Henry L. Bowden papers, 1925-1996

Emory University
Emory University Archives
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library
Atlanta, GA 30322
404-727-6887
rose.library@emory.edu

Descriptive Summary

Title: Henry L. Bowden papers, 1925-1996
Call Number: Series No. 5
Extent: 26.25 linear ft. (54 boxes) and 1 oversize paper folder (OP)
Abstract: The collection consists of the papers of Henry L. Bowden, lawyer of Atlanta, Ga., who served as chairman of the Board of Trustees and legal counsel for Emory University. The collection consists of primarily correspondence arranged in subject files from 1929-1987, the bulk of which spans 1950-1980. Papers document Bowden's tenure as chairman of the Board of Trustees and as University counsel, and relate to desegregation, increasing student activism, intellectual freedom and the "God is Dead" controversy, and University endowment campaigns, among other topics.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Special restrictions apply: Selected materials separated and closed to research in accordance with Emory University Archives access policy for records of the Board of Trustees and attorney/client records. Series 2 (University Counsel office files) entirely restricted in accordance Emory University Archives access policy for attorney client/records. Additionally, researchers must contact MARBL in advance to access audiovisual materials in this collection.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction
All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Related Materials in This Repository
Emory University Board of Trustees records (Series 39)

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Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Henry L. Bowden papers, Emory University Archives, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing
Processed by Michael Phillip Karl Hessel-Mial, August 2012.

Collection Description

Biographical Note
Henry Lumpkin Bowden was born in Atlanta, Ga., on July 23, 1910. Bowden received his bachelor's degree in 1932, and his law degree in 1934, both from Emory University. After founding his own practice, Bowden began serving as Emory University legal counsel in 1948, and became a member of the Board of Trustees in 1949. Bowden was elected chairman of the Board of Trustees in 1957 after the death of previous chair, Charles Howard Candler. Bowden's tenure as chairman was marked by multiple aggressive capital-development campaigns, and management of social issues on campus relating to integration and intellectual freedom, including the national "God is Dead" controversy of 1965-1966.

During his time on the Board as a member and as chairman, Bowden was involved with the selection the three University presidents: Sidney Walter Martin, Sanford S. Atwood, and James T. Laney. He also shared presidential duties as part of a three-person group, known as "The Troika," while searching for Martin's replacement, 1962-1963. When serving as legal counsel for the University, Bowden took steps to challenge the tax exemption status for racially segregated private schools in Georgia. In 1962 he argued and won Emory University vs. Nash, et al before the Georgia Supreme Court, extending this tax exemption to all universities and effectively allowing Emory to legally integrate in the next year. Bowden, along with President James T. Laney, was also instrumental in securing "The Gift," a donation of $105,000,000 in Coca-Cola stock from Robert W. Woodruff, George Woodruff, and the Emily and Ernest Woodruff Fund to the University, then the largest private donation to an institution of higher education.

Bowden was married to Ellen Fleming Bowden, and had three children: Henry Jr., Mary, and Anne. Bowden was also counsel for the City of Atlanta, served on the Board of Trustees of Clark and Wesleyan Colleges, as well as managing his private law practice, Lokey and Bowden, from 1937 to 1995. Bowden died in February 1997.

Scope and Content Note
The collection consists chiefly of correspondence of Henry L. Bowden, organized into subject files as used by Bowden. The files largely relate to the general operations of the Board of Trustees and its subcommittees, and to special projects or areas of concern including the Thomas Altizer "God is Dead" controversy, integration, campus unrest, and capital development. There is also some material related to Bowden's other professional commitments, including his involvement with professional organizations related to higher education administration. There is relatively little material from his time as legal counsel for the City of Atlanta or from his private practice.
Series 1, Emory University Board of Trustees materials, contains materials relating to meetings held by the Board of Trustees, subject files on matters taken up by the Board, and general correspondence detailing the Board's relationship with Emory University as a whole. The series is primarily correspondence, with some printed material included in particular correspondence files for personal reference. Notable contents include the Board's correspondence on public controversies, including the integration of the University in 1962, the Thomas Altizer affair (better known as the “God is Dead” scandal), and protests on the Emory campus. Likewise, the Board's goals for the growth of the University can be seen in files on capital development, general meeting files and files on University presidents. Correspondence describing potential or actual employees and donors have been removed and restricted in accordance with the Emory University Archives Access Policy for university records.

Series 2, University Counsel office files, contains subject files on various transactions, complaints and other matters, created during Bowden's employment as counsel for Emory University, including the case file on Emory vs. Nash, et al. These materials are closed to researchers in accordance with Emory University Archives access policy for attorney/client records until 2077.

Series 3, Other professional work and personal papers, contains materials documenting Henry Bowden's membership in various professional organizations and commissions. Almost half of the series is comprised of materials from the President's Commission on Pension Policy, authorized by President Jimmy Carter in 1978. Though statements and correspondence by Bowden are present, the bulk of these materials concern the workings of the commission as a whole, including working papers, statements and testimony by various interest groups, and commission publications. Additional organizations represented in this series include the National Association of College and University Attorneys, of which Bowden was an executive board member, and the Commission on Academic Tenure. Correspondence often includes Bowden's thoughts related to administration, finances, and fundraising of universities. Personal papers include correspondence and printed material relating to a wide variety of awards won for his service to Emory University and Atlanta, Ga., as well as the texts of various speeches delivered over the course of Bowden's career.

Arrangement Note
Organized into three series: (1) Emory University Board of Trustees materials, (2) University Counsel office files and (3) Other professional and personal papers.

Files remain largely in the order in which they were received.
Description of Series

Series 1: Emory University Board of Trustees materials, 1925-1987
  Subseries 1.1: Board of Trustees meeting correspondence, 1953-1980
  Subseries 1.2: Subject files, 1925-1980
  Subseries 1.3: General correspondence, 1956-1987
Series 2: University counsel office files, 1933-1977
Series 3: Other professional work and personal papers, 1928-1996
Series 1
Emory University Board of Trustees materials, 1925-1987
Boxes 1-15

Scope and Content Note
The series contains materials relating to meetings held by the Board of Trustees, subject files on matters taken up by the Board, and general correspondence detailing the Board's relationship with Emory University as a whole. The series is primarily correspondence, with some printed material included in particular correspondence files for personal reference. Notable contents include the Board's correspondence on public controversies, including the integration of the University in 1962, the Thomas Altizer affair (better known as the "God is Dead" scandal), and protests on the Emory campus. Likewise, the Board's goals for the growth of the University can be seen in files on capital development, general meeting files and files on University presidents. Correspondence describing potential or actual employees and donors have been removed and restricted in accordance with the Emory University Archives Access Policy for university records.

Arrangement Note
Organized into three subseries: (1.1) Board of Trustees meeting correspondence, (1.2) Subject files, and (1.3) General correspondence.
Subseries 1.1
Board of Trustees meeting correspondence, 1953-1980
Boxes 1-5

Scope and Content Note
Subseries consists of correspondence and associated materials related to regular meetings of the Board of Trustees and its subcommittees.

Arrangement Note
Arranged in alphabetical order.

Restrictions on Access
Special restrictions apply: Selected materials have been separated and closed to research in accordance with Emory University Archives access policy for records of the Board of Trustees.

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<td>Capital Development Planning Committee, 1968 May-1969</td>
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Subject files, 1925-1980
Boxes 5-11

Scope and Content Note
The subseries consists of subject files generated in response to a variety of issues, including the Thomas Altizer "God is Dead" affair and the integration of the University.

Arrangement Note
Arranged in alphabetical order by subject.

Restrictions on Access
Special restrictions apply: Selected materials separated and closed to research in accordance with Emory University Archives access policy for records of the Board of trustees, personnel records, student records, and attorney/client records.

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<td>Altizer, Thomas, statement by Henry L. Bowden, 1965</td>
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<td>Altizer, Thomas, statement by William R. Cannon, 1965</td>
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<td>Alumni Memorial Building renovation, 1970</td>
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<td>Applicant recommendations [RESTRICTED until 2053]</td>
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<td>Board of Trustees, estate planning program, 1975</td>
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<td>Board of Trustees, group insurance policy, December 1964</td>
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<td>Board of Trustees, Henry L. Bowden's chairmanship, July 1960-1974 [selected material removed and restricted until 2038]</td>
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<td>Board of Trustees, Key Laymen's Conference, November 1967</td>
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<td>Board of Trustees, membership lists, 1964-1975</td>
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<td>Board of Trustees policy on student demonstrations, November 1970-June 1971</td>
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<td>Board of Trustees policy on student demonstrations, 1970 May-July</td>
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<td>Board of Trustees resolution in honor of Henry Bowden, 1988 [resolution names the history building Henry L. Bowden Hall]</td>
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<td>Budget, 1970-1975 [RESTRICTED until 2050]</td>
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<td>Budget, 1966-1969 [RESTRICTED until 2044]</td>
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9 8 Emory University portfolio of investments, 1968-1973 [RESTRICTED until 2048]
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9 12 Faculty grievance procedures, 1976-1977 [2 of 3] [RESTRICTED until 2052]
9 13 Faculty grievance procedures, 1976-1977 [3 of 3] [RESTRICTED until 2052]
9 14 Faculty representatives to the Board of Trustees, 1969
9 15 Fraternities at Emory University, Guidebook for Fraternities, 1962
9 16 Georgia Educational Facilities Authority Act, 1978
9 17 Guilford College, 1976
9 18 Henry L. Bowden scholarship, 1979-1980
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10 2 Insurance, 1953-1964 [RESTRICTED until 2039]
10 3 Insurance, 1952 [RESTRICTED until 2027]
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10 5 Integration of Emory University, 1961 March-December [selected material removed and restricted until 2036]
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10 13 Laney, James T., University Presidential inauguration, 1978
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**Boxes 12-15**

**Arrangement Note**  
Arranged in reverse chronological order.

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<td>1975 September-December [selected material removed and restricted until 2050, 2075]</td>
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<td>1964-1967 [selected material removed and restricted until 2042]</td>
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Series 2  
University counsel office files, 1933-1977  
Boxes 16-32

Scope and Content Note
The series contains subject files on various transactions, complaints and other matters, created during Bowden's employment as counsel for Emory University, including the case file for Emory vs. Nash, et al, which effectively integrated the University.

Arrangement Note
Arrangement maintains the creator's original order as indicated by file numbers. Unnumbered files have been placed at the end of the series.

Restrictions on Access
Special restrictions apply: All materials in Series 2 are closed to research until 2077 in accordance with Emory University Archives access policy for attorney/client records.
Series 3  
Other professional work and personal papers, 1928-1996  
Boxes 33-54

Scope and Content Note  
The series contains materials documenting Henry L. Bowden's membership in various professional organizations and commissions. Almost half of the series is comprised of materials from the President's Commission on Pension Policy, authorized by President Jimmy Carter in 1978. Though statements and correspondence by Bowden are present, the bulk of these materials concern the workings of the commission as a whole, including working papers, statements and testimony by various interest groups, and commission publications. Additional organizations represented in this series include the National Association of College and University Attorneys, of which Bowden was an executive board member, and the Commission on Academic Tenure. Correspondence often includes Bowden's thoughts related to administration, finances, and fundraising of universities. Personal papers include correspondence and printed material relating to a wide variety of awards won for his service to Emory University and Atlanta, Georgia, as well as the texts of various speeches delivered over the course of Bowden's career.

Arrangement Note  
Arranged in alphabetical order by organization name. Organizations with three or fewer folders are included under the heading, "Other organizations," with personal materials under the heading, "Personal papers."

Restrictions on Access  
Special restrictions apply: Researchers must contact MARBL in advance to access audiovisual materials in this series.

American Association of University Professors, Commission on Academic Tenure

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