William B. Ellis papers

Descriptive Summary
Title: William B. Ellis papers
Date (inclusive): 1942-2009, undated.
Date (bulk): 1975-2005
Collection Number: MS 347
Creator: Ellis, William B.
Extent: 23.40 Linear Feet (18 boxes, 4 flat file folders) material
Repository: Rivera Library. Special Collections Department.

Abstract:
This collection is comprised of both print and visual materials from Tuskegee Airman William B. Ellis, including documents, photographs, correspondence, books, newspaper clippings, audiovisual material, and realia. The bulk of materials within this collection relate to the military service and history of the Tuskegee Airmen, as well as to activities of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. at both the local (Los Angeles chapter) and national level. Additional items regarding Ellis’s personal life, aviation and aerospace history, and African American history are also included.

Languages:
The collection is in English.

Access
This collection is unprocessed. Please contact Special Collections & University Archives regarding the availability of materials for research use.

Publication Rights
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Preferred Citation
[identification of item], [date if possible]. William B. Ellis papers (MS 347). University of California, Riverside Libraries, Special Collections & University Archives, University of California, Riverside.

Acquisition Information
The William B. Ellis papers were acquired as a gift in 2010.

Biographical Note
William B. Ellis was born in Atlanta, Georgia in 1916. His family moved to Ohio in 1923, then to Washington DC where Ellis graduated Armstrong Technical High School in 1935. Ellis continued his education at Miner Teachers College (Wash., DC), where he was certified to teach at the Junior HS level, then at Robert H. Terrell law school, where he studied contracts and property law. When the United States became embroiled in the Second World War, Ellis enlisted in the US Army Signal Corps at Ft. Monmouth, NJ, where he graduated as a Lt. in 1942. He went on to train as a fighter pilot at Tuskegee Airfield Flying School in 1943, then as a bomber pilot at Mather Field in California in 1944. After leaving the Army Force in 1948, Ellis acquired a BS in business administration from American University in 1953. Following a move to Los Angeles, Ellis worked as an assessor for Los Angeles County from the mid-1960s until his retirement in 1992. Ellis was active in educational and other activities with Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. until his death in 2009.

Collection Scope and Contents
The William B. Ellis papers are contained within the Tuskegee Airmen Archive. This archive consists of material related to those individuals who served at Tuskegee Army Air Field, and its predecessors, as well as material pertaining to Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., a non-profit organization.
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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
African Americans
Los Angeles (Calif.)
Papers (documents)
Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.
Tuskegee Army Air Field (Ala.)
Tuskegee Army Flying School (Tuskegee, Ala.)

Genres and Forms of Materials
Audiovisual materials
Pamphlets
Photographic prints
Posters
Realia
Travel photography