Dinner**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.047

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48704

**Unit Date** undated

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 2

**Container** SC05.01.0.047 (Item)

**Language** English

**First Unitarian Church Program**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.048

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48705

**Unit Date** 1963

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 2

**Container** SC05.01.0.048 (Item)

**Language** English

**Invitation to Collectors Circle events**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.049

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48706

**Unit Date** 1963-1966

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 2

**Container** SC05.01.0.049 (Item)

**Language** English

**Program for VMT "School for Scandal"**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.050

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48707

**Unit Date** undated

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 2

**Container** SC05.01.0.050 (Item)

**Language** English

**Programs from the VMT presentation of "Fast/Forward"**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.051

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48708

**Unit Date** 1993

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 2

**Container** SC05.01.0.051 (Item)

**Language** English

**Letters from G. Mallory Freeman, Feb. 1990 - Aug. 2001**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.052

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48709

**Unit Date** 1990-2001

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 2

**Container** SC05.01.0.052 (Item)

**Language** English

**2008 Letter from Robert Telford to Courtney Yevich, Asst. Fine Arts Librarian, VMFA**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.053

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48710

**Unit Date** 2008

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 2

**Container** SC05.01.0.053 (Item)

**Language** English

**List of Theatre Virginia Musicals, 1959-1989**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.054

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48711

**Unit Date** 1959-1989

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 2

**Container** SC05.01.0.054 (Item)

**Language** English

**Biography of Robert Telford by Theatre Virginia News**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.055

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48712

**Unit Date** undated

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 2

**Container** SC05.01.0.055 (Item)

**Language** English

**Draft of Biography of Robert Telford (2 pages)**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.056

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48713

**Unit Date** undated

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 2

**Container** SC05.01.0.056 (Item)

**Language** English

**Draft of Biography of Robert Telford (1 page)**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.057

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48714

**Unit Date** undated

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 2

**Container** SC05.01.0.057 (Item)

**Language** English

**Actor headshots of Robert Telford (3)**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.058

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48715

**Unit Date** undated

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 2

**Container** SC05.01.0.058 (Item)

**Language** English

**Folder 3**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48656

**Language** English

**Correspondence with G. Mallory Freeman, 1990-1996**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.059

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48716

**Unit Date** 1990-1996

**mixed materials** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 3

**Container** SC05.01.0.059 (Item)

**Language** English

**Folder 4**

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48657

**Language** English

**Audiotape of Telford speaking about VMT**

**Unit ID** SC05.01.0.060

**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival\_objects/48717

**Unit Date** 1966

**Audio** SC-05 Box 1 (box)

**Container** Folder 4

**Container** SC05.01.0.060 (Item)

**Language** English