William R. Melton Papers

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Descriptive Summary
Title: William R. Melton papers
Date (inclusive): circa 1920-2004, undated
Date (bulk): 1944-1990
Collection Number: MS 233
Extent: 24.15 linear feet (20 boxes, 2 flat file folders)
Repository: Rivera Library. Special Collections Department.
Riverside, CA 92517-5900
Abstract: The William R. Melton papers are contained within the Tuskegee Airmen Archive. This archive consists of materials related to those individuals who served at Tuskegee Army Air Field, and its predecessors, as well as materials pertaining to Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., a non-profit organization. The William R. Melton papers are comprised of both print and visual materials including newspaper clippings, photographs, lithographs, books, documents, and correspondence. The materials within this collection primarily relate to the military service and history of the Tuskegee Airmen. Additional items regarding Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., Melton's personal life, and aviation history are also included.
Languages: The collection is in English.
Access
This collection is open for research.
Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
[identification of item]. William R. Melton papers, MS 233. University of California, Riverside Libraries, Special Collections & Archives, University of California, Riverside.
Acquisition Information
The William R. Melton papers were acquired as a gift in 2006. Additional material received in 2009.
Processing History
Biography
William R. Melton was born on October 24, 1920. During World War II he enlisted as a pilot in what was then the Army Air Corps. On July 28, 1943 Melton graduated at Tuskegee Army Air Field as a Second Lieutenant of class SE-43-G. He was a member of the original 332nd Fighter Group, serving with the 302nd Fighter Squadron. As a fighter pilot, Melton flew more than one hundred missions in North Africa and Europe. He also became part of the initial group to volunteer for bomber training with the 477th Bombardment Group. Melton later served as a flight instructor and remained active with the Tuskegee Airmen throughout his life, serving as a public relations officer and historian for Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. William R. Melton died on September 2, 1999 at the age of 78.
Collection Scope and Content Summary
The William R. Melton papers are contained within the Tuskegee Airmen Archive. This archive consists of materials related to those individuals who served at Tuskegee Army Air Field, and its predecessors, as well as materials pertaining to Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., a non-profit organization.
The William R. Melton papers are comprised of both print and visual materials including newspaper clippings, photographs, lithographs, books, documents, and correspondence. The materials within this collection primarily relate to the military service and history of the Tuskegee Airmen. Additional items regarding Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., Melton's personal life, and aviation history are also included.
Photographs in this collection have been distributed into the appropriate Series. All photographic material can be found in Boxes 3-5.
A portion of this collection remains unprocessed. Please contact Special Collections & Archives for additional information regarding this material.
Collection Arrangement
This collection is organized into five series:


Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.

Subjects
African American fighter pilots.
Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.
United States. Army Air Forces. Fighter Group, 332nd History.
World War II.

Genres and Forms of Materials
Clippings (information artifacts).
Correspondence.
Documents.
Lithographs.
Photographs.
Posters.

Series Scope and Content Summary
This series contains newspaper clippings and other material regarding African American History.
Series Arrangement
This series is arranged sequentially according to box and folder number.

Box 1, Folder 1
Publication titled "Newspapers and their Relationship to the Black Agenda in 1986" by Dexter D. Eure, Sr. 1986.
Box 1, Folder 1
Box 1, Folder 1
Box 1, Folder 1
Box 1, Folder 1
Newspaper clipping titled “Jones Beams with Joy” from the Texas Times (photocopy). 1986.
Box 1, Folder 1
Roster for the Black Public Relations Society of California, Inc. undated

Series Scope and Content Summary
This series contains publications, lithographs, and other material regarding Aviation History.
Series Arrangement
This series is arranged sequentially according to box and folder number.

Box 1, Folder 2
Box 1, Folder 2
Box 1, Folder 2
Publication titled "Messerschmitt BF in Action" by John R. Beaman, Jr. 1983.
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Publication titled "P-47 Thunderbolt in Action" by Larry Davis. 1984. |
| Box 1, Folder 2 | Publication titled "T-6 Texan in Action" by Larry Davis. 1989. |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Newspaper clippings on George Lucas' Tuskegee Airmen film project (photocopy). 1990. |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Newspaper clipping titled "Lucas' Next Movie: Tuskegee Airmen" by Elaine Dutka (photocopy). 1990. |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Newspaper clipping titled "Telling it Like it Was" by Pat H. Broeske (photocopy). 1990. |
| Box 1, Folder 3 | Newspaper clipping titled "Dogfight?" by Elaine Dutka (photocopy). undated. |
| Box 1, Folder 11 | Press release titled "Sixth Annual P-51 Mustang Pilots Association Reunion." 1986. |
| Box 3, Folder 5 | Photographs of restored World War II era aircraft. undated. |
| Map-Case B3, Folder 1 | Lithograph titled "The U.S. Air Force Lithograph Series" (Set Number 7). undated. |
| Map-Case B3, Folder 2 | Lithograph titled "The U.S. Air Force Lithograph Series" (Set Number 8). undated. |
| Map-Case B3, Folder 2 | Lithograph titled "The U.S. Air Force Lithograph Series" (Set Number 27). undated. |
| Map-Case B3, Folder 2 | Lithograph titled "The U.S. Air Force Lithograph Series" (Set Number 11). undated. |
| Map-Case B3, Folder 3 | Lithograph titled "The U.S. Air Force Lithograph Series" (Set Number 33). undated. |
| Map-Case B3, Folder 3 | Lithograph titled "The U.S. Air Force Lithograph Series" (Set Number 5). undated. |
| Map-Case B3, Folder 3 | Lithograph titled "The U.S. Air Force Lithograph Series" (Set Number 3). undated. |


#### Series Scope and Content Summary
This series contains newspaper clippings, photographs, and other material regarding William R. Melton's military service, the Tuskegee Airmen, and military history.

#### Series Arrangement
This series is arranged sequentially according to box and folder number.

<p>| Box 1, Folder 4 | Documents from Pete Peters to William Melton including &quot;Black Redtail Angels' gather with Eagles&quot; by Pete Peters from the <em>Las Vegas Sun</em> (3 photocopies). 1996. |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Newspaper clipping titled &quot;Tuskegee Airmens Confab Attracted Top Black Military Brass&quot; from the <em>St. Louis Sentinel</em>. 1982. |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Newspaper clipping titled &quot;Black pilots broke segregation barrier&quot; from the <em>Star News</em>. 1983. |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Newspaper clipping titled &quot;Black Pilots Shatter Myths&quot; from the <em>Sacramento Union</em>. 1974. |
| Box 1, Folder 5 | Newspaper clippings titled &quot;Tuskegee Alumni Honors Jenkins&quot; and &quot;Airmen Honor Doolittle&quot; from the <em>Los Angeles Sentinel</em>. 1983. |
| Box 1, Folder 7 | Brochure titled &quot;Tuskegee Airmen 332nd Fighter Group&quot; (3 copies). undated. |
| Box 1, Folder 8 | Publication titled &quot;Tony Brown's Journal&quot; (2 copies). January/March 1983. |
| Box 1, Folder 9 | Notebook containing information on the Tuskegee Airmen. undated. |
| Box 1, Folder 10 | Document titled &quot;History of Godman Field.&quot; undated. |
| Box 1, Folder 12 | Document titled &quot;Desegregation of the Armed Forces.&quot; undated. |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | Newspaper clippings pertaining to the Tuskegee Airmen (multiple). undated. |
| Box 1, Folder 13 | Newspaper clipping titled &quot;One Pilot Killed Another Injured&quot; (photocopy). undated. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box, Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1, Folder 13</td>
<td>Newspaper clipping of Lieutenant Stoudmire's obituary (photocopy). undated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, Folder 13</td>
<td>Newspaper clippings pertaining to the Distinguished Flying Cross award. undated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, Folder 13</td>
<td>Newspaper clippings pertaining to Captain Robert Tresville and other World War II soldiers missing in action. undated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, Folder 13</td>
<td>Newspaper clipping titled &quot;Aviation Medicine.&quot; 1944.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1, Folder 13</td>
<td>Newspaper clipping titled &quot;Army Pilots Prime to Meet Enemy in Combat&quot; from the <em>Pittsburgh Courier</em> (photocopy). 1942.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2, Folder 2</td>
<td>Documents regarding Wendell O. Pruitt (includes photocopies). undated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, Folder 2</td>
<td>Photographs pertaining to individuals that served in the United States Military including Daniel &quot;Chappie&quot; James Jr. undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, Folder 8</td>
<td>Sketches of buildings at Ramitelli Airfield. 1944.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3, Folder 9</td>
<td>Photograph composites pertaining to the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II including the 332nd Fighter Group's Italian Campaign in 1944-1945. undated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4, Folder 1</td>
<td>Photographs (5&quot; x 7&quot;) pertaining to the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II. circa 1941-1945.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4, Folder 2</td>
<td>Photographs (4&quot; x 5&quot; and smaller) pertaining to the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II. circa 1941-1945.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4, Folder 3</td>
<td>Photographs (8&quot; x 10&quot;) pertaining to the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II. circa 1941-1945.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4, Folder 4</td>
<td>Photographs (8&quot; x 10&quot;) pertaining to the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II. circa 1941-1945.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4, Folder 5</td>
<td>Photographic prints (8&quot; x 10&quot;) pertaining to the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II. circa 1941-1945.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4, Folder 6</td>
<td>Photographs reproduced from publications pertaining to the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II. circa 1941-1945.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4, Folder 7</td>
<td>Photographic prints pertaining to African American nurses that served during World War II. circa 1941-1945.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4, Folder 8</td>
<td>Photograph composites pertaining to African American nurses that served during World War II. circa 1941-1945.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4, Folder 9</td>
<td>Photograph composites pertaining to the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II. circa 1941-1945.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Photographs pertaining to the Tuskegee Airmen during and after World War II including images of Tuskegee Army Air Field and Daniel &quot;Chappie&quot; James Jr. circa 1941-1980.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map-Case B3, Folder 1</td>
<td>Panoramic photograph of the 332nd Fighter Wing at Lockbourne Air Force Base, Ohio. 1948.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map-Case B3, Folder 1</td>
<td>Photograph of Joe Louis with the Tuskegee Airmen. undated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map-Case B3, Folder 1</td>
<td>Lithograph titled &quot;Red Tail Fury&quot; by A. Ric Druet (2 copies). 1994.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map-Case B3, Folder 1</td>
<td>Lithograph titled &quot;On Target&quot; by A. Ric Druet (2 copies). 1994.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map-Case B3, Folder 1</td>
<td>Lithograph titled &quot;Button Up Time&quot; by A. Ric Druet. 1994.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map-Case B3, Folder 1</td>
<td>Lithograph titled &quot;Drop Tanks, Follow Me&quot; by A. Ric Druet (2 copies). 1994.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map-Case B3, Folder 1</td>
<td>Poster titled &quot;Tuskegee Airman World War II Tribute Celebration&quot; by the County of Los Angeles. 1999.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map-Case B3, Folder 1</td>
<td>Poster titled &quot;Tuskegee Airmen Honor Roll. Those Who Made the Supreme Sacrifice.&quot; undated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Map-Case B3, Folder 1</td>
<td>Poster of the General Daniel &quot;Chappie&quot; James painting by Charles Lilly. undated.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Series Scope and Content Summary
This series contains correspondence, photographs, and other material regarding William R. Melton's personal life.

Series Arrangement
This series is arranged sequentially according to box and folder number.

Box 2, Folder 3
Correspondence from William R. Melton to his mother during World War II (photocopy). March 10, 1944.

Box 2, Folder 3
Correspondence from William R. Melton to his mother during World War II (photocopy). May 2, 1944.

Box 2, Folder 3
Correspondence from William R. Melton to his mother during World War II (photocopy). May 23, 1944.

Box 2, Folder 3
Correspondence from William R. Melton to his mother during World War II (photocopy). May 25, 1944.

Box 2, Folder 3
Correspondence from William R. Melton to his mother during World War II (photocopy). May 31, 1944.

Box 2, Folder 3
Correspondence from William R. Melton to his mother during World War II (photocopy). June 18, 1944.

Box 2, Folder 3
Correspondence from William R. Melton to his mother during World War II (photocopy). July 16, 1944.

Box 2, Folder 3
Correspondence from William R. Melton to his mother during World War II (photocopy). July 25, 1944.

Box 2, Folder 4
Correspondence from the Foreign Service of the United States of America to William R. Melton, Jr. 1961.

Box 2, Folder 5
Correspondence from the Republique du Congo to William R. Melton, Jr. 1961.

Box 2, Folder 5

Box 2, Folder 5
Receipt and ticket stub from Air France. undated.

Box 2, Folder 5

Box 2, Folder 5
Handwritten notes on politics. undated.

Box 2, Folder 5
Ticket sleeve from TWA airline. 1961.

Box 2, Folder 5
Ticket sleeve from Air France airline. undated.

Box 2, Folder 5
Ticket sleeve from Eastern Air Lines. undated.

Box 2, Folder 5

Box 2, Folder 5
Curriculum Vitae for William R. Melton. undated.

Box 2, Folder 5
Receipt and ticket from Air France. 1961.

Box 2, Folder 5

Box 2, Folder 5
Advertisement for “The New War Chest.” undated.

Box 2, Folder 5

Box 2, Folder 6
Letterhead for William R. Melton. undated.

Box 2, Folder 6

Box 3, Folder 1
Photographs pertaining to the personal life of William R. Melton including images from his childhood and life after his World War II military service. circa 1920-1984.

Box 3, Folder 3
Photographs (black and white) pertaining to an event attended by Daniel “Chappie” James Jr. and B.O. Davis Jr. undated.

Box 3, Folder 4
Photographs (color) pertaining to an event attended by Daniel “Chappie” James Jr. and B.O. Davis Jr. undated.

Box 3, Folder 6
Photographs (color) from various events. undated.

Box 3, Folder 7
Photographs (black and white) from various events. undated.

Series Scope and Content Summary
This series contains press releases, programs, and other material regarding Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

Series Arrangement
This series is arranged sequentially according to box and folder number.

Box 2, Folder 1  
Membership application for Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. undated.

Box 2, Folder 7  
Publication titled "The Tuskegee Airmen Story (A Speech Guide)" published by the East Coast Chapter, Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. undated.

Box 2, Folder 7  
Program for the Tuskegee Airmen Distinguished Achievement Award Dinner honoring Lieutenant General James H. Doolittle presented by Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. 1983.

Box 2, Folder 7  
Newsletter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. titled "The Tuskegee Airmen", vol. 6, no. 1. 1986.

Box 2, Folder 7  

Box 2, Folder 7  

Box 2, Folder 7  

Box 2, Folder 8  
Handwritten notes regarding Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. undated.

Box 2, Folder 9  
Agenda for the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Board of Directors meeting. 1985.

Box 2, Folder 9  
Press release from Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. titled "USAF Trail Blazer for Black Fliers Featured at Kelly AFB" (2 copies). undated.

Box 2, Folder 9  

Box 2, Folder 9  

Box 2, Folder 9  
Press release from Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. announcing a lecture by Percy E. Sutton (2 copies). undated.

Box 2, Folder 9  
Information sheet for Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. (3 copies). undated.

Box 2, Folder 10  

Box 2, Folder 10  

Box 2, Folder 11  
Manuscript titled "Molding a Black Legacy: The Chronicles of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc." undated.