

William R. Adam Papers Collection Finding Aid MS279

William R. Adam Papers (MS279)

1920-1990



Title Statement

William R. Adam Papers Collection Finding Aid MS279

Publication Statement

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Profile Description

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Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS279

Unit Date

1920-1990

Language

English .

Creator

Adam, William R. (William Robert), 1918-1992

Extent

.235 Cubic Feet 2 box

Repository

Local History and Special Collections Branch, Alexandria Library

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[item identification], William R. Adam Papers, MS279, Alexandria Library, Local History and Special Collections, Alexandria, Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

William Robert Adam was born in Alexandria, Virginia on February 20, 1918. Prior to World War II, he worked as an Assistant Librarian for the Alexandria Library where he developed the Alexandriana collection of books and documents related to local history. During this period, he also contributed feature articles on performing arts and local history for the Alexandria Gazette. As the United States entered World War II in 1941, Adam was enlisted in the Army where he contributed to several post and unit newspapers. In 1943, he was assigned to the Bureau of Public Relations with the U.S. Army War Department at the Pentagon where he edited photography and prepared texts for media coverage. In 1949, his media career took him to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, where he continued to work on audio-visual news projects during the final phases of World War II, the Korean Conflict, aerospace research and development programs, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and U.S. combat operations in Southeast Asia. Upon completing his military service, Adam would return to work for the City of Alexandria as a Restoration Curator at the Gadsby's Tavern Museum in 1972. During his tenure at Gadsby's, he solicited valuable furnishing and artifacts to bring to the museum, served as a docent, and arranged special events at the museum.

Content Description

Much of the collection consists of personal and professional correspondences of William Robert Adam. There are also a number of programs from events that Adam coordinated or was invited to attend in Alexandria and Washington, DC. The collection also includes awards and certificates, newspaper clippings, bibliographical information, publications, and research papers. There is also a folder on the composer Richard Bales, who conducted orchestral performances at some of Adam's events. The collection includes a number of realia such as medals and medallions.

Keywords

Virginia -- History -- Alexandria
Gadsby's Tavern
Adam, William Robert

Arrangement

The collection is arranged mostly topically, with correspondences arranged by decades.

Description of Subordinate Components

Awards and Certificates

Text 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

1st Baptist Sunday School - Charlie Adams, 9/26/1926; Richmond Washington Line - William W. Adam, 1/1/1962; Virginia Physical Fitness Award - William R. Adam, 5/1/1931

Biographical Information

Text 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Newspaper clipping, resumes, genealogical information.

Correspondences**Unit Date** 1930-1939**Text** 1 (box)**Container** 3 (folder)**Language** English.**Correspondences****Unit Date** 1940-1949**Text** 1 (box)**Container** 4 (folder)**Language** English.**Correspondences****Unit Date** 1960-1969**Text** 1 (box)**Container** 5 (folder)**Language** English.**Correspondences****Unit Date** 1970-1979**Text** 1 (box)**Container** 6 (folder)**Language** English.**Correspondences****Unit Date** 1980-1989**Text** 1 (box)**Container** 7 (folder)**Language** English.**Correspondences, Undated****Unit Date** 1990-1999**Text** 1 (box)**Container** 8 (folder)**Language** English.**Miscellaneous****Text** 1 (box)**Container** 9 (folder)**Language** English.**Newspaper Photocopies****Text** 1 (box)**Container** 10 (folder)**Language** English.**Programs****Text** 1 (box)**Container** 11 (folder)**Language** English.**Scope and Contents**

Various programs and pamphlets on events in Alexandria and Washington, DC.

Publications

Text 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Various publications collected by William Adam

Research Presentations

Text 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Research papers written by William Adam

Research Presentations, Miscellaneous

Text 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Language English.

Richard Bales

Text 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Folder contains photocopy of original score "Music of the American Revolution"

Keywords

Bales, Richard

Department of the Army Meritorious Civilian Service Medal

Unit Date 1946

Realia 1 (box)

Container 1 (object)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Medal, Blue ribbon and 2 lapel pins, enscribed: "For Department of the Army Meritorious Civilian Service"

Office of the Secretary of Defense Meritorious Civilian Service Medal

Unit Date 1972

Realia 1 (box)

Container 2.1 (object)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

2 Medals, large and small yellow ribbon, lapel pin, Office of the Secretary of Defense, "Meritorious Civilian Service"

Travelers Protective Association, pin

Realia 1 (box)

Container 2.2 (object)

Language English.

Medallion, Alexandria Lodge No. 39 200th Anniversary, 1783-1983

Unit Date 1983

Realia 1 (box)

Container 2.3 (object)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Medallion commemorating Robert Adam.

Army photo badge

Realia 1 (box)

Container 2.4 (object)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Badge for William Adam

Campaign and Service, American Defense Service Medal

Unit Date 1941-05-27

Realia 1 (box)

Container 3 (object)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Medal, Campaign and Service American Defense Service, including yellow lapel bar, Dated May 27, 1941.

Letter of Appreciation from Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird

Unit Date December 22, 1971

Realia 1 (box)

Container 4 (object)

Language English.

Scope and Contents

Letter of Appreciation from Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird in navy blue document cover. Dated December 22, 1971.

Newspaper Clipping Scrapbook

Text 2 (box)

Container 1 (object)

Language English.