

**The New York Public Library
Humanities and Social Sciences Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division**

William Williams Papers
1902-1943
MssCol 3346

Megan O'Shea
April 2008

This version produced May 2008

Table of Contents

Summary	iii
Related materials note	iv
Biographical note	v
Scope and content note	vi
Arrangement note	vi
Series descriptions and container list	1
SERIES I. ELLIS ISLAND, 1902-1914, 1939, n.d.	1
I. A. Correspondence, 1902-1914, 1939, n.d.	1
I. B. Newspaper criticism, 1902-1903, 1909-1913, n.d.	2
I. C. Reports and other documents, 1903-1913, n.d.	2
I. D. Ellis Island guestbook, 1909-1913.....	2
I. E. Scrapbooks, circa 1902-1910.....	3
I. F. Augustus Sherman photographs, circa 1905-1914.....	6
I. G. Watercolors, undated	7
SERIES II. DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY, GAS, AND ELECTRICITY, 1914-1917, n.d.	8
II. A. Correspondence, 1914-1918.....	8
II. B. Reports and other documents, 1914-1917, n.d.	8
SERIES III. BERING SEA ARBITRATION LETTERS, 1943	8

Summary

- Main entry:** Williams, William, 1862-1947
- Title:** William Williams Papers, 1902-1943 (bulk 1902-1917)
- Size:** 6.81 linear feet (11 boxes, 1 oversized folder)
- Source:** Donated by the Estate of William Williams, September 1947
- Abstract:** William Williams was a New York lawyer and the Commissioner of Immigration at Ellis Island for two terms, 1902-1905 and 1909-1913, and the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Water Supply, Gas, and Electricity from 1914 to 1917. His papers contain correspondence, reports, notices, photographs, scrapbooks, and other items from his terms at Ellis Island and at the Department of Water Supply, Gas, and Electricity. Ellis Island materials include photographic portraits of immigrants in native dress by Augustus F. Sherman and interior and exterior views of the immigration station by Edwin Levick and others.
- Access:** Apply in the Special Collections Office for admission to the Manuscripts and Archives Division.
- Original photographs available only by written permission of the Curator of Manuscripts. Copy prints of all photographs are available for consultation.
- Microfilm, digital images, and copy prints must be used in lieu of original materials when available.
- Preferred citation:** William Williams Papers, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library.
- Special formats** Photographs, Scrapbooks, Visitors' books Watercolor sketches
- Alternate formats:** Copy prints of all photographs are available for consultation.
- Boxes 1 and 2, the scrapbooks, and the Augustus F. Sherman photographs are available on microfilm, call number *ZL-445.
- Augustus F. Sherman photographs and some by Edwin Levick and others are available in the NYPL Digital Gallery.

Related materials note

[William Williams Collection of Photographs of Ellis Island](#)
Photography Collection
The New York Public Library

Biographical note

William Williams was a New York lawyer and the Commissioner of Immigration at Ellis Island for two terms, 1902-1905 and 1909-1913, and the Commissioner of the Department of Water Supply, Gas, and Electricity from 1914 to 1917.

Williams was selected by Theodore Roosevelt to be the Commissioner of Immigration in 1902. When he arrived at Ellis Island, the conditions on the island and the treatment of immigrants were shocking. The dining room was rarely cleaned, many people ate from the same bowl before it was washed, no utensils were given to the immigrants, and the grounds were full of rubbish. The immigrants were treated roughly by the inspectors, often robbed, were charged exorbitant prices for food boxes for train travel, and some were forced to work in the kitchens without pay.

Williams instituted changes immediately. He posted notices stating that all immigrants were to be treated equally and with "kindness and decency." Smoking was banned in all buildings on the island. He changed service contractors and created standards for the food, money exchange, and baggage services, and he investigated all missionaries and immigrant aid organizations that came to the island. He made the island welcoming by planting grass, shrubs, and trees, and erecting awnings. Shelters were also erected on the barges and ferries that brought the immigrants to the island.

While Williams was a decent and honest Commissioner concerned with the welfare of the immigrants in his charge, he favored strict immigration restrictions. He felt that the immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe were of a lower quality than the previous groups from the west and north of Europe. He felt that this new wave of immigrants contained Europe's castoffs, who were unintelligent and undesirable, and that the United States was not required to provide for them. He strongly enforced the few laws that governed immigration (mostly pertaining to criminals, diseased individuals, and those likely to become public charges) and came under intense scrutiny by the foreign language papers in New York. The criticism of the press led to official inquiries into Williams' work on Ellis Island, and in 1905 he resigned his post.

After his resignation, Williams returned to his law practice, but was requested to return to his post at Ellis Island in 1909. The Commissioner between Williams' terms was Robert Watchorn. Watchorn maintained Williams' changes to the conditions at Ellis Island, but he did not believe in restricting immigration. He was asked to step down because of his open-door policies and Williams agreed to return to the island.

Williams continued to address corruption on the island and enforce restrictive policies during his second term. He attacked the steamship companies for creating false manifests and attempting to land sick or indigent immigrants. He instituted fines for those that did not adhere to his policies. Possibly his most controversial policy was instituted in 1909. He required that every person landing on Ellis Island have \$25 and a train ticket to his/her final destination. This regulation and his views on Southern and Eastern Europeans led to more scrutiny and criticism from the press. Williams resigned in June 1913.

Williams was nominated for the position of Commissioner of the New York City Department of Water Supply, Gas, and Electricity in December 1913 and he took office in 1914. His work at this department was not as controversial as that at Ellis Island. He worked to reduce the cost to the citizens of New York City of gas, water, and electricity. He was successful in abolishing a number of unnecessary offices within the department, but his suggestions to replace gas lights with electricity was met with hostility and eventually dismissed. He also fought to keep New York City's water supply clean and free of pollution.

Williams resigned his office in December 1917 and received a commission as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Ordnance Department's Procurement Division in Washington in 1918. In 1919 he returned once again to his law practice. He died in 1947.

Scope and content note

The William Williams Papers contain correspondence, reports, notices, photographs, scrapbooks, and other items from Williams' terms as Commissioner of Immigration at Ellis Island and correspondence, reports, minutes, and additional items from his tenure as Commissioner of the Department of Water Supply, Gas, and Electricity. Williams' Ellis Island papers include correspondence with presidents, mayors, and other officials, clippings and notes on Williams' administration, correspondence and reports on incidents during his administration. His scrapbooks contain 44 interior and exterior views of the immigration station by Edwin Levick and others. In addition, his papers contain a set of 39 portraits of immigrants in native dress taken by photographer Augustus F. Sherman.

Williams' papers as Commissioner of the Department of Water Supply, Gas, and Electricity contain correspondence, memoranda, and reports on his work to reduce the cost of providing New York City with water, gas, and electricity, protecting the city's water sources from pollution, and providing alternate sources of water for the city. The Bering Sea Arbitration series contains thank-you letters to Williams for writing an article for the *American Journal of International Law* on his role as associate counsel to the United States government in the Bering Sea Arbitration with Great Britain in 1892.

Arrangement note

The William Williams Papers are organized in the following series:

Series I. Ellis Island, 1902-1914, 1939, n.d.

Series II. Department of Water Supply, Gas, and Electricity, 1914-1917, n.d.

Series III. Bering Sea Arbitration letters, 1943

Series descriptions and container list

Series I. Ellis Island, 1902-1914, 1939, n.d.

10 boxes, 1 oversize folder

This series contains material from Williams' terms on Ellis Island, including correspondence, reports, notices, a guest book, scrapbooks, watercolor sketches, and photographs.

I. A. Correspondence, 1902-1914, 1939, n.d.

1.3 box

Williams separated his correspondence regarding his work as Commissioner of Immigration on Ellis Island into three sections, General, Amusing and Curious Letters, and Incidents. The General Correspondence includes Williams' correspondence with Theodore Roosevelt, the Mayor's Office and other officials, letters to Ellis Island officers and employees, and letters from Williams' sister and mother about his work on Ellis Island. Williams kept Amusing and Curious Letters he received from immigrants and citizens, some thanking him and some criticizing his work. Williams also received a number of letters from men and women wanting him to provide them a spouse from amongst the arriving immigrants.

The Incidents section contains correspondence and other documents relating to four events that took place during Williams' tenure at Ellis Island. The Congressman Sabath Affair correspondence includes letters to and from Williams regarding Representative Adolph J. Sabath's attack on him and his administration of Ellis Island in 1912. Sabath contended that Williams was against all immigrants and that they in turn hated him.

The Immigrant House Matter correspondence relates to Williams' investigation of missionaries who were allowed onto the island to assist immigrants. He found that a number of them were corrupt and barred them from landing. The Immigrant House and its representative, Pastor H. J. Berkemier, were one of the first investigated by Williams in 1902.

The Joseph Murray Affair involved Williams' assistant, Murray, who was a friend of Roosevelt. Murray received a number of appointments from Roosevelt and did not perform any of the duties attached to these, but received pay. Williams had Murray removed from his post as Assistant Commissioner at Ellis Island in 1904.

The McSweeney Case involved Edward F. McSweeney, who was Assistant Commissioner prior to Williams' arrival at Ellis Island. McSweeney removed thousands of public documents from Ellis Island in 1902.

<u>Reel</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>		
1	1	1-6	General Correspondence, 1902-1914, 1939, n.d. 1902-1905 1909-1914, 1939, n.d. Amusing and Curious letters, 1909-1913, n.d.	
		7-16		
		17		
	2	1	Incidents, 1902-1904, 1908, 1912-1915	
		2	Congressman Sabath Affair, 1912	
		3	Immigrant House Matter, 1902	
		4	Joseph Murray Affair, 1902-1904, 1908, 1913-1915	
			4	McSweeney Case, 1902

Reel Box Folder

I. B. Newspaper criticism, 1902-1903, 1909-1913, n.d.

0.3 box

This subseries contains clippings, typed copies, and translations of foreign language newspaper articles criticizing and praising Williams' work at Ellis Island. Many of the stories have his notes attached to them, defending himself.

1	2	5-6 7-9	English Language Newspapers, 1902, 1909-1913, n.d. Foreign Language Newspapers, 1902-1903, 1909-1913, n.d.
---	---	------------	---

I. C. Reports and other documents, 1903-1913, n.d.

0.4 box

This subseries contains documents produced by Williams and others during his terms as Commissioner of Immigration at Ellis Island. They include notices he posted regarding the treatment of immigrants, memoranda regarding his policies, rules for officers and employees of Ellis Island, annual and other reports, legal documents, definitions of terms used by the employees on the island, notes on diseases of the immigrants, and speeches given by Williams on immigration.

1	2	10 11 12 13-15 16 17 18-20 21 22	Annual reports, 1903-1904, 1909, 1913 Invoices, 1902-1904, n.d. Legal documents, 1907, n.d. Memoranda, 1903-1904, 1911-1913, n.d. Miscellaneous documents, 1905, 1909-1913, n.d. Notices, 1902-1904, 1910-1911 Reports, 1911-1913 Rules, 1912 Speeches, 1904, n.d.
---	---	--	--

Vol
1

I. D. Ellis Island guestbook, 1909-1913

1 volume

This guest book was maintained by Williams during his second term as Commissioner. A number of prominent people visited the island to tour the facilities and view Williams' work. Signatures include Mabel Thorp Boardman, Eleanor Roosevelt, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Dorothy Payne Whitney, and Woodrow Wilson. There are unidentified photographs of some guests and one of Wilson, Williams, and Ellen Wilson.

Reel Box Unit ID

I. E. Scrapbooks, circa 1902-1910

2 boxes

Williams kept clippings, letters, and photographs from his time on Ellis Island in these scrapbooks. He often attached notes about the stories in the clippings, giving background on the story or defending himself from criticism.

The scrapbooks contain numerous photographs by Edwin Levick. Levick was a well-known photographer of maritime subjects and sporting events. He photographed golf tournaments, tennis matches, baseball games, the America's Cup race, and other sailing events. He became interested in Ellis Island and the immigrants and took a number of photographs of buildings, ships, and activities on the island.

Scrapbook pages containing photographs have been removed from the scrapbook volumes and boxed separately (Box 7).

The photographs from Williams' scrapbooks are listed below. The list provides the volume and page number, placement on page, measurements, Williams' captions when available, and description of each photograph. There is also a notation for corresponding copy number in the Photograph Collection, if one exists, and a link to the image in the NYPL Digital Gallery when available. (Digital copies were produced from prints in the Photography Collection).

2	3	Scrapbook I	
	4	Scrapbook II	
		Williams scrapbook photographs, circa 1902-1910 (44 images)	
	5	1	Typical of the grounds as I found them. Compare p. 65 [i.e., p. 67] & 45. View of the ground strewn with rubble. (5 3/4 x 8") (V. I, p. 4, front, top)
		2	Same description as above, but different view. (5 3/4 x 8") (V. I, p. 4, front, bottom)(Number 49 Digital ID #417076)
		3	The Medical Inspection. Edwin Levick, photographer; no. 28232. (6 x 8") (V. I, p. 4, back)(Number 5 Digital ID #416754)
		4	Lawns and Hedges after one year's growth. Compare p. 4. (4 3/4 x 6 3/4") (V. I, p. 45, front, top)(Number 41 Digital ID #417068)
		5	Same description as above, but different view. (4 3/4 x 6 3/4") (V. I, p. 45, front, bottom)(Number 40 Digital ID #416789)
		6	View of fenced garden, and guard. (4 3/4 x 6 3/4") (V. I, p. 45, back, top)
		7	View of fountain in garden. (4 3/4 x 6 3/4") (V. I, p. 45, back, bottom)(Number 38 Digital ID # 416787)
		8	New ferry boat 'Ellis Island'. [Similar to, but different from no. 42] (4 3/4 x 6 3/4") (V. I, p. 46, front, top)
		9	New boarding cutter 'Immigrant'. [Similar to, but different from no. 42.] (4 3/4 x 6 3/4") (V. I, p. 46, front, bottom)
		10	Commodious side-walks were laid around all buildings. View of side-walk; New York skyline in distance. (4 3/4 x 6 3/4") (V. I, p. 46, back, top)
		11	Roof Garden for detained children. Children at play. (4 3/4 x 6 3/4") (V. I, p. 46, back, bottom)

<u>Reel</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Unit ID</u>	
2	5	12	Inspection Floor as rearranged with benches. Main Hall, U. S. Immigration Station, Ellis Island. (4 3/4 x 6 3/4") (V. I, p. 47, front)(Number 47 Digital ID #417074)
		13	Low buildings on part of island opposite U. S. Immigration Station. These are apparently the hospital buildings constructed on an artificial island adjoining and connected to Ellis Island, and completed in 1905. (4 3/4 x 7 3/4") (V. I, p. 50, back)
		14	President Roosevelt visits Ellis Island, Sept. 16, 1903. Photographer signed his name 'Hare'. (5 x 7") (V. I, p. 52, front)
		15	Front view of the U. S. Immigration Station in winter. Immigrants can be seen entering. (4 3/4 x 6 3/4") (V. I, p. 54, front, top)
		16	Another Ellis Island structure in winter. (4 3/4 x 6 3/4") (V. I, p. 54, front, bottom)
		17	Winter Crossing, Battery Park to Ellis Island. View of icy water taken from ship. (4 3/4 x 6 1/2") (V. I, p. 54, back, top)
		18	Same description as above, but different view. (4 3/4 x 6 1/2") (V. I, p. 54, back, bottom)
		19	Lawns and Hedges after two year's growth. [sic] (4 3/4 x 6 3/4") (V. I, p. 67, back, top)(Number 37 Digital ID #416786)
		20	Same description as above, but different view. [Similar to, but different from no. 36. (4 3/4 x 6 3/4") (V. I, p. 67, back, bottom)
		21	Boat docked at main entrance, U. S. Immigration Station. Edwin Levick, photographer; no. 7460. (5 1/2 x 7 3/4") (V. II, p. 10, back, top)(Number 3 Digital ID #416752)
		22	Main Hall, U. S. Immigration Station, Ellis Island. [Duplicate of print which appears in v. I, p. 47, Williams scrapbooks]. (4 3/4 x 6 3/4") (V. II, p. 10, back, bottom)(Number 47 Digital ID #417074)
		23	Immigrants being registered at one end of the Main Hall, U. S. Immigration Station. Edwin Levick, photographer; no. 29016. (6 x 8") (V. II, p. 20, back, top)
		24	A bearded immigrant appearing before a board of inquiry. Edwin Levick, photographer; no. 28884. (6 x 8") (V. II, p. 20, back, bottom)
		25	A private interview between a young immigrant and an Ellis Island official. Two staff members [?] are also present. Edwin Levick, photographer; no. 28229. (6 x 8") (V. II, p. 22, back, top)
		26	Medical inspection of men. Edwin Levick, photographer. [Levick's negative number is cut off, but this view was apparently taken at the same time as his no. 28232, Photography Collection no. 5, which shows women.] (6 x 8") (V. II, p. 22, back, bottom)
		27	Group of immigrants: man and woman with three children. [These are some of the same people who appear in no. 44 and are identified as Servian or Hungarian gypsies. This photo appears in Dunne, Thomas. Ellis Island (W. W. Norton & Co., 1971), p. [85].] (6 3/4 x 9 3/4") (V. II, pp. 22-23, laid in)
		28	Two Dutch children in traditional costumes, including wooden shoes. The little girl is clutching her doll, and both hold passports. [This photo appears in Dunne, Thomas. Ellis Island (W. W. Norton & Co., 1971), p. [85].] (6 3/4 x 9 3/4") (V. II, pp. 22-23, laid in)

<u>Reel</u>	<u>Box</u>	<u>Unit ID</u>	
2	5	29	Group photograph of Hungarian Gypsies all of whom were deported, according to the caption which appears with this photograph in the Sunday Times [n.d., but 1905, just after Mr. Williams' resignation]. When the same photograph appeared in <i>City Life and Municipal Facts</i> [June 8, 1911], it was called A Family of Servian Gypsies. [Both clippings appear in the Williams scrapbooks: v. I, p. 71 back and v. II, p. 55 front]. See also p. 22-23 laid in, above. (4 3/4 x 6 3/4") (V. II, p. 31, front)(Number 44 Digital ID #417071)
		30	Portrait photograph of William Williams, Commissioner of Immigration at Ellis Island. (4 1/4 x 6 1/4") (V. II, pp. 34-35, laid in)
		31	William Williams at his desk [front view]. (6 x 8") (V. II, p. 37a, laid in)
		32	William Williams at his desk [side view]. Edwin Levick, photographer; no. 28234. (6 x 8") (V. II, p. 37a, laid in)
		33	President Taft and Commissioner Williams touring the Ellis Island facilities, Oct. 18, 1910. (5 x 7") (V. II, p. 40, back)
		34	Taft, Williams, and three others on Ellis Island, Oct. 18, 1910. Photograph copyright by G. G. Bain. (4 1/2 x 6") (V. II, p. 41, front)
		35	Same as above, but an untrimmed print. Copyright by George Grantham Bain. (5 x 7") (V. II, pp. 41-42, laid in)
		36	Two amateur photographs showing damage done inside Ellis Island buildings by a dynamite disaster in New York bay, Feb. 2, 1916. (3 1/2 x 5") (V. II, p. 45, back, top)
		37a-f	Six photographs, probably amateur, showing various exterior and interior views of Ellis Island. (3 1/2 x 5") (V. II, p. 58, front)
		38a-f	Six photographs, probably amateur, showing various exterior and interior views of Ellis Island, including potted palm plants in a white-tiled hall, and the dining staff preparing a meal. (3 1/2 x 5") (V. II, p. 58, back)
		39	A group photograph of children, inscribed, To Mr. Williams: Hearty greetings from the Ellis Island immigrant children. July 12 - [19]12. (4 1/4 x 6 3/4") (V. II, pp. 71-72, laid in)
		40	Similar to preceding photograph, inscribed, "Best wishes to Mr. Williams from the Ellis Island children" - July 12 - 1913. (4 1/4 x 6 3/4") (V. II, pp. 71-72, laid in)
		41	Excellent view of the rear of the U. S. Immigration Station, Ellis Island. (4 1/4 x 6 3/4") (V. II, pp. 72-73, laid in)
		42	View of the front of the U. S. Immigration Station, Ellis Island. [Duplicate of print which appears in v. I, p. 67, bottom, Williams scrapbooks. (4 1/4 x 6 3/4") (V. II, pp. 72-73, laid in)
		43	Side view of Immigration Station showing lawn with arched trellises. (5 3/8 x 3 3/16) (V. II, p. 76, back)
		44	Ferry boat, the 'Ellis Island'. (4 1/4 x 6 3/4") (V. II, p. 81, back)(Number 43 Digital ID #417070)
---	9		Copy prints

Reel Box

I. F. Augustus Sherman photographs, circa 1905-1914

5 boxes

Sherman was the Chief Registry Clerk at Ellis Island and an avid photographer. He sought out interesting faces and costumes from the groups of immigrants and would request they sit for him in their native dress.

The Augustus F. Sherman photographs may be found in the NYPL Digital Gallery by following this link:

http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/dgtitle_tree.cfm?level=1&title_id=279977

The titles of the Augustus F. Sherman photographs are from Peter Mesenhöller *Augustus F. Sherman: Ellis Island Portraits, 1905-1920*.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 | 6 | Albanian soldier, circa 1906-1914 (Digital ID #418054) |
| | | Algerian man, circa 1906-1914 (Digital ID #418036) |
| | | Algerian man, circa 1906-1914 (Digital ID #418058) |
| | | Alsace-Lorraine girl, circa 1906 (Digital ID #418033) |
| | | Bavarian man, circa 1906-1914 (Digital ID #418026) |
| | | Bavarian man, circa 1906-1914 (Digital ID #418030) |
| | | Danish man, 1909 (Digital ID #418053) |
| | 8 | Dutch children, circa 1905 (Digital ID #1206545) |
| | 6 | Dutch woman, circa 1906-1914 (Digital ID #418051) |
| | 8 | Three Dutch women, circa 1905 (Digital ID #1206548) |
| | 6 | German stowaway, 1911 (Digital ID #418057) |
| | | Greek soldier, 1911 (Digital ID #464937) |
| | | Greek woman, 1909 (Digital ID #418047) |
| | | Rev. Joseph Vasilon, Greek-Orthodox priest, circa 1906-1914
(Digital ID #418050) |
| | | Guadeloupian woman, 1911 (Digital ID #418039) |
| | 8 | Three women from Guadeloupe, circa 1906-1914 (Digital ID #1206544) |
| | | Gypsy family, circa 1905 (Digital ID #1206546) |
| | 6 | Hindoo boy, 1911 (Digital ID #418056) |
| | | Italian woman, circa 1906-1914 (Digital ID #418029) |
| | | Italian woman, circa 1906 (Digital ID #418055) |
| 2 | 7 | Lapland children, possibly from Sweden, circa 1906-1914 (Digital ID #418037) |
| | 8 | Lapland children, possibly from Sweden, circa 1906-1914
(Digital ID #1206547) |
| | 7 | Laplander, circa 1906-1914 (Digital ID #418041) |
| | | Norwegian woman, circa 1906-1914 (Digital ID #418040) |
| | | Romanian piper, circa 1906-1914 (Digital ID #418031) |
| | 8 | Pipers, circa 1905 (Digital ID #1206550) |
| | 7 | Romanian shepherd, circa 1906 (Digital ID #418044) |
| | | Romanian woman, circa 1906-1914 (Digital ID #418028) |
| | | Romanian women, circa 1906-1914 (Digital ID #418027) |
| | 8 | Cossack man from the steppes of Russia, circa 1906-1914
(Digital ID #1206549) |
| | 7 | Russian Cossacks, circa 1906 (Digital ID #418042) |
| | | Russian Cossacks, circa 1906-1914 (Digital ID #418045) |
| | | Ruthenian woman, circa 1906 (Digital ID #418034) |
| | | Scottish boys, circa 1906-1914 (Digital ID #418038) |
| | | Serbian Gypsies, circa 1906 (Digital ID #418043) |
| | | Slovak woman and children, circa 1906-1914 (Digital ID #418048) |

<u>Reel</u>	<u>Box</u>	
2	7	Slovakian women, circa 1906-1914 (Digital ID #418049) Girl from Rättvik, province of Dalarna, Sweden, circa 1906-1914 (Digital ID #418035)
	8	Turkish man, 1912 (Digital ID #1206551)
	9	Copy prints

Box
X-11

I. G. Watercolors, undated

1 oversize folder

This subseries contains two sheets of watercolor sketches of people on Ellis Island, including immigrants and officers. There is no identification, but there is a note in Williams' hand under one of the sketches.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
		Series II. Department of Water Supply, Gas, and Electricity, 1914-1917, n.d. 1 box This series contains correspondence, reports, speeches, and other material from Williams' time as Commissioner of the Department of Water Supply, Gas, and Electricity.
10	1-8	II. A. Correspondence, 1914-1918 0.5 box This subseries contains correspondence regarding Williams' work to reduce the cost of providing utilities to New York City. There are letters to Williams congratulating him on his work and letters criticizing him. Other topics included are Williams' work to prevent sewage from being dumped into the Croton Reservoir, his attempt to replace gas lights with electric ones, and the establishment of the Catskill Reservoir. II. B. Reports and other documents, 1914-1917, n.d. 0.5 box This subseries includes reports and other documents produced by Williams at the Department of Water Supply, Gas, and Electricity. There are annual reports, memoranda and notices regarding policies, minutes from a hearing regarding the installation of water meters at apartment buildings, standards for the meters, an examination for electricians, reports on a water main break and investigations into Williams' department, and speeches given by Williams. 9 Annual reports, 1914, 1917 10 Memoranda, 1916-1917 11 Minutes, 1917 12 Miscellaneous documents, 1915, n.d. 13 Notices, 1914 14 Reports, 1914-1917 15 Speeches, 1916-1917
16		Series III. Bering Sea Arbitration letters, 1943 1 folder This series contains letters sent to Williams to thank him for his essay, "Reminiscences of the Bering Sea Arbitration", which was published in the <i>American Journal of International Law</i> . Williams was associate counsel to the United States government in the Bering Sea Arbitration with Great Britain in 1892.