



Guide to the Richard Lischer papers, 1940-2007

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David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

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Summary

Collection Title:

Richard Lischer papers, 1940-2007

Creator:

Lischer, Richard

Source:

John Hope Franklin Research Center for African and African American History and Culture

Abstract:

Richard Lischer is a white ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the James T. and Alice Mead Cleland Professor Emeritus of Preaching at Duke Divinity School. This collection contains research and audiovisual materials related to the preparation for Lischer's book *The Preacher King: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Word that Moved America*. Included are recordings and transcripts of interviews and sermons, research materials such as photocopies of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s writings, scholarly journal articles, photographic materials and correspondence related to interviews. Acquired as part of the John Hope Franklin Research Center for African and African American History and Culture.

Extent:

2.5 Linear Feet (3 boxes)

179 Megabytes (Files extracted from 3 optical discs)

Language:

Materials in English.

Collection ID:

RL.13101

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1gb36>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Richard Lischer papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

This collection contains materials related to the preparation of Richard Lischer's book *The Preacher King: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Word that Moved America*. It consists primarily of audiovisual materials including interviews about Martin Luther King, Jr. and his work, recordings of preachers who influenced King's preaching, and sermons by King. Many include transcripts. Also included are additional transcripts of interviews and sermons, research materials such as photocopies of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s writings, scholarly journal articles, photographic materials and correspondence related to interviews.

Biographical/Historical

Richard Lischer is the James T. and Alice Mead Cleland Professor Emeritus of Preaching at Duke Divinity School. He was born in St. Louis, MO and married Tracy Kenyon in 1966. He graduated with a BA from Concordia Senior College in 1965, an MA in English from Washington University in 1967, a BD from Concordia Seminary in 1969 and a Ph.D from University of London, King's College in 1972. Richard and Tracy had two children, Sarah and Adam. Adam died in 2005 from cancer.

Lischer is an ordained minister in the Evangelical Luthern Church in America and served as pastor in churches in Illinois and Virginia from 1972-1979 before joining the Duke University Divinity School in 1979 where he taught homiletics and ministry. He has written or edited fifteen books and contributed chapters, articles and reviews to numerous publications. He has lectured on practical theology, ministry, religious autobiography, preaching and held distinguished lectureships at Yale and Princeton.

<https://divinity.duke.edu/faculty/richard-lischer> <https://www.richardlischer.org/>

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive
Duke University
Durham 27708
askRL@duke.edu
URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Access note. Some materials in this collection are electronic records that require special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

Access note. Some materials in this collection are fragile audiovisual/ photographic formats that may need to be reformatted before use. Contact Research Services for access.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the Rubenstein Library's Citations, Permissions, and Copyright guide.

Acquisition Information

The Richard Lischer papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in 2024.

Processing Information

Processed by Lisa Duncan, October 2024

Accessions described in this collection guide: 2024-0087

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Names and Subjects

- Sermons, American -- African American authors
- African American preaching
- Preaching -- United States
- Audiovisual materials
- Lischer, Richard

- King, Martin Luther, Jr., 1929-1968
- Abernathy, Ralph David, 1926-
- Taylor, Gardner C.
- King, Martin Luther, Sr., 1899-1984
- Franklin, C. L. (Clarence LaVaughn), 1915-1984
- Ray, Sandy F.
- John Hope Franklin Research Center for African and African American History and Culture

Collection Inventory

Research materials, 1940-2007

Scope and Contents

This series contains research materials for The Preacher King: Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Word that Moved America . Included are transcripts of interviews and sermons, photocopies of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s writings, scholarly journal articles, photographic materials and correspondence related to interviews.

Access Restrictions:

Access note. Some materials are electronic records that require special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

Correspondence, 1992-2007	Box 1
MLK essay (facsimile) and miscellaneous material, approximately 1940s-1990s	Box 1
Photographic materials, approximately 1960s-2004	Box 1
	Folder 1 > Optical-disc RL13101-OP-0001
	Folder 1 > Optical-disc RL13101-OP-0002
	Folder 1 > Optical-disc RL13101-OP-0003

Physical Description: 179 Megabytes
200 files extracted from 3 optical discs

Scope and Contents

Contains still image files.

Research materials, approximately 1950s-1980s	Box 1
Physical Description: 4 folders	
Sermon transcripts, approximately 1950s-1960s	Box 2
Physical Description: 3 folders	
Transcripts of interviews, 1987-1988	Box 2
Physical Description: 2 folders	
Scope and Contents	
Audio cassettes of these interviews can be found in the Audiovisual materials series, Interviews about Dr. King and his work subseries.	
Transcripts of speeches and mass meeting addresses, approximately 1950s-1960s	Box 2
Physical Description: 2 folders	

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Audiovisual materials, 1955-1988

Scope and Contents

This series contains interviews about Martin Luther King, Jr. and his work, recordings of preachers who influenced King's preaching and sermons by King. Many include transcripts that can be found in the Research materials series.

Access Restrictions:

Access note. Series contains fragile audiovisual/photographic formats that may need to be reformatted before use. Contact Research Services for access.

Interviews about Dr. King and his works, 1987-1988

Scope and Contents

Audio interviews about Martin Luther King, Jr. and his work. Transcripts of some of these interviews can be found in the research materials series.

Ralph David Abernathy, 1987 May 19

Scope and Contents

Abernathy was a friend of Martin Luther King, Jr., senior associate at Southern Christian Leadership Conference and pastor at West Hunter Street Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

Original audiocassette side A and B

Box 3 > Audio-cassette
RL13101-CS-0011

Shirley Showers Barnhart and Minnie
Showers, 1987 May 19
Scope and Contents

Shirley Showers Barnhart and mother, Minnie Showers, were parishioners at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA.

Original Audiocassette

Box 3 > Audio-cassette
RL13101-CS-0007

G. Murray Branch, 1988 March 07
Scope and Contents

Branch was predecessor and successor to Martin Luther King, Jr. as pastor of Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, Montgomery, AL. He was interviewed at Dexter Avenue.

Original audiocassette

Box 3 > Audio-cassette
RL13101-CS-0006

Robert Graetz, 1988 September 03
Scope and Contents

Graetz is pastor of Trinity Evangelical Luthern Church, Montgomery, AL. He was the only white pastor to join the Montgomery Boycott. This is a telephone interview.

Original audiocassette 1

Box 3 > Audio-cassette
RL13101-CS-0003

Original microcassette 2

Box 3 > Audio-cassette
RL13101-MCS-0001

Bernard Lee, 1987 July 23
Scope and Contents

Lee was a personal assistant and confidant to Martin Luther King, Jr, Washington, D.C.

Original audiocassette 1

Box 3 > Audio-cassette
RL13101-CS-0001

Original audiocassette 2

Box 3 > Audio-cassette
RL13101-CS-0002

Lillian Lewis, 1987 May 19

Scope and Contents

Lewis was a parishioner at Ebenezer Baptist Church and worked at Atlanta University.

Original audiocassette

Box 3 > Audio-cassette
RL13101-CS-0005

John Thomas Porter, 1988 March 07

Scope and Contents

Porter was a pastoral intern to Martin Luther King, Sr and Martin Luther King, Jr. and pastor at Sixth Ave. Baptist Church, Birmingham, AL. He was interviewed in the office of the Alabama State Board of Pardons and Paroles.

Original audiocassette

Box 3 > Audio-cassette
RL13101-CS-0004

Gardner C. Taylor, 1972 January 14

Scope and Contents

Rev. Dr. Gardner C Taylor, of Concord Baptist Church, Brooklyn NY, at ecumenical observance of birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., Jan 14 1972 in Boston area: "Rememberance of Martin". A recording of the complete service is held at the Farrell Library, Kansas State at Manhattan, KS, and probably elsewhere also. 38 minutes, Side A and part of Side B. Dissemination has been authorized (6/21/95) by Dr. Taylor.

Original audiocassette

Box 3 > Audio-cassette
RL13101-CS-0003

Gardner C. Taylor, 1988 February 05

Scope and Contents

Taylor was a preaching mentor and family friend and pastor at Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Original audiocassette

Box 3 > Audio-cassette
RL13101-CS-0012

Untitled, undated

Original microcassette

Box 3 > Audio-cassette
RL13101-MCS-0002

C.T. Vivian, 1987 May 20-21

Scope and Contents

Vivian was an inner-circle associate and director of SCLC Operations, Atlanta. Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Original audiocassette

Box 3 > Audio-cassette
RL13101-CS-0008

Wyatt Tee Walker, 1987 April 08
Scope and Contents

Walker was Chief-of-Staff to Martin Luther King, Jr., executive director of Southern Christian Leadership Conference and pastor at Canaan Baptist Church of Christ in NYC.

Original audiocassette

Box 3 > Audio-cassette
RL13101-CS-0009

Preachers who influenced King's preaching style, 1968-1984

Scope and Contents

Recordings of preachers who influenced King's preaching style. Transcripts of some of these recordings can be found in the research materials series.

Rev. C.L. Franklin "The Eagle Stirs her Nest"
Part I and II, undated

Original CD

Box 3 > Audio-cd
RL13101-CD-0003

Rev W.H. Borders "Search Me and Know My Heart" Wheat Street Baptist Church, 1984
August 19

Original audiocassette

Box 3 > Audio-cassette
RL13101-CS-0016

Original CD part one

Box 3 > Audio-cd
RL13101-CD-0005

Original CD part two

Box 3 > Audio-cd
RL13101-CD-0006

Rev. C.L. Franklin "The Eagle Stirs her Nest"
Jewel Records (commercial recording), 1973

Original audiocassette

Box 3 > Audio-cassette
RL13101-CS-0014

Rev. M.L. King Sr. "Pressing On" , 1975
November 02

Scope and Contents

Ebenezer Baptist Church Dr. Joseph L. Roberts, Jr., Pastor. Homecoming
Sunday 10:45 AM

Original audiocassette Box 3 > Audio-cassette
RL13101-CS-0013

Rev. M.L King Sr., Sermon: "What Shall we do
with Jesus Who is Called Christ?", 1974 May
Original audiocassette Box 3 > Audio-cassette
RL13101-CS-0015

Dr. Sandy F. Ray "Bridging the Breach", 1968
May 05
Original CD Box 3 > Audio-cd
RL13101-CD-0001

Dr. Sandy F. Ray, Side A: "Religion" without
Wrappings" (07/18/1971) Side B: Bridging the
Breach" (5/5/68), 1968, 1971
Original audiocassette Box 3 > Audio-cassette
RL13101-CS-0017

Dr. Sandy F. Ray "Religion without Wrapping",
1971 July 18
Original CD Box 3 > Audio-cd
RL13101-CD-0004

Sandy F. Ray MP3 data file, undated
Original CD Box 3 > Audio-cd
RL13101-CD-0002

Eulogist Gardner Taylor, The Service of
Triumph for Dr. Sandy F. Ray, 1979 April 16
Original CD Box 3 > Audio-cd
RL13101-CD-0007

Gardner Taylor "Another Look at the
Crucifixion" pt. 1 and 2, undated
Original CD Box 3 > Audio-cd
RL13101-CD-0008

Original CD Box 3 > Audio-cd
RL13101-CD-0009

**Martin Luther King, Jr.'s sermons, addresses and mass meeting speeches,
1955-1968**

Scope and Contents

Recordings of some of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s sermons, addresses and mass meeting speeches. Transcripts of some of these recordings can be found in the research materials series.

Montgomery Bus Boycott, 1st Mass Meeting,
Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Holt Street
Baptist Church, 1955 December 05

Scope and Contents

1. Intro 2. Rosa Parks story 3. We are Tired 4. Non Violence 5. If We Are Wrong 6. Unity 7. Why We Are Here

Original CD

Box 3 > Audio-cd
RL13101-CD-0011

MLK, Jr., Holt Street Baptist Church,
Montgomery, Ala, unedited, 1955 December
05

Original CD

Box 3 > Audio-cd
RL13101-CD-0013

Martin Luther King, Jr. "Loving Your Enemies",
1957 September 10

Original CD part A

Box 3 > Audio-cd
RL13101-CD-0036

Original CD part B

Box 3 > Audio-cd
RL13101-CD-0037

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rocky Mount,
North Carolina Voters and Improvement
League, March 1962, Revelation 21:5 "Facing
the Challenge of a New Age", 1962 March

Original CD

Box 3 > Audio-cd
RL13101-CD-0020

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Detroit, Michigan
"I have a Dream", 1963

Original CD

Box 3 > Audio-cd
RL13101-CD-0022

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Ebenezer Baptist
Church, Atlanta, Georgia "Lazarus and Divies",
1963 March 10

Original CD

Box 3 > Audio-cd
RL13101-CD-0038

Original CD 1-7 tracs	Box 3 > Audio-cd RL13101-CD-0039
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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Mass Meeting in Birmingham, Alabama", 1963 May 05 Original CD	Box 3 > Audio-cd RL13101-CD-0010
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Original CD	Box 3 > Audio-cd RL13101-CD-0021
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1. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mass Meeting Birmingham, Ala. (May 5, 1963) 2. Guidelines for a Constructive Church (June 5, 1960) Rev Martin Luther King, Jr. (15 minutes, 19 minutes), 1960-1963 Original CD	Box 3 > Audio-cd RL13101-CD-0012
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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ebenezer Baptist Church Atlanta, Georgia "Remember Who You Are", 1963 July 07 Original CD	Box 3 > Audio-cd RL13101-CD-0024
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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "I have a Dream" speech, Washington D.C., 1963 August 28 Original CD	Box 3 > Audio-cd RL13101-CD-0023
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Martin Luther King, Jr., Detroit, Michigan "I have a Dream", 1963 Original CD	Box 3 > Audio-cd RL13101-CD-0016
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Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. excerpts, 1963-1968 Scope and Contents 1. From Last speech the day before his death 04/03/68 2. Police brutality will backfire 3/21/65 3. Address to American Jewish Committee 5-20-65 4. Commitment to non-violence 10-10-65 5. Must establish priorities 3-28-68 6. Faith in American 1964 7. Entrance into the Civil Rights movement Sept 66 8. A Preacher leading his flock 2-4-68 9. I have a Dream 8-28-63.	
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Original CD	Box 3 > Audio-cd RL13101-CD-0018
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Martin Luther King, Jr., The Negro and the American Quest for Identity, 1964	
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Original CD	Box 3 > Audio-cd RL13101-CD-0015
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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Duke University Major Speaker Series "The Future of Integration", 1964 November 13 Original CD	Box 3 > Audio-cd RL13101-CD-0014
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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, 41 min, 44 sec, 1965 March 28 Original CD	Box 3 > Audio-cd RL13101-CD-0027
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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "How to Deal with Grief" MLKT-4, 1965 May 23 Original CD	Box 3 > Audio-cd RL13101-CD-0040
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Martin Luther King Jr. "A Personal Portrait" (comments on Vietnam), approximately 1965 Original VHS	Box 3 > Videotape RL13101-VHS-0001
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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "We Would See Jesus" Radio broadcast, Ebenezer Baptist, Atlanta, GA, 1967 May 07 Original CD	Box 3 > Audio-cd RL13101-CD-0026
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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., MLKT-48 "Great, But,â€¦", 1967 July 02 Original CD	Box 3 > Audio-cd RL13101-CD-0028
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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Mount Zion Church "A Knock at Midnight", approximately 1967-1968 Original CD	Box 3 > Audio-cd RL13101-CD-0032
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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with Ralph David Abernathy "The Poor People's Campaign Rally Address", 1968 March 19 Original CD	Box 3 > Audio-cd RL13101-CD-0017

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Central United
Methodist Church, Detroit, Michigan "The
Meaning of Hope", 1968 March
Original CD

Box 3 > Audio-cd
RL13101-CD-0030

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Washington
National Cathedral, 1968 March 31
Original CD

Box 3 > Audio-cd
RL13101-CD-0031

Original CD

Box 3 > Audio-cd
RL13101-CD-0019

Scope and Contents

48 min: 09 sec

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Remaining
Awake Through a Guest Revolution General
Conference of the AME Church in Cincinnati,
Ohio, 45 min 26 sec, undated
Original CD

Box 3 > Audio-cd
RL13101-CD-0025

A Vision in the Kitchen MLK, undated
Original CD

Box 3 > Audio-cd
RL13101-CD-0029

Drum Great But, undated
Original CD

Box 3 > Audio-cd
RL13101-CD-0033

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Drum Major
Instinct", undated
Original CD

Box 3 > Audio-cd
RL13101-CD-0034

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "The American
Dream", undated
Original CD, undated

Box 3 > Audio-cd
RL13101-CD-0035

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