

John J. Burns Library
Boston College
140 Commonwealth Avenue
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Williams Ethnological Collection
1508-1937, undated (bulk 1770-1860 and 1931-1932)

MS2009-30

Updated: 2009 December 22

COLLECTION OVERVIEW

AUTHOR: Williams, Joseph J. (Joseph John), 1875-1940

SOURCE: Unknown, before 1986

COLLECTION #: MS1986-145

ACCESSION DATE: 1986 January 1

SOURCE: Unknown (probably Society of Jesus, New England Province), before 1986

ACCESSION #: MS2009-30

ACCESSION DATE: 2009 December 22

QUANTITY: 14 linear feet (31 boxes)

LOCATION: Level 2, Caribbeana

PROCESSED BY: Jillaire McMillan, July 2000; updated by Amy Braitsch, Fall 2009

LANGUAGE(S): English, Latin, French, German, Portuguese, Spanish

RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS: Collection is open for research. Fragile original manuscripts and typescripts of Anancy (Anansi) stories are available only on microfilm.

COPYRIGHT RESTRICTIONS: Though the copyright interests have not been transferred to Boston College, most of the items in the collection are in the public domain. For further information, see the section on copyright in the Burns Library's Rules for the Reading Room.

ABSTRACT: This collection compiled by Fr. Williams during his missionary and academic career primarily documents variations of the Jamaican Anancy (Anansi) folktale. Other materials pertain to Jamaica, other Caribbean islands, and/or Africa. These materials include: writings about people, culture, and language; legal documents (e.g. wills, indenture agreements, etc.); government documents and correspondence between London and the British colonial government in Jamaica; maps; lithographs, engravings, and woodcuts.

PREFERRED CITATION: Identification of item, Box number, Folder number, Williams Ethnological Collection, MS1986-145, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.

RELATED COLLECTIONS: Books acquired as part of the collection are separately cataloged. These can be found by using the Local Collection Name "Williams" in the Boston College Libraries catalog, Quest.

PROCESSING NOTES: Due to reprocessing the collection for microfilming, box numbers have changed. There are no boxes with the numbers 16 or 17.

This collection and the associated books have been known as the Nicholas M. Williams Memorial Ethnological Collection. Joseph J. Williams, SJ named the collection in memory of his father. Since Fr. Williams collected the material himself and his father did not, we have renamed the collection simply the Williams Ethnological Collection.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Joseph J. Williams was born in Boston, Massachusetts on December 1, 1875, son of Nicholas and Mary Jane (O'Connor) Williams. Williams was educated at home by his mother, a former Boston schoolteacher, and later at Boston College High School.

In 1893 he entered the Society of Jesus at Frederick, Maryland. He continued his education in philosophy, science, and theology at Boston College and Woodstock College, earning a B.A. in 1901, M.A. in 1903, and Ph.D. in 1909. Ill health periodically interrupted his studies. Williams taught at the College of St. Francis Xavier, Loyola School, and St. Andrew-on-Hudson, all in New York. Williams was ordained to the priesthood on June 27, 1907, at Woodstock College in Maryland.

From 1912 to 1917 Williams served as a missionary in Jamaica. These five years laid the foundation for his studies in anthropology. Having an interest in the customs and superstitions of the native people, Williams gathered archaeological and anthropological data during his stay on the island.

Between 1918 and 1926 Williams served as treasurer at Woodstock, Holy Cross College, the novitiates at Yonkers and St. Andrew-on-Hudson, and at Keyser Island. He was a member of the New England Province Mission Band after the province's establishment in 1927, and was appointed its treasurer and Revisor arc. Prov. et Inspect. Admin. temp. in 1929.

Williams began lecturing in Boston College's graduate school in 1932 and became widely known for his anthropological lectures. He helped establish the department of anthropology at Boston College. He also established an ethnological library containing Africana and Caribbeana; the library is named in honor of his father, Nicholas M. Williams.

In the mid-1930s, following an attack of paralysis of the legs, Williams went to Jamaica once again, hoping that the warm climate might help and welcoming the opportunity for further research. However, his condition worsened and he returned to Boston to seek better medical care. Diagnosed with diabetes and chronic infantile paralysis, Williams asked to be sent to the novitiate at Shadowbrook in the Berkshires, where he felt he would be less of a burden to the Society. Williams died at Shadowbrook on October 28, 1940 after suffering a severe heart attack.

Among Williams' writings are religious books *Keep the Gate* (1923) and *Yearning for God* (1924), but he is better known for his anthropological writings about African and Caribbean people. These books include *Whisperings of the Caribbean* (1925), *Whence the "Black Irish" of Jamaica* (1932), *Psychic Phenomena in Jamaica* (1935), *Voodoos and Obeahs* (1932), and *Africa's God* (1937).

Sources:

Dictionary of American Catholic Biography by John J. Delaney
"Father Joseph J. Williams, 1875-1940," *Woodstock Letters*, vol. 69 (1940)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:

The Williams Ethnological Collection (also called the Nicholas M. Williams Ethnological Collection, in honor of the collector's father) compiled by Fr. Williams during his missionary and academic career primarily documents variations of the Jamaican Anancy (Anansi) folktale. Other materials pertain to Jamaica, other Caribbean islands, and/or Africa. These materials include: writings about people, culture, and language; legal documents (e.g. wills, indenture agreements, etc.); government documents and correspondence between London and the British colonial government in Jamaica; maps; lithographs, engravings, and woodcuts.

The collection is divided into six series.

SERIES LIST:

I: *Diary Of A Retreat* By Nicholas M. Williams

II: Works By Joseph J. Williams, SJ

III: Anancy Stories Collected By Joseph J. Williams, SJ

IV: Manuscripts Collected by Joseph J. Williams, SJ

V: Maps Collected by Joseph J. Williams, SJ

VI: Lithographs, Engravings, And Woodcuts Collected by Joseph J. Williams, SJ

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS:

SERIES I: *Diary Of A Retreat* By Nicholas M. Williams, S.J.

"*Diary of a Retreat*" contains the one-volume diary of Nicholas M. Williams, S.J. that he recorded during a thirty-day spiritual retreat in Frederick, Maryland in 1860 when he was a Jesuit Novice.

SERIES II: Works By Rev. Joseph J. Williams, S.J.

"Works by Rev. Joseph J. Williams, S.J." consists of the manuscripts of articles, books, and papers written by Williams. The subject of these writings is the African and Jamaican peoples, their cultures, and languages. The series is arranged alphabetically.

SERIES III: Anancy Stories Collected By Joseph J. Williams

These nearly 5,000 hand-written folk stories were submitted by Jamaican schoolchildren to a contest held by Williams in 1931. The folktales about the clever spider, Anancy, were recorded from the memories of the children and their elders. Some manuscripts include illustrations, musical scores, and lyrics. The manuscript versions are interfiled with their typescript versions. Of note is the index of contributing schools with the manuscript numbers they wrote found in the first volume of typescripts and copies of two letters sent by Williams to educators in Jamaica regarding his solicitation of the Anancy stories. This series has been microfilmed; the microfilm is the use copy.

SERIES IV: Manuscripts Collected By Joseph J. Williams

"Manuscripts" contains book manuscripts and other original documents collected by Williams. The manuscripts pertain mainly to Jamaica, while a few relate to Africa. A majority of the documents are in English, but a several are in French, and one is written in Portuguese. There are wills, indenture agreements, and other legal documents dated between 1771 and 1846. There are also government documents and correspondence between London and the British colonial government in Jamaica.

SERIES V: Maps Collected By Williams

"Maps" contains both colored and black and white maps of Africa, Jamaica, and other Caribbean islands. The maps are mainly in English, but some are in Latin, French, Spanish, German, and Portuguese. Oversized maps are located in box 32. The series is arranged alphabetically.

SERIES VI: Lithographs, Engravings, And Woodcuts Collected By Williams

"Lithographs, Engravings, and Woodcuts" contains pictures of locations in Jamaica and Africa. The items are in both color and black and white. The series is arranged alphabetically.

INVENTORY AND CONTAINER LIST:

Box Folder: Title, Date:

Series I: *Diary of a Retreat*

1 1 Williams, Nicholas M. *Diary of a Retreat*, 1860

Series II: Works by Rev. Joseph J. Williams, S.J.

2 1 "The Abbots of Jamaica", undated
3 1-8 *Africa's God: Religion and the Primitive in Negroland*, undated
2 2 "Anancy Stories (Jamaica Folk Lore)", undated
2 3 "Ashanti Cultural Influence in Jamaica", 1934
2 4 "Bush Funerals", undated
2 5 "Hurricanes", undated
2 6 "The Idea of God Among the Ashanti" (paper read), 1937
2 7 "Marooned", undated
2 8-10 *The Maroons of Jamaica*, undated
2 11 "The Marquis of Jamaica", 1925
2 12 "Psychic Phenomena in Jamaica", 1934
2 13-17 *Psychic Phenomena of Jamaica*, undated
2 18 "Reflections of a Missionary: Buccaneers", undated
2 19 "Reflections of a Missionary: Perez the Pioneer", undated

Series III: Anancy Stories

4 1A Anancy Stories - School index
4 1A Request for Musical Scores and Illustrations, 1931 January 22
4 1A Results of Anancy Story Competition, 1931 May 10
4 1-32 Anancy Stories 1-421
5 1-20 Anancy Stories 422-912
6 1-12 Anancy Stories 913-1272
7 1-14 Anancy Stories 1273-1656
8 1-17 Anancy Stories 1657-2075
9 1-20 Anancy Stories 2076-2486
10 1-16 Anancy Stories 2487-2919
11 1-14 Anancy Stories 2920-3267
12 1-13 Anancy Stories 3268-3700
13 1-13 Anancy Stories 3701-4200
14 1-17 Anancy Stories 4201-4505
15 1-25 Anancy Stories 4506-4914

Series IV: Manuscripts Collected by Joseph J. Williams

19 1 Abercromby, Ralph, 1796
19 2 Abolition of Slave Trade broadside, 1788
19 3 Abolition of Slave Trade broadside, 1787
19 4 Balcarres, Alexander -- letter, 1795
19 5 Baptismal Register from St. Mary's, Kingstown (sic), 1815
19 6 Barros, Alonzo -- manuscript report on how ships were seized, 1686

- 22 1 Beaufoy, Harry M. S. *Notes on Africa*, undated
- 23 1 Beaufoy, Harry M. S. *Notes on Africa*, transcript, undated
- 19 7-10 Beckford, William--Estate litigation papers, 1800
- 19 11 Beckford, William--misc. engravings and papers, 1797-1807
- 19 12 Braithwaite, John (MS 5053), 1783
- 19 13 Broughton, William--letter re: Kingston earthquake, 1692
- 19 14 Brudenell, James -- letter, 1732
- 19 15 Carmichael, Hugh, 1809
- 19 16 Carmichael, Hugh, 1809
- 19 17 Carranza, Juan, 1784
- 24 1 Claridge, W. Walton *A History of the Gold Coast and Ashanti* Vol. 1, 1915
- 25 1 Claridge, W. Walton *A History of the Gold Coast and Ashanti* Vol. 2, 1915
- 19 18 Clarke, Alured, 1787
- 19 19 Clearance Papers for Le Reflechi of Bordeaux, 1777
- 19 20 Council of Trade to Lord Sutherland, 1707
- 19 21 Council of Trade to Lord Sutherland, 1707
- 19 22 Count of Disbursements, 1704
- 19 23 Crawford, John, 1795
- 19 24 Cromwell, Oliver "Certein Queries Concerning... West Indies", 1655
- 26 1 *Descripcaó de Guiné*, undated
- 19 25 Diego, Bp. of Santiago de Cuba, 1685
- 19 26 Fourniol, Widow--"Conditions de vente d'un negre...", 1801
- 27 1 Fuller, Stephen--Letter Book, 1762-1773
- 28 1 Fuller, Stephen--Letter Book, 1776-1784
- 19 27 Gardner, Capt. Robert, 1707
- 20 1 Grunsell, Thomas of Kingston--Will, 1846
- 19 28 Heathcote, Gilbert, 1694
- 19 29 Humberson, Francis, 1802 March 26
- 19 30 Humberson, Francis, 1802 June 16
- 19 31 Humberson, Francis, 1802 August 29
- 19 32 Humberson, Francis, 1802 October 27
- 19 33 Hunter, William, 1747 or 1748
- 19 34 Hunter, William, Case of, undated
- 33 13 "Insurrection in Jamaica!" broadside, undated
- 33 14 *Jamaica Despatch, Chronicle, and Gazette*, 1847
- 33 15 Jamaica Indenture, 1771
- 21 1 Krapf, J. L. *Dictionary of the Kisuaheli Language*, 1863
- 19 35 L'Ouverture, Toussaint, 1799
- 19 36 MacLeson, F. I. G., 1805
- 20 2 Maddocks, Jean--Items pertaining to her will, 1804, 1817
- 19 37 Mathew, Edward, 1782
- 19 38 Merchants to Council of Trade, 1707
- 20 3-5 Missio Jamaicensis, 1837-1872
- 20 6 Mitchell, John--Will, 1775
- 19 39 Montague, Robert, 1805
- 19 40 Munro, William, 1814
- 19 41 Munro, William, 1812

- 19 42 Munro, William, 1813
 19 43 Munro, William, 1812
 19 44 Munro, William, 1812
 19 45 No title, 1863, undated
 19 46 Ordre de la Procession des Esclaves, 1725
 20 7 Pafoot, Charles--Copy of Will, 1844
 19 47 Parry, Admiral William Fox, 1766
 19 48 Penn, William, 1654
 19 49 Penrose, Adm. Charles, 1818
 20 8 "The Present State of Algiers", bound manuscript, 1690
 31 1 Rousselot, Jacques "Inventaire des biens et effets de la succession...", 1784
 19 50 Rt. Honorable Privy Council, Order of, 1663
 20 9 Rush, Jean Maddocks--Items pertaining to her will, 1869, 1880
 31 2 Savereau de la Carellerie--ship log, 1788-1789
 29 1 Schooner Telegraph log book, 1870-1871
 20 10 Sessions, Elizabeth Mary--assignment of executors, 1798
 19 51 Shackelford, John E., 1787
 19 52 Sloane, Hans, 1714
 30 1 Souvenir of the Isle of Springs, undated
 19 53 Stuart, Lady Agnes, 1778
 19 54 Thompson, I.E. "The Maroons of Moore Town", undated
 19 55 Trelawney, Edward, 1747
 19 56 Trelawney, Edward, 1748
 19 57 Trelawney, Edward, 1752
 19 58 Trelawney, Edward--Resolution, undated
 19 59 Vaughan, John, 1780
 19 60 Vaughan, John, 1780
 19 61 Vaughan, John, 1780
 19 62 Wright, Capt. J., 1805

Series V: Maps Collected by Williams

- 32 1 An Accurate Map of the West Indies, printed for E. Cave, undated
 32 2 Æthiopia and Guinea, 1743
 32 3 Æthiopia and Guinea, 1743
 32 4 Africa According to Mr. D'Anville, 1772
 32 5 Africa, engraved by J. & G. Menzies, undated
 32 6 Africa for *National Geographic Magazine*, 1935
 32 7 Africa: Plate I, The Northwest Part, 1755
 32 8 Africa: Plate II, The Northeast Part, 1755
 32 9 Africa: Plate III, The Southwest Part, 1755
 32 10 Africa: Plate IV, The Southeast Part, 1755
 32 11 Africa Vetus Nicolai Sanson, 1702
 32 12 Africæ
 32 13 Bahia de Monterey situado en la California Septentrional, 1825
 32 14 Carte de la Barbarie de la Nigritie et de la Guinée, 1707
 32 15 Carte de la Barbarie de la Nigritie et de la Guinée, undated
 32 16 Carte de l'Afrique Francoise ou du Senegal, 1726

- 32 17 Carte de l'isle de la Jamaïque, par S. Bellin Ingen, 1758
- 32 18 Carte de Nigritie et Guinée, 1653
- 32 17 Carte des Entrées de la Riviere de Scherbro ou Cerbera, undated
- 32 19 Carte Particulière de la Côte Occidentale de L'Afrique, 1751
- 32 20 A Chart of the Gold Coast, undated
- 31 3 A Correct Map of the Island of Jamaica, engraved for the Universal Museum, undated
- 31 4 A Correct Map of Jamaica engraved by B. Cole, undated
- 32 21 Coste de Guinée [sic], Partie de la, 1746
- 32 22 Cours du Nil, undated
- 32 23 Cuba, St. Domingo, and Porto [sic] Rico by Eman. Brown, 1750
- 32 24 English Empire in the Ocean of America or West Indies revised by I. Senex, engraved by I. Harris, undated
- 31 5 Guinea, undated
- 32 25 Guinea, undated
- 32 26 Guinea, engraved for J. Harrison, 1788
- 32 27 Guinée [sic], 1775
- oversize file Harbours of Jamaica, 1833
- 31 6 Die Inseln Cuba und Jamaica, 1600
- 31 7 Insulae Americanae per N. Sanson, 1650
- 32 28 Insulae Americanae per Nicolaum Visscher, 1650
- 32 29 Insulae Americanae in Oceano Septentrionali, 1650
- 32 30 Island of Jamaica and Cape Gracias a Dios by Thomas Jefferys, 1794
- 32 31 Island of Jamaica, divided into counties and parishes by Bryan Edwards, Esq., 1794
- 31 8 Island of Jamaica divided into its parishes, engraved by J. Cary, 1782
- 31 9 Island of Jamaica Divided into its Principal Parishes with the Roads by H. Moll, undated
- 32 32 Isles de Saint Domingue ou Hispaniola et de la Martinique, 1750
- 32 33 Jamaica and Barbados--colored, sold by Thomas Nasset in Fleetstreet, 1676
- 32 34 Jamaica and Barbados, sold by Thomas Nasset in Fleetstreet, 1676
- 32 35 Jamaica, drawn and engraved by J. Rapkin; four sketches in corners engraved by W. Lacey from sketches by H. Winkles, undated
- 32 36 Jamaica, drawn and engraved by J. Rapkin; four sketches in corners engraved by W. Lacey from sketches by H. Winkles, undated
- 32 37 Jamaica, drawn and engraved by J. Rapkin; four sketches in corners engraved by W. Lacey from sketches by H. Winkles, undated
- 32 38 Jamaica, drawn and engraved for John Thomson & Co., 1814
- 32 39 Jamaica, Engraved by B. T. Welch & Co., Drawn & Published by F. Lucas, Jr., undated
- 32 40 Jamaica from the Latest Surveys: Improved and Engraved by Thomas Jefferys, 1794
- 32 41 Jamaica from the Original Surveys, engraved by Thomas Jefferys, undated
- oversize file Jamaica and Surrounding Kays, 1833
- 32 42 Jamaica, J. Thomson, 1814
- 32 43 Jamaica, with details of Harbours of Kingston, Port Royal, and Bluefields, Published by George Philip & Sons, 1852

- 32 44 Jamaica, with details of Harbours of Kingston, Port Royal, and Bluefields;
Drawn and Engraved for Thompson's New General Atlas, undated
- 32 45 Juan de la Cosa World Map from *Discoveries of America to Year 1825* by
Arthur James Weise, undated
- 32 46 Map of Africa, to the Right Honourable Charles Earl of Peterborow and
Monmouth, by H. Moll, 1710
- 31 10 Map of the Island of Jamaica, undated
- 32 47 A New and Accurate Map of the Island of Jamaica, drawn by Eman. Bowen,
1750
- 32 48 New chart of the seas surrounding the island of Cuba...and a map of the island
itself, 1762
- 32 49 A New and Correct Map of the Coast of Africa, 1753
- 32 50 A New and Correct Map of the Coast of Africa, undated
- 32 51 A New and Correct Map of the Coast of Africa to the Royal African Company
of England, 1744
- 32 52 A New Map of Africa from the latest Observations, undated
- 32 53 New map of Jamaica, divided into its parishes, drawn by Thomas Kitchin,
undated
- 32 54 Northern and Central Africa, 1822-24
- 32 55 Northwest Africa, 1842
- 32 56 Plan of the Action on the Morning of the 25th of Jan. 1782 between the British
Fleet...and the French fleets near the town of Basseterre in the island of St.
Christopher, original pen drawing, undated
- 32 57 Plan of the Action on the Morning of the 25th of Jan. 1782 between the British
Fleet...and the French fleets near the town of Basseterre in the island of St.
Christopher, photostatic copy, undated
- 32 58 Plano de Puerto Real de Jamayca [sic], circa 1800
- 32 59 Plano del Puerto Real en la Isla de Jamayca, 1786
- 32 60 River Niger, 1843
- 32 61 Ruysch, Johann Map of the World from *Discoveries of America to Year 1525*
by Arthur James Weise, 1508
- 32 62 Survey of the Bussum Prah--Sheet 1, 1881
- 32 63 Survey of the Bussum Prah--Sheet 2, 1881
- 31 11 United Fruit Company steamship service, undated
- 32 64 Visconte de Maiollo World Map from *Discoveries of America to Year 1525* by
Arthur James Weise, 1527
- 32 65 West Coast of Africa Comprising Guinea and the British Possessions, 1843
- 32 66 Western Coast of Africa, from Cape Blanco to Cape de Verga, 1788
- 32 67 The Western Coast of Africa from Cape Blanco to Cape Virga, exhibiting
Senegambia Proper, 1768
- 32 68 Western Coast of Africa, Part of, possibly 1825

Series VI: Lithographs, Engravings, and Woodcuts Collected by Williams

- 33 1 Algier, undated
- 33 1 Arzylla of Argille, undated
- 33 1 Bansa or Salvador the Chief City of the Kingdom of Congo, undated

- 31 12 Beautiful View of the remarkable Cascade on the White River in Jamaica, engraving, 1780
- 33 2 Bridge Crossing the Cabaritta River, engraving, 1778
- 33 3 Bridge Crossing the River Cobre near Spanish Town, engraving, 1778
- 33 1 Cairus, undated
- 33 1 Casteel del Mina
- 33 1 The Castle Cormantine
- 33 1 The Castle Des Mina in the Portugals Time, undated
- 33 1 The City Alexandria or Scanderik, undated
- 33 1 The City of Algier, undated
- 33 1 The City Benin, undated
- 33 1 The City Gegery, undated
- 33 1 The City of Louango, undated
- 33 1 The City of Tanger, undated
- 33 1 The City of Tripolie, undated
- 33 1 Egiptische Piramiden, undated
- 33 1 The Forts Nassau and Orange upon the Island Goeree, undated
- 33 4 Fort William Estate, engraving, 1778
- 33 1 The Inside of the Fort Nassou [sic] with the Oringe [sic] Upon the Island Goeree, undated
- 33 5 Kingston harbour and adjacent country from Charlottenberg, lithograph, 1839
- 33 1 Koninklykhof, Marokko, undated
- 33 1 Loanda S. Pauli, undated
- 33 1 March the Caravan out of Cairo to Mecha [sic], undated
- 31 13 Northern Part of Port Royal Harbour, Jamaica, lithograph, 1816
- 31 14 Pacification with the Maroon Negroes, engraving, 1801
- 33 6 Panoramic view of Kinston Harbour, lithograph, 1839
- 33 1 The Pike Mountains upon the Island Tenerieto
- 31 15 Port Royal, Jamaica, lithograph, 1806
- 33 1 La Rache, undated
- 31 16 Representation of Waterspouts at St. Jago de la Vega in Jamaica, engraving, 1783
- 33 7 River Cobre near Spanish Town, engraving, 1778
- 33 8 Roaring River Estate, engraving, 1778
- 33 1 Salee, undated
- 31 17 Sligoville--Jamaica, woodcut, 1850
- 33 9 Spring-head of Roaring River, engraving, 1778
- 33 10 St. Andrew's Mountains, lithograph, 1839
- 33 1 Tacaray ofte Witsen, undated
- 33 1 Thunis, undated
- 31 18 Trelawney Town, the Chief Residence of the Maroons, engraving, 1800
- 33 1 True Relation of Capt Kempthorn's Engagement in the Mary-Rose, with Seven Alger Men of War, possibly 1669
- 33 1 Valetta Civitas nova Maltae Olim Millitae, undated
- 33 11 View of Mount Moses, lithograph, 1839
- 31 19 View of the Roaring Cascade at Jamaica, engraving, 1800
- 33 12 View in the St. Andrew's Mountains, lithograph, 1839

33	13	Waterfall near the Windward Road, lithograph, 1839
31	20	White River Cascade in Jamaica, 1774