



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Harry A. Williamson papers : additions

1881-1962

Sc MG 516

Summary

Creator: Williamson, Harry A. (Harry Albro), 1875-1965

Title: Harry A. Williamson papers : additions

Date: 1881-1962

Size: 2.81 linear feet (6 boxes, 5 reels)

Source: Gift of Harry A. Williamson, ca. 1950-1959.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: Harry A. Williamson, a member of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York, was a prolific writer on the subject of Freemasonry. The Harry A. Williamson papers : additions consist of writings, reports, souvenir journals, newsletters, and court depositions.

Conditions Governing Use: Researchers must use microfilm of "Chips from the Quarry", Sc Micro R-1295, Jean Blackwell Hutson Research and Reference Division.

Preferred citation: [Item], Harry A. Williamson papers : additions, Sc MG 516, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Accessioned by Diana Lachatanere, December 1993.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs.

Related Materials:

Harry A. Williamson papers, Sc Micro R-3984, Jean Blackwell Hutson Research and Reference Division

Creator History

Harry A. Williamson joined the brotherhood of Freemasonry in 1904. He became a student of Masonry and its literature, and embarked on an intensive search for information which would document the "legitimacy" and "subsequent progress" of African Americans in Freemasonry. As a member of the Grand Lodge of New York (Prince Hall), Williamson served as deputy Grandmaster, Grand Lecturer, Grand Historian, and Grand Secretary. He was a prolific writer on the subject of Freemasonry.

Scope and Content Note

The Harry A. Williamson papers : additions consist of writings, reports, souvenir journals, newsletters, and court depositions relating to Prince Hall Masonry, primarily in New York State and New Jersey. A significant portion of the collection is comprised of Williamson's writings about inauthentic lodges, literature about Prince Hall Masonry specifically, and Black masonry generally. There is also a manuscript entitled "Chips from the Quarries" by Williamson comprised of short papers containing information and personal opinions about various topics related to freemasonry. This extensive work consists of nearly 9000 pages.

The collection also includes biographical sketches by other freemasons such as Lewis Hayden, Sol C. Johnson, and Arthur A. Schomburg. Legal papers include depositions concerning a controversy surrounding the Carthaginian Lodge No. 47 in Brooklyn. There are programs and a scrapbook of news clippings about the Order of the Eastern Star (the women's association), news clippings and other printed matter pertaining to the 144 Street Temple, and a draft for a revised constitution of the Prince Hall Lodge. A scrapbook about the activities of officer Harold van Buren Voorhis, consisting primarily of printed material, also forms part of the collection.

Personal papers include an inventory of items in the "Williamson Masonic Collection" as well as information about Williamson's wife, Blanche Williamson.

Arrangement: Arranged into two series: I. Personal and II. Writing.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American freemasonry -- New York (State) -- New York
African American freemasons -- New York (State) -- New York
African American women -- New York (State) -- New York -- Societies and clubs
African Americans -- Societies, etc
Authors, Black

Names

Schomburg, Arthur Alfonso, 1874-1938
Voorhis, Harold Van Buren, 1894-1983
Williamson, Harry A. (Harry Albro), 1875-1965
Freemasons. Prince Hall Grand Lodge (N.Y.)
Order of the Eastern Star

Container List

Personal

- b. 1 f. 1-2 List of Items in the Masonic Collection of Harry A. Williamson
- b. 1 f. 3-4 Williamson, Blanche C
- b. 1 f. 5 Correspondence

Writing

By Williamson

- b. 1 f. 6 "Looking Backward: Masonic Memoirs"
The Prince Hall Masons in Literature
- b. 1 f. 8 Vol. I
- b. 1 f. 9 Vol. II
The Negro Mason in Literature
- b. 1 f. 10 Vol. I
- b. 1 f. 11 Vol. II
An Index to the Literature about Negro Masonry
- b. 1 f. 12 Part I
- b. 1 f. 13 Part II
Prince Hall Masonry in New York State
- b. 1 f. 14 Vol. I
- b. 2 f. 1 Vol. II
- b. 2 f. 2 Vol. III
- b. 2 f. 3 Vol. IV
- b. 2 f. 4 Vol. V
- b. 2 f. 5 Vol. VI

Other authors

- b. 2 f. 6 Hopkins, Pauline. "Lewis Hayden"
- b. 2 f. 7 Jones, John G
- b. 2 f. 8 Knights Templar, "Scottish Rite"

Legal papers

- b. 2 f. 9 Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F.& A.M., New York vs. the Supreme Council of the United States of the Sovereign Grand Inspectors General 1960
- b. 2 f. 10 Prince Hall Grand Lodge vs. Bogus Masonic Body, Brooklyn, NY 1962
- b. 2 f. 11 Reports of Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New Jersey
- b. 2 f. 12 Printed matter

"Chips from the Quarries" by Williamson

- r. 1 Indices
- r. 2 Vol. 1-11
- r. 3 Vol. 12-26
- r. 4 Vol. 27-41
- r. 5 Vol. 42-53

Bound volumes

Writing (cont.)

Bound volumes (cont.)

- b. 11 *From the Record, vols. I-III*
- b. 12 *Freemasons. New York State. Proceedings*
- b. 12 *The 144th Street Temple*
- b. 12 *A Brief History of Negro Masonry*
- b. 13 *A Chronological History of Prince Hall Masonry*
- b. 13 *Prince Hall Masonry in New York State by Williamson*
- b. 13 *The Various Activities of Harold van Buren Voorhis, compiled by Williamson*
- b. 14 *Draft for Revised Constitution*
- b. 14 *Order of Eastern Stars, vol. I*
- b. 14 *Baker. Masonic Notes*