

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

H. Leverne Williams Personal Records

B1995-0015

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:**

Harry Leverne Williams was a pioneer in the development of synthetic rubber and one of the most widely known polymer scientist in Canada. He received his Ph.D. in chemical physics from McGill University in 1943 and after spending some time as a researcher at the University of Western Ontario, he was hired by Polymer Corp. of Sarnia, Ontario in 1946. He began as a Research Chemist and rose through the ranks to become Principal Scientist. During his time at Polymer, he published widely and applied for and authored numerous patents.

In 1967, he moved from the private to the academic sector by accepting a position in the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Toronto. During his time at the University, he continued to research and publish while teaching both graduate and undergraduate courses. He supervised eight Ph.D. students, seventeen MSc. students and numerous undergraduates. Williams also consulted extensively for manufacturing companies and for engineering, legal, patent and insurance firms.

In 1977 the Chemical Institute of Canada presented him with the Dunlop Lecture Award for outstanding contribution to the field of macromolecular science. Upon his retirement from the University in 1982, he was made Professor Emeritus. He died in August 1993.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

1939-1992            2.04 m            textual ; graphic

This accession contains the following series of records. See series description for further details:

Series I            Professional Correspondence  
Series II            Manuscripts, Addresses and Reports  
Series III          Reviews  
Series IV            Association Files  
Series V            Chemical Engineering Research Consultants Limited  
Series VI            Laboratory Note Books  
Series VII          Graphic Records  
Series VIII         Diplomas and Honours

**SERIES I**

**PROFESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE**

1958-1992            0.3 m

This series is comprised of professional correspondence, incoming and outgoing, between William and his colleagues and/or students. Correspondence is usually filed by the person's name but some files reflect the type of correspondence ie. recommendations, references, applications. The correspondence relates mainly to research endeavours being undertaken with colleagues or students, meetings or symposiums in which Williams was participating, visits from international colleagues, recommendations of students for post-graduate scholarships or employment positions and applications from students wanting to study under Williams.

Files are arranged more or less chronologically.

See Box /001 and Box /002 (01)-(15)

**SERIES II**

**MANUSCRIPTS, ADDRESSES AND REPORTS**

1947-1991            0.6 m

This series represents the most complete survey of Williams' scientific writings. Included are progress reports for research done both at Polymer Corp., Sarnia and the Department of Chemical Engineering; addresses and papers given at symposiums and conferences; papers and articles, published and unpublished; as well as patents. These works are filed by year and are mainly original manuscripts or printed unpublished reports.

There are also manuscripts for works published in collaboration with other scientists, often graduate or former students. These files are filed alphabetically by the name of the co-author and may include some correspondence relating to their work together.

Finally this series also contains records relating to the Williams textbook Polymer Engineering, his contribution to Forest Chemistry, as well the manuscript to his Dunlop Lecture.

See Boxes /003-/005

**SERIES III**

**REVIEWS**

1950-1991            0.1 m

Being one of the most renown polymer engineers in North America, Williams expertise was sought by academic journals and scholars to review works submitted for publication. This series contains correspondence, manuscripts, comments and appraisals done mainly for the Canadian Journal of Chemical Engineering, Journal of Polymer Science and Journal of Applied Polymer Science.

See Box /002 (16)-(18)

**SERIES IV**

**ASSOCIATION FILES**

1941-1992            0.15 m

This series documents Williams' membership and participation in various professional and academic associations. Files contain mainly correspondence but can also include memoranda, notes, questionnaires, membership lists, announcements, agenda, conference programs and reports. Among some of the more notable associations with which Williams was involved are the Chemical Institute of Canada - Macromolecular section, the High Polymer Forum and the Industrial Materials Research Institute.

Files are arranged alphabetically.

See Box /006 (01)-(18)

**SERIES V**

**CHEMICAL ENGINEERING RESEARCH  
CONSULTANTS LIMITED**

1978-1993            0.15 m.

Records in this series document the activities of this consultant group, of which Williams was a director, through minutes of meetings, agenda, annual reports, financial statements and some correspondence. Also included in this series is an alphabetical index of the companies presumably for which William did consultancy work. Some of the entries summarize what type of work was done and what resulted. Dispersed throughout this index are photographs included for supportive documentation.

See Box /006 (19)-(24) and Box /007 (01)-(05)

**SERIES VI**

**LABORATORY NOTE BOOKS**

1968-1986            0.1 m.

Includes four laboratory notebooks: two belonging to Williams and two belonging to individual students. They document how Williams organized his laboratory work and how he supervised his students' work.

See Box /007 (06)-(09)

**SERIES VII**

**GRAPHIC RECORDS**

1941-1982            11 photoprints  
                         1 negative

Includes:

(01)	Portraits of Williams, b&w	ca. 194--195-
(02)	Portraits of Williams, color	1977-1986
(03)	Portrait, (neg)	n.d.
(04)	Lab. Assistant, War Research	1941
(05)	Polymer Corp. Plant	n.d.
(06)	Receiving the Dunlop Award	1977
(07)	In Laboratory	1979
(08)	In Classroom	198-?
(09)	Luncheon, Departmental Retreat - group of retirees	June 1982

See Box /001P

**SERIES VIII**

**DIPLOMAS AND HONOURS**

1939-1984            0.64 m.

This series includes Williams' university diplomas from the University of Western Ontario (B.A. and M.Sc.) and McGill University (Ph.D.) as well as awards such as Fellow of the Plastics Institute, Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chemistry and Professor Emeritus of the University of Toronto.

See Box /008