


2010

O. C. Williams Records

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Guide to the O. C. Williams Records

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Collection number: MSS-2010-06-03



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Processed by:

Robert Donahue

Date Completed:

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Encoded by:

Robert Donahue

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Descriptive Summary

Title: O. C. Williams Records

Dates: 1887-1992

Bulk Dates: 1946-1974

Collection number: MSS-2010-06-03

Creator: Clinton, Otho Williams (1908-1997)

Collection Size: 13 boxes, 15.8 linear feet

Repository: San José State University. Library.

San José, California 95192-0028

Abstract: The O. C. Williams Records, 1887-1992 (bulk 1946-1974), document Dr. Williams' tenure at San Jose State College, as well as his professional career as a poet. The records consist of Humanities Department records, index card files, class notes, correspondence, literary research notes, microfilm records of the Defoe's *Tour thro' the Whole Island of Great Britain*, and Williams' original poetry. The records are arranged into three series: Series I: Humanities Department Records, 1946-1992 (bulk 1946-1959); Series II: Kappa Alpha and Gamma Delta Fraternity Organizational Records, 1946-1959; and Series III: O. C. Williams Research Files, 1887-1979 (bulk 1946-1974).

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

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Project Information

This finding aid was created as part of the Survey and Cataloging Project, a two-year San José State University Library grant project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The project began in 2008. The Project Director is Danelle Moon. The Project Archivist is Erin Louthen.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Robert Donahue. Finding aid EAD encoded by Robert Donahue. Reviewed by Danelle Moon and Erin Louthen.

Biographical History

Dr. Otho Clinton (O.C.) Williams, Professor Emeritus of English and Humanities, was born in Forth Worth, Texas in 1908. He graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in 1930 with a B.A. in English, and immediately attended the University of Southern California (USC) for his secondary credential and master's degree, both of which he received in 1935. Upon graduation, he attended the University of California, Berkeley (UCB) for his doctorate. Williams was hired by Reed College in Portland, Oregon after completing all but his doctoral dissertation, but was drafted and joined the Air Force's pre-meteorological training program. He later spent two and a half years in the Navy as an enlisted man and a classification specialist. Upon being discharged from the Navy, he returned to his job at Reed College.

In 1946, Williams was appointed professor at San Jose State College, where he taught English and finished his doctoral work at U.C. Berkeley in 1950. Williams was one of the founders and first coordinators of San Jose State College's Humanities Program. He also published two volumes of poetry, *This Little Room and Other Poems, 1945-1975*, and *Recognition: Poems, 1975-1977*. Williams was named Chairman of the Humanities Department when the program gained departmental status in 1964, and he served as the chair for ten years. He retired from San Jose State College in 1974.

Bibliography

Campus Digest vol. 9, no. 6 (1978).

Melendy, H. Brett. *Otho Clinton Williams, Emeritus Professor of English and Humanities*. Oral history transcript. San José State University, 1985.

Scope and Content of Collection

The O. C. Williams Records, 1887-1992 (bulk 1946-1974), document Dr. Williams' tenure at San José State College, as well as his professional career as a poet. The records consist of Humanities Department records, index card files, class notes, correspondence, literary research notes, microfilm records of Daniel Defoe's *Tour thro' the Whole Island of Great Britain*, and Williams' original poetry.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into three series: Series I: Humanities Department Records, 1946-1992 (bulk 1946-1959); Series II: Kappa Alpha and Gamma Delta Fraternity Organizational Records, 1946-1959; and Series III: O. C. Williams Research Files, 1887-1979 (bulk 1946-1974).

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Williams, Clinton

San José State University -- Humanities Dept. -- History

San José State University -- History

San Jose State Normal School -- History

San Jose State Teachers College -- History

San Jose State College -- History

California State University, San Jose -- History

Kappa Alpha Order -- History

Gamma Delta Fraternity -- History

Series I: **Humanities Department Records 1946-1992 (bulk 1946-1959)**

Physical Description: 3 boxes

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series consists of Dr. O.C. Williams' administrative and faculty records. The series includes convocation notes, Emeritus Faculty Association files, Humanities Department records such as essays and other work produced by Williams' colleagues, and a framed certificate of appreciation.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by date range.

Box 1 **Convocation, Correspondence, Faculty-Related Material 1946-1990**

Box 2 **Emeritus Faculty Association, Correspondence 1950-1992**

Box 3 **Certificate of Appreciation (framed) 1955**

Series II: **Kappa Alpha and Gamma Delta Fraternal Organization Records 1946-1959**

Physical Description: 2 boxes

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series consists of administrative records retained by Dr. O.C. Williams for the Kappa Alpha and Gamma Delta fraternal organizations. The series includes financial records such as receipts and travel expenses, along with administrative files such as fraternity meeting minutes and records of special events such as the Kappa Alpha Dixie Ball.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by date range.

Box 4 **Kappa Alpha Fraternity Records 1946-1959**

Box 5 **Gamma Delta Fraternity Records 1946-1959**

Series III: **O. C. Williams Research Files 1887-1979 (bulk 1946-1974)**

Physical Description: 8 boxes

Series Scope and Content Summary

This series consists of Dr. O.C. Williams' personal and professional records. The series includes Williams' poetry, notes on poetry, collections of poetry and books, literary analysis, class notes, microfilm records of Daniel Defoe's *Tour thro' the Whole Island of Great Britain*, and research notes.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by date range.

Box 6 **Index Card Files, Defoe's Tour (microfilm) undated**

Box 7 **Poetry Books, Literary Guides 1887-1978**

Box 8 **Poetry Books, Papers Authored by Williams 1930-1979**

Box 9 **Student Papers, Literary Papers 1931-1970**

Box 10 **Class Notes, Original Poetry 1932-1951**

Box 11 **Research Notes, Defoe Articles 1938-1951**

Box 12 **Published Literary Analysis 1949-1965**

Box 13 **Research Notes, Class Papers, Personal Poetry 1950-1979**
