

Williams, John Edward, Papers

John Edward Williams Papers

1892-1940



Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1956.005

Unit Date

1892-1940

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

This collection contains the papers of John Edward Williams (1867-1943), professor of mathematics (1903-1924) and Dean of the College (1924-1943) at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. Materials include class notes taken by Williams as a graduate student at the University of Virginia; notes and solutions for various mathematical problems; texts of Williams' speeches; printed articles by Williams and others; and diplomas and membership certificates.

Creator

Williams, John Edward, 1867-1943

Extent

0.6 Cubic Feet 1 box and 1 oversize folder

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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Source of Acquisition

The John Edward Williams Papers were donated to Newman Library in 1956.

Processing Information

The processing, arrangement and description of the John Edward Williams Papers commenced and was completed in October 2007.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], John Edward Williams Papers, Ms1956-005, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

John Edward Williams (1867-1943) was a Virginia Polytechnic Institute (VPI) mathematics professor and Dean of the College. He was born in Charlotte County, Virginia on September 17, 1867, to Albert H. and Matilda Berkeley Williams. He graduated from Hampden-Sydney College in 1892, before serving as principal of Boydton High School for two years. From 1894 to 1895, Williams served as assistant principal of Roanoke's Commerce Street School, then returned to Boydton as a private instructor for Col. Thomas F. Goode.

Williams next entered a special course in pure mathematics at the University of Virginia in 1896, obtaining his master's degree in 1899 and doctoral degree in 1902. He served as a mathematics instructor at the university from 1899 until 1903, when he was appointed to the mathematics department at VPI.

In 1924, Williams was named VPI's Dean of the College, a position he held until his death. Williams also served on the State Board of Education and on the Hampden-Sydney Board of Trustees and was a member of several mathematics- and science-related societies. In 1925, Hampden-Sydney conferred upon him an honorary doctorate of laws.

Williams married Sallie Taylor Patton, daughter of Col. William M. Patton, in 1905. The couple had three children. Williams died in Blacksburg on April 19, 1943.

Scope and Content

This collection contains the papers of John Edward Williams, a professor of mathematics (1903-1924) and Dean of the College (1924-1943) at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. The collection contains notes kept by Williams while a graduate student in courses taught by James Morris Page, William H. Echols, and others at the University of Virginia. There are several notebooks devoted to various mathematical problems and solutions, together with texts of a number of Williams' speeches, as well as a small set of printed articles written by Williams, Page, Echols, and others. Williams' diplomas and membership certificates complete the collection.

Related Archival Materials

See also the Records of the Dean of the College, John E. Williams, RG 11/2, at Virginia Tech Special Collections and University Archives.

Keywords

Faculty and staff

University History

Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College (1872-1896)

Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute (1896-1944)

University of Virginia

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged by document type, then chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Notes from University of Virginia Master's Astronomy Course

Unit Date 1897

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Notes from mathematics lectures of Professor William H. Echols

Unit Date 1897

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Notes on J. M. Page's Invariants of Groups

Unit Date 1898

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

"Notes on analysis, from the lectures of Prof. William H. Echols"

Unit Date 1899

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Notes from J. M. Page's Doctoral Mathematics Course

Unit Date ca. 1900

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

"Exercises in strength of materials by Wm. M. Thornton; solved by J. E. Williams"

Unit Date 1902

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

"Report on Experiments: Senior Physics"

Unit Date 1902

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Miscellaneous notes and outlines for various mathematical theorems

Unit Date n. d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

"Examples in groups" problems and solutions

Unit Date n. d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

General Physical Description note [2 items]

"Notes on Ph.D. math groups"

Unit Date n. d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

General Physical Description note [3 items]

Texts of speeches by Williams

Unit Date 1930-1940

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Printed materials

Unit Date 1895-1929, n. d.

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Echols, Robert Lewis, A Correspondence in geometry: and some properties of pseudo homochiral and pseudo heterochiral configurations

Unit Date 1929

Echols, Robert Lewis, The Roots of circulants and application to the roots of polynomials

Unit Date 1928

Echols, W. H., "On the expansion of a function without use of derivatives"

Unit Date 1895

Page, J. M., "The General transformation of the group of Euclidian movements"

Unit Date n. d.

Page, J. M., "Transformation groups." Annals of mathematics 8(4): 117-133

Unit Date n. d.

Wentworth, Charles C., "Line and surface for railway curves." American Society of Civil Engineers Transactions 48: 357-370

Unit Date 1902

General Physical Description note [reprint]

Williams, J. E. and R. B. H. Begg, "A Transition curve." Engineering Experiment Station of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute Bulletin

Unit Date 1923

Williams J. E., On the geometry of the transformation group (p, q, r, xq, yp, zr, xp--yq, 22r)

Unit Date 1899

Oversize Materials

oversize 1 (folder)

Diplomas

Unit Date 1892-1903

Hampden-Sidney College Honorary Degree

Unit Date 1925

Raven Society Membership Certificate

Unit Date 1926