

## Summary Information

**Title:** The Williams Collection

**Collector:** G. Mennen Williams and Nancy Q. Williams

**Donor:** G. Mennen Williams and Nancy Q. Williams

**Dates:** Collected 1968-1969; Accessioned 1970 & 1971

**Extent:** 251 catalog records representing approximately 278 objects.

**Abstract:**

Governor of Michigan, 1949-1960, under-secretary of state for African Affairs from 1961-1965, US ambassador to the Philippines in 1968, Michigan Supreme Court justice from 1970 to 1986. The collection is primarily composed of ceramics found and purchased in the Philippines.

**Accession number:** 3160

**Language:** English

**Repository:**

University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology

3600 Varsity Drive

Ann Arbor, MI 48108

734.764.0485

e-mail: [ummaa-collection-mgr@umich.edu](mailto:ummaa-collection-mgr@umich.edu)

Home Page: <https://lsa.umich.edu/ummaa>

**Other Repositories:**

Bentley Historical Library

1150 Beal Avenue

Ann Arbor, MI 48109

734.764.3482

**Collection Guide Created by:** Sara Reed

**Year Collection Guide Created:** 2023

**Funding for collection guide provided by:** ReConnect/ReCollect: Reparative Connections to Philippine Collections at the University of Michigan

## Access and Use

**Acquisition Information:**

The collection was a gift of G. Mennen Williams and Nancy Q. Williams, 1970.

**Access Restrictions:**

The collection is open to research.

**Copyright:**

Copyright is held by the Regents of the University of Michigan but the collection may contain third-party materials for which copyright is not held. Patrons are responsible for determining the appropriate use or reuse of materials.

**Preferred Citation:**

UMMAA Object #/Document title. Accession #. Collection Name, University of Michigan Museum of Anthropological Archaeology. Date Accessed.

**Biography**

Williams was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1911. He served as the 41st governor of Michigan, serving six consecutive two-year terms in office from 1949 to 1960. After leaving office, he began his service as Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs. He resigned from this post in 1966, and two years later would be named by President Lyndon B. Johnson US ambassador to the Philippines. He would retain this position for only a single year, before going on to become a Michigan Supreme Court justice from 1970 to 1986. Williams died in 1988.

**Collection Scope and Content Note**

The collection is primarily composed of ceramic material purchased and collected from the Philippines. Much of the material is imported Chinese ceramics. The ceramics originate from locations all around the Philippines, and range in date from the Philippine Iron Age to the early 17th century.

The collection has not been attributed to any Philippine ethnolinguistic groups. The collection has also not been reviewed by an individual with expertise in Philippine ethnolinguistic cultures. The catalog information reflects what has been previously provided by the donor and the Museum's historic naming conventions. At this time, it cannot be stated with specificity when, where, or by whom the objects were created.

**Supplementary material includes:**

- Correspondence between museum and donor
- Original donor inventory
- Handwritten notes on certain objects

**The collection contains the following objects (organized by the museum's historic naming conventions):**

- Container--Bottle (4)
- Container--Bowl (66)
- Container--Box (18)
- Container--Cup (12)
- Container--Cylindrical Vase (2)
- Container--Ewer (2)
- Container--Incense Burner (6)
- Container--Jar (94)
- Container--Kendi (3)
- Container--Pitcher
- Container--Plate (22)
- Container--Pot (2)
- Container--Tea Pot (2)
- Religion or Ritual--Figurine (14)

## Subject Terms

- Philippines--History
- Philippines--Government
- Pottery, Philippine
- Pottery, Chinese
- Williams, G. Mennen (Gerhard Mennen) (1911-1981)

## Bibliography

Aga-Oglu, Kamer. *The Williams Collection of Far Eastern Ceramics: Chinese, Siamese, and Annamese Ceramic Ware Selected from the Collection of Justice and Mrs. G. Mennen Williams in the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology*. University of Michigan Press, 1972. <https://doi.org/10.3998/mpub.11395822>.

Aga-Oglu, Kamer. *The Williams Collection of Far Eastern Ceramics: Tonnancour Section*. University of Michigan Press, 1975. <https://doi.org/10.3998/mpub.11395699>.