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 1st, 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, Voodoos 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: Voodoos and Obeahs Manuscript, c.1932
   Folder 5: Definition of “Obeah” by Joseph J. Williams, undated
   Folder 6: Voodoos 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