

GREMLEY, WILLIAM H.
William H. Gremley papers, 1941-1988

Emory University
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Descriptive Summary

Creator: Gremley, William H.
Title: William H. Gremley papers, 1941-1988
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 1076
Extent: 1 linear feet (1 box) and 1 oversized papers box (OP)
Abstract: Papers of civil rights activist and sociologist William H. Gremley, including correspondence, photographs, printed material, writings, and audiovisual material.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access

Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

Source

Gift, 2007.

Citation

[after identification of item(s)], William H. Gremley papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

Processing

Processed by Laura L. Carroll, February 20, 2008.

Collection Description

Biographical Note

William H. Gremlay (1913-1992), civil rights activist, sociologist and human relations official, was born on November 16, 1913. In 1941, Gremlay enlisted in the United States Army Signal Corps, then from 1942 to 1946 served in the United States Air Corps and was honorably discharged with the rank of captain. After World War II ended, he worked in the American Graves Registration Command in Paris, France from May 1946 until late 1947. When Gremlay returned to the United States in early 1948, he settled in Chicago, Illinois, and served as the Director of Public Information for the Chicago Commission on Human Relations until 1952.

In late 1952, Gremlay and his wife Mary moved to Kansas City, Missouri after Gremlay accepted the position of Executive Secretary for the newly established Kansas City Commission on Human Relations. Throughout the 1950s, Gremlay also taught sociology classes at the University of Missouri at Kansas City and continued publishing articles on intergroup relations and civil rights. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of Kansas City in 1959. Later that year, Gremlay resigned from his position in Kansas City to take the Executive Director position for the Community Relations Board in Cleveland, Ohio. After two years in Cleveland, Gremlay resigned from his position and worked briefly for the Peace Corps administration office in Washington, D.C.

From 1963 until he retired in 1981, Gremlay served as a contract compliance officer for the United States Department of Labor and the Department of Commerce, working to enforce federal equal employment regulations. After retirement, Gremlay began his own contract compliance consulting business in Seattle. Gremlay continued his civil rights work throughout his retirement, accepting speaking engagements, conducting workshops, and serving on commissions, such as the Seattle Human Rights Commission in 1988. Gremlay died in Seattle, Washington on December 18, 1992.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of the papers of William H. Gremlay from 1941 to 1988. The papers include awards, correspondence, photographs, printed material, speeches, writings, and audiovisual material. Correspondents include the African American writer Richard Wright and his wife, Ellen, whom Gremlay befriended while working in Paris, France after World War II. The collection also includes correspondence from Gremlay to his wife Mary from 1946 to 1966, discussing his thoughts towards integration and other racial and political issues. Writings include drafts of his articles which appeared in *America* and the *British Journal of Sociology*, among other publications. Printed material includes articles by Gremlay in addition to articles and clippings about Gremlay and his work in Chicago, Kansas City, Missouri, and Cleveland, Ohio.

A significant portion of the material consists of records collected during Gremlay's tenure as the Executive Director of the Kansas City Commission on Human Rights and includes correspondence, commission memorandums and reports, and clippings. The collection also includes photographs and digitized home movies, one of which includes footage of Richard Wright's wife and daughter.

Arrangement Note

Arranged by record type.

Container List

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Awards
1	2	Biographical, identification cards and resumes, 1952-1980s
1	3	Correspondence, general, 1945-1952
1	4	Correspondence, general, 1959-1988
1	5	Correspondence, personal, 1946-1986
1	6	Correspondence, personal, to and from Richard and Ellen Wright, 1946-1960
1	7	Kansas City Commission on Human Relations, Clippings, no date, 1952-1960
1	8	Kansas City Commission on Human Relations, Correspondence, 1952-1960
1	9	Kansas City Commission on Human Relations, Correspondence, 1952-1960
1	10	Kansas City Commission on Human Relations, Germany trip, 1957
1	11	Kansas City Commission on Human Relations, Reports, no date, 1952-1959
1	12	Photographs, 1947-circa 1970
OP1	1	Photograph, Kansas City, 1950s
1	13	Printed material, articles by Gremley, 1941-1981
1	14	Printed material, clippings, 1948-1965
1	15	Printed material, other, 1952-1961
1	16	Printed material, programs, articles about Gremley, 1949-1984
1	17	Speeches, no date, 1959-1963
1	18	Writings, 1940s
1	19	Writing, 1950s
1	20	Writings, 1960s-1980s
1	21	Writings, "Social Control in Cicero, Illinois," and related correspondence
1	22	Audio-visual, interview, "For the Record," June 26, 29, 1960 [audiocassette]; and family home movies [DVD]
