

**College of the Holy Cross  
Archives and Special Collections  
Collection Inventory**

Accession Number: **SC2000-62**

Collection Name (Title): **Williams, Rev. Joseph J., S.J. Papers**

Dates of Material:

Size of Collection: **9 Boxes: 1 Volume**

Arrangement:

Restrictions:

Related Material: See the Williams Ethnological Collection at Boston College

Preferred Citation:

Processed on:

**Biography/History:**

Reverend Joseph J. Williams, S.J. (1875 – 1940) was born December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1875 in Boston, Massachusetts. After one year at Boston College, Rev. Williams joined the Society of Jesus at Fredrick, Maryland in 1893 and was ordained in 1907. His interest in anthropology was sparked through missionary work in Jamaica. He researched Jamaican and African culture and wrote many books on the topics of African religious roots. He also established an ethnological library containing an African collection which was considered the best in the western Hemisphere. In 1932, he lectured graduate students at Boston College and founded its Anthropology Department. Rev. Williams died in the Shadowbrook novitiate in 1940.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The collection contains correspondence and research completed by Rev. Williams. Also included are books written by Rev. Williams and a scrapbook documenting the publicity of his work *Hebrewisms of West Africa*.

## **Box and Folder List:**

Box 1: Biographical Information, Correspondence, 1925-1932

Folder 1: Biographical and General Information, 1937-1991

Folder 2: Miscellaneous News Clippings, 1934-1936; Undated

Folder 3-10: Correspondence, Undated: 1925-1932

Box 2: Correspondence

Folder 1-7: Correspondence, 1933-1939

Box 3: Native American Research In Maine

Folder 1: Research and Copies of Documents, c.1600s-1930s

Folder 2: Original Research Material, c.1700s-1800s

Folder 3: Notebooks of Passamaquoddy History (3), c.1906

Folder 4: Photographs of Native Americans, c.1920s-1930s

Folder 5: Correspondence Regarding Native American Research, 1928-1933;  
undated

Folder 6: Articles about Native Americans in Maine, 1897; 1976; undated

Folder 7: Newspaper Clippings, 1931-1932; undated

Folder 8: Later Correspondence Regarding Williams' Research of Native  
Americans, 1964; 1984

Box 4: Hebrewisms of West Africa, The "Black Irish" Of Jamaica, Voodooos And  
Obeahs, And Psychic Phenomena Of Jamaica

Folder 1: Book Reviews: Hebrewisms of West Africa, 1930-1933

Folder 2: Book Reviews: The "Black Irish" of Jamaica, 1932-1933; undated

Folder 3-4: Voodooos and Obeahs Manuscript, c.1932

Folder 5: Definition of "Obeah" by Joseph J. Williams, undated

Folder 6: Voodooos and Obeahs, Reviews and Advertisements, c.1933

Folder 7: Book Reviews: Psychic Phenomena of Jamaica, 1934-1935; undated

Folder 8: Newspaper Clippings Regarding Williams' Research in Jamaica, 1934;  
undated

Box 5: Religion And The Primitive Man In Africa Research

Folder 1-7: Questionnaire Responses (Originals), MSS. 2001-2117

Folder 8-9: Questionnaire Responses (Typed Copies), MSS. 2001-2117

Box 6: Miscellaneous Religion And The Primitive Man In Africa Research Material

Folder 1: Miscellaneous Questionnaire Responses, 1932; 1934; undated

Folder 2: Lists of Contacts, Miscellaneous Research Material, 1933; undated

Folder 3: Blank Questionnaires, undated

Folder 4: Copy of "Primitive Man" published by Catholic Anthropological  
Conference, 1936

Folder 5: Copy 1 of Puissances Occultes en Territoire Kassene by Pere C. Gagnon, undated

Folder 6: Copy 2 of Puissances Occultes en Territoire Kassene by Pere C. Gagnon (abridged?), undated

Box 7: Jamaica Ananacy Stories Mss. 1-700

Folder 1-7: MSS. 1-700

Box 8: Jamaica Ananacy Stories Mss. 701-1371

Folder 1-6: MSS. 701-1371

Box 9: Card Index Of Manuscripts In The Williams Collection

Volume 1: Scrapbook: Publicity For Hebrewisms Of West Africa, 1930