

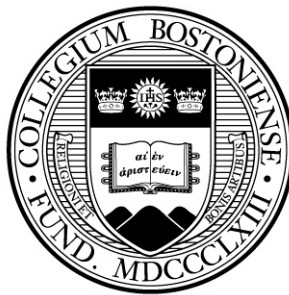
# William J. Flynn Papers

1933-1997, undated

BC.1997.077

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Archives and Manuscripts Department

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## Summary Information

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<b>Creator:</b>	Flynn, William J.
<b>Title:</b>	William J. Flynn Papers
<b>ID:</b>	BC.1997.077
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1933-1997, undated
<b>Physical Description</b>	5 Linear feet (9 boxes)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The papers include correspondence, printed materials, manuscripts, photographs and artwork documenting William J. Flynn as a student athlete and, later in life, as an athletic director. Of note are correspondence with the Daniel F. Tully Associates, designers of the Flynn Student Recreational Complex at Boston College, and photographs of Flynn with prominent individuals, including Jack Bicknell, Ed Chlebek, J. Donald Monan, SJ, Tip O'Neill, and Ronald Reagan.

### Preferred Citation

Identification of item, Box number, Folder number, William J. Flynn papers, BC.1997.007, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Processed by Edward B. Copenhagen, 2002; updated by AnneMarie Anderson, 2010; Rachael Young. in 2018. This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace.

### **Restrictions on access**

Collection is open for research.

### **Restrictions on use**

These materials are made available for use in research, teaching and private study, pursuant to U.S. Copyright Law. The user must assume full responsibility for any use of the materials, including but not limited to, infringement of copyright and publication rights of reproduced materials. Any materials used for academic research or otherwise should be fully credited with the source. The original authors may retain copyright to the materials.

### **Provenance**

Gift of Marie Flynn (1997).

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## Biographical / Historical

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William J. Flynn was born on July 13, 1915. He attended Lawrence Academy and Boston English High School, where he was captain of the 1933 football team. Flynn enrolled in Boston College in 1935. While at Boston College, he earned nine varsity letters in football, baseball, and hockey, and was named captain of the football team in 1938.

Flynn graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education from Boston College in 1939 and a Master of Education in 1940. From 1940 to 1942, Flynn taught History and Mathematics, and continued his involvement with student athletics as a coach, at Cranwell Preparatory School in Lenox, Massachusetts. In 1942, Flynn married Marie Donovan.

From 1942 to 1945, Flynn served as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Houston, Texas and Newark, New Jersey. Flynn then returned to coaching and teaching at Cranwell Preparatory School before becoming an instructor in Mathematics at Boston College in 1947. Although he would be an instructor for just five years, Flynn's career at Boston College would be an enduring and fruitful one.

From 1948-1951, Flynn was Boston College's Assistant Football Coach. In 1952, he was appointed Director of the Boston College Alumni Association; a post he held for the next five years. In 1957, the same year that Alumni Stadium opened as the home of Boston College Football, Flynn became the Director of Boston College's Athletic Association. He served as Athletic Director until his retirement in 1991.

During Flynn's thirty-four year tenure, he received many appointments and honors. Flynn was elected Secretary-Treasurer (1969-1970) and President (1979-1980) of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). He also served on various governance committees of the NCAA, National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA), and other organizations. He was the recipient of the James J. Corbett Award for excellence in collegiate athletic administration (1981) and the Distinguished American Award presented by the National Football Foundation (1985). The latter earned Flynn a permanent place in the College Football Hall of Fame. In recognition of his service to collegiate athletics and to the Boston College Community, the William J. Flynn Student Recreation Complex at Boston College was named in his honor on October 14, 1979.

William J. Flynn died on June 27, 1997 in Brighton, Massachusetts. The following year, Boston College honored his memory through the establishment of the William J. Flynn Fund.

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## Scope and Contents

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The William J. Flynn Papers contain correspondence; manuscript materials; clippings, periodicals and press releases; brochures; certificates; photographs and original artwork documenting the life and career of William J. Flynn. Notable items among the papers include awards and honors received by Flynn; correspondence documenting the construction and dedication of the Flynn Student Recreation Complex; and extensive published and visual materials depicting Flynn's career as a student athlete and athletic

director. Within the visual materials, Flynn is pictured with many prominent individuals, including: Ronald Reagan, Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., Rev. J. Donald Monan, S.J., Ed Chlebek, and Jack Bicknell.

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## Arrangement

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Arranged in four series: I. Correspondence; II. Manuscripts; III. Printed Material and Ephemera; and IV. Visual Materials.

Series I. Correspondence is further divided into two subseries: A. General, and B. Daniel F. Tully Associates, Inc.

Series III. Printed Material and Ephemera is further divided into three subseries: A. News Items; B. Awards and Honors; and C. Personal Items and Ephemera.

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# Collection Inventory

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## Series I: Correspondence, 1947-1997, undated

### Subseries A: General, 1947-1997, undated (1978-1991)

#### Scope and Contents

Mostly relates to honors received by Flynn, and to his retirement.

#### Arrangement

Chronological, with greeting cards listed last by occasion.

1947-1997, undated	box 1	folder 1-19
Congratulations cards, undated	box 2	folder 8
Retirement cards, 1991	box 2	folder 9
Other occasions cards, undated	box 2	folder 10

### Subseries B: Daniel F. Tully Associates, Inc., 1972-1988

box 2 folder 1-7

#### Scope and Contents

Related to the architectural firm that designed the William J. Flynn Recreation Complex. Much of this material was blank carbon copied to Flynn.

#### Arrangement

Chronological.

## Series II: Manuscripts, 1940s-1990s, undated

### Scope and Contents

Ceremonial remarks, notes, public statements, and reports written by Flynn. There are also two items about Flynn: a poem written by Tim Cohane, and an interview from the 1940s.

### Arrangement

Chronological.

Interview with Flynn, 1940s	box 2	folder 11
Handwritten notes, 1979-1982, undated	box 2	folder 12

Remarks at Flynn Recreation Complex Dedication, 1979 October 14	box 2	folder 13
" <i>Heights Decade Story</i> " (regarding the 1970s), circa 1980	box 2	folder 14
"Gin to Flynn" by Tim Cohane, 1982	box 2	folder 15
Introduction <i>'Til the Echoes Ring Again</i> (2 versions), circa 1982	box 2	folder 16
Statement written in response to Professor Malec's letter in <i>Heights</i> (6 versions), 1983 October 23	box 2	folder 17
Statement, Distinguished American Award (3 copies), 1985 December 3	box 2	folder 18
"Athletics - Fifty Years Later", 1989	box 2	folder 19
"Report of the Decade of Boston College Athletics" (regarding the 1980s), circa 1990	box 2	folder 20
Statement regarding retirement, 1991	box 2	folder 21
Statement promoting Learning Resource Center for Student Athletes, before 1992	box 2	folder 22
"Synopsis of NCAA Recruiting Rules", undated	box 2	folder 23

### **Series III: Printed Material and Ephemera, 1930s-1997, undated**

#### **Subseries A: News Items, 1930s-1990s, undated**

##### **Scope and Contents**

This subseries contains a scrapbook of newspaper clippings and a few photographs highlighting Flynn's career as a student athlete at Boston English High School and Boston College, loose clippings from his days as a student athlete in the 1930s to his death in 1997, press releases, and magazines featuring Flynn on the cover or prominently in the text. The subseries is arranged chronologically by type.

Scrapbook: Boston College and Boston English High School, [1932-1938], 1932-1938	box 3	
Newspaper Clippings, 1930s-1990s, undated	box 4	folder 1-8
Press Releases about Flynn, 1984-1990	box 4	folder 9
<i>Alumni News</i> , 1957 summer	box 4	folder 26
[Football Game Program] Boston College vs. West Virginia, 1979 October 13	box 4	folder 27
<i>Athletic Administration</i> , 1981 summer	box 4	folder 28
<i>Footballletter</i> (4 issues), 1985 May-June - 1989 January-February	box 4	folder 29
<i>NACDA, The First 20 Years</i> , 1985	box 4	folder 30
<i>Chapter News Digest</i> (2 issues), 1986 Spring, 1987 Summer	box 4	folder 31



<i>Athletic Administration</i> , 1990 December	box 4	folder 32
[Program] 39th Annual Beanpot, 1991 February	box 4	folder 33

## **Subseries B: Awards and Honors, 1936-1997, undated**

### **Scope and Contents**

This subseries contains programs, certificates and other materials received by Flynn from award and dedication ceremonies.

Boston College Commencement, 1936 June 7	box 4	folder 10
Student Recreation Complex, Dedication, 1976 February 28	box 4	folder 11
Flynn Student Recreation Complex, Dedication, 1979 October 14	box 4	folder 12
Honorary Gold Key Award, Gold Key Society Boston College, 1980 April 18	box 4	folder 13
James J. Corbett Memorial Award, NACDA, 1981 June 16	box 4	folder 14
Honorary Doctor of Sports Science, U.S. Sports Academy, NACDA, 1984 June 11	box 4	folder 15
Distinguished American Award, National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame, 1985 June 3	box 4	folder 16
Boston Builders, Boston Leadership Forum, 1987 October 21	box 4	folder 17
Hall of Fame, English High School, 1987 November 12	box 4	folder 18
Silvio O. Conte Forum, Dedication, 1989 February 18	box 4	folder 19
Dr. Wilford S. Bailey Award, Touchdown Club, 1990 December 10	box 4	folder 20
Flynn Tribute [Retirement], 1991 May 10	box 4	folder 21
Athletic Directors Award Recipient, NACDA-NIT, 1991 June 11	box 4	folder 22
Opening Ceremonies, Special Olympics of Massachusetts, Boston College, 1991 June 14	box 4	folder 23
Funeral Mass, St. Ignatius Church, Chestnut Hill, MA, 1997 July 1	box 4	folder 24
Certificates, 1934-1989, undated	box 4	folder 25
Grid Iron Club of Boston [Oversized Certificate], 1978	box 8	folder 3

## **Subseries C: Personal Items and Ephemera, 1933-1991, undated**

## Scope and Contents

This subseries contains signed guestbooks from Flynn's retirement party, materials from Cranwell Preparatory School, Boston English High School and World War II era ration books.

English High School Ephemera (1933 Football Team Cartoon and Scorecard), 1933	box 4	folder 34
Cranwell Preparatory School (Catalogue and French Academy Periodical), 1940 and undated	box 4	folder 35
Cranwell Preparatory School (2 postcards), 1940s	box 4	folder 36
War Ration Books, circa 1942	box 4	folder 37
Guest Books, Tribute to William J. Flynn, 1991 May 10	box 5	

## Series IV: Visual Materials, 1933-1989, undated

### Scope and Contents

This series contains photographs and original artwork depicting William J. Flynn. Many of the photographs show Flynn participating in award or dedication ceremonies. There are also several drawings and paintings of Flynn by sports illustrators. The series is arranged chronologically with photographs listed first. Other photographs can be found in the scrapbook in Series Three.

English High School - Football Team, 1933	box 6	folder 1
English High School - Hockey Team, Before 1935	box 6	folder 2
Flynn with Hockey Team-- circa High School, Before 1935	box 6	folder 3
Flynn with A. Di Natale and J. Curley, circa Dec. 1937	box 6	folder 4
Flynn catching a football (4 copies), circa 1938	box 6	folder 5
Flynn [football] (original and detail from original), circa 1938	box 6	folder 6
Flynn and Coach Gil Dobie, circa 1938	box 6	folder 7
Flynn Playing Hockey, circa 1938	box 6	folder 8
Flynn at Boston College Graduation, 1939 June 7	box 6	folder 9
Flynn playing hockey, circa 1930s	box 6	folder 10
Flynn with other unidentified young men-informal (2 photos), circa 1930s	box 6	folder 11
Flynn with friends -formal, circa 1930s	box 6	folder 12
Flynn with friends at dinner-formal, circa 1930s	box 6	folder 12A
Flynn with E. Martin and G. Cetricky, circa 1940s	box 6	folder 13
Cranwell Preparatory School- Football Team, circa 1940s	box 6	folder 14
Flynn with Rev. J. Maguire and John Gallagher, circa 1952	box 6	folder 15

Flynn at Alumni Stadium Dedication- Press Conference (2 copies), 1957	box 6	folder 16
Flynn and Cardinal Cushing at Alumni Stadium Dedication, 1957	box 6	folder 17
Flynn and 3 unidentified men with baseball trophy, circa 1950s	box 6	folder 18
Flynn and unidentified men on fishing trip, circa 1960s	box 6	folder 19
Flynn and Monk Maznicki, circa 1960s	box 6	folder 20
Flynn sitting at desk unidentified man in background, circa 1960s	box 6	folder 21
Flynn with B. Nagurski, J. Mooney and F. Kinard, 1970	box 6	folder 22
Flynn and Bill Orwig, circa 1970	box 6	folder 23
Flynn and unidentified man looking at painting of eagle, 1974 May 1	box 6	folder 24
Flynn painting Boston College logo on gym floor, 1977 January 12	box 6	folder 25
Flynn with Rev. J. Donald Monan and unidentified man, 1977 Mar. 21	box 6	folder 26
Flynn and E. Chlebek, 1978 January 16	box 6	folder 27
Flynn and P. McLaughlin, 1979 February 8	box 6	folder 28
Flynn Student Recreation Center Dedication (multiple photos), 1979 October 15	box 6	folder 29-38
Flynn and Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr., 1979 December 9	box 6	folder 39
Flynn, Mildred O'Neill, and unidentified woman, 1979 December 9	box 6	folder 40
Flynn with Gasson Hall in background [slide], 1979	box 6	folder 41
Flynn and Rev. J. Donald Monan skating, circa 1970s	box 6	folder 42
Flynn holding award, with Rev. Monan and unidentified man, circa 1970s	box 6	folder 43
15th Annual NCAA Honors Luncheon (multiple photos), 1980 January 7	box 6	folder 44-45
Flynn receiving Corbett Award with other unidentified individuals (3 photos), 1981 June 16	box 6	folder 46
Flynn and G. Lewis, Boston College Hall of Fame, 1982	box 6	folder 47
Flynn receiving Doctor of Sport Science with other unidentified men (2 photos), 1984 June 11	box 6	folder 48
Flynn and Ronald Reagan (signed by Reagan), 1984 December 6	box 6	folder 49
Flynn at College Football Hall of Fame (2 snapshots), 1987 June	box 6	folder 50
Flynn standing next to Distinguished American Award Exhibit (3 snapshots), 1987 June	box 6	folder 51

Flynn with Rev. Monan and unidentified classmate at Class of 1939 50th Anniversary Reunion, 1989 May	box 6	folder 52
Flynn and Robert White Law (2 photos), 1989	box 6	folder 53
Flynn and J. Kearney, circa 1980s	box 6	folder 54
Flynn, Glen Tuckett and unidentified men (2 photos), circa 1980s	box 6	folder 55
Flynn and football team in locker room, circa 1980s	box 6	folder 56
Flynn and Rob Wilde, circa 1980s	box 6	folder 57
Presentation of Canfield painting to Flynn, circa 1980s	box 6	folder 58
Presentation of NACDA W. Flynn Outstanding Player Award (5 photos), circa 1980s	box 6	folder 59
Flynn, Rev. Monan and J. Bicknell (4 photos), circa 1980s	box 6	folder 60
Unidentified Photographs, undated	box 7	
Flynn (English High School) Drawing by Xos Stern, circa 1933	box 8	folder 1
Flynn (with BC Eagle) Drawing by Phil Bissell, circa 1970s	box 8	folder 2
Illustrated honors certificate with portrait of Flynn, by Phil Bissell, presented by the NECAC membership at their annual meeting, 1979	box 9	folder 1
"Bill Flynn: BC fetes one of its sons by naming student recreation complex in his honor", reproduction from Boston Globe, 1979	box 9	folder 2
Painted portrait of Flynn with illustrations of his accomplishments, after 1979	box 9	folder 3