

Guide to Michael J. Damas Papers MSS-224

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Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections

2801 West Bancroft Street
William S. Carlson Library, Fifth Floor
Toledo, Ohio 43606

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URL: <http://www.utoledo.edu/library/canaday/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections
Title:	Michael J. Damas Papers
ID:	MSS-224
Date [bulk]:	1958-1964
Physical Description:	4 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English .
Mixed Materials [3 2887 922 535 713] [box]:	1
Mixed Materials [3 2887 922 535 754] [box]:	2
Mixed Materials [32887 922 535 796] [box]:	3
Mixed Materials [3 2887 922 535 697] [box]:	4
Mixed Materials [3 2887 922 535 705] [box]:	5
Mixed Materials [3 2887 922 541 588] [box]:	6

Preferred Citation

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Biographical / Historical

Michael Damas was born in 1912, the seventh child of Joseph and Hulda Damas, who were immigrants from the Lebanese village of Ayta al-Fakhkar. They came to Toledo in search of better paying jobs and to escape being drafted into the Ottoman military. Damas graduated from Waite High school in 1931 and attended the University of Toledo for a couple of years before dropping out to start work at an old Electric Auto-Lite plant. He served in World War II as a staff sergeant in North Africa before becoming a politician.

Michael Damas was elected as a Democrat to the House of Representatives in 1948 and served two three-year terms before becoming mayor in 1959 until 1961. He is credited as being the first Arab-American Mayor that was elected to a major city in America. During his time in politics, Damas was invested in public service, serving on the school board of Toledo City Schools and city council, as well as many other things. He authored a book of short stories titled, "The Day Israel Died... And Lived," that was published in 1947. He was honored at a City Council meeting in 2000 for his service to Toledo and a Resolution was drafted that read, "Mr. Damas has served as a pioneer and role model for other in Toledo's important Arab-American community". Damas passed away on April 14, 2003 at age 90.

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Scope and Contents

This collection consists of correspondence, photographs, and other materials of the former mayor of Toledo Michael Damas, from 1958 to 1964, during the time that he was a politician. Examples of correspondence include letters of congratulation upon winning the mayoral race in 1959. There is also campaign material, as well as a Certificate of Election from when Damas took office.

Additionally, there are photographs of building projects, meetings and events, the mayor himself, and wedding photos of Damas and his bride, Rose. Other materials include booklets and passes, telegrams- including one from the Ohio governor, congratulating Damas on his mayoral win- and other correspondence that concerns a grant for the Gunckel Urban Renewal Project as well as from the Mayor of San Luis Obispo, Fred M. Waters.

Scrapbooks also make up the Damas collection and contain newspaper clippings of various events, such as citizen polling and the Mayor's activities while he was in office. Finally, several framed items complete the collection, including an artist's rendering of the Health Education Building, the earliest constructed on the Arlington Avenue campus of the former Medical College of Ohio, the development of which Damas was involved.

For a more detailed list of the contents of this collection, see the Box and Folder list of this guide.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research. Materials may be accessed by request at the Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections on the fifth floor of the William S. Carlson Library on the main campus of the University of Toledo. Materials do not circulate

Conditions Governing Use

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Controlled Access Headings

- Politics and Government
- Toledo History

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Campaign and Election, n.d <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 Linear Feet <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	box 1	folder 1
Campaign and Election , 1959 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 Linear Feet <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	box 1	folder 2
Letters , 1959 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 Linear Feet <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	box 1	folder 3
Letters, 1959 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 Linear Feet <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	box 1	folder 4
Letters, 1959 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 Linear Feet <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	box 1	folder 5
Letters , 1960 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 Linear Feet <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	box 1	folder 6
Letters, 1961 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 Linear Feet <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	box 1	folder 7
Letters, 1961 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 Linear Feet <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	box 1	folder 8
Letters, 1961 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 Linear Feet <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	box 1	folder 9
Letters, 1961 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 Linear Feet <u>Language of the Material:</u> English.	box 1	folder 10
Letters, 1959- 1961	box 1	folder 11

Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet

Language of the Material: English.

Other Materials, n.d

box 1

folder 12

Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet

Language of the Material: English.

Other Materials, n.d

box 1

folder 13

Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet

Language of the Material: English.

Other Materials, n.d

box 1

folder 14

Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet

Language of the Material: English.

Photographs of Projects and Events, n.d

box 1

folder 15

Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet

Language of the Material: English.

Photographs of Projects and Events , n.d

box 1

folder 16

Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet

Language of the Material: English.

Photographs, n.d

box 1

folder 17

Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet

Language of the Material: English.

Photographs , n.d

box 1

folder 18

Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet

Language of the Material: English.

Projects & Events, 1966

box 1

folder 19

Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet

Language of the Material: English.

Projects & Events, n.d

box 1

folder 20

Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet

Language of the Material: English.

Telegrams , n.d

box 1

folder 21

Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet

Language of the Material: English.

Telegrams, n.d

box 1

folder 22

Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet

Language of the Material: English.

Scrapbooks, (1958-1964)

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<p><u>Physical Description</u>: 1 Linear Feet <u>Language of the Material</u>: English.</p>	box 2	folder 1
<p>Scrapbooks, (1958-1964) <u>Physical Description</u>: 1 Linear Feet <u>Language of the Material</u>: English.</p>	box 2	folder 2
<p>Scrapbooks, (1958-1964) <u>Physical Description</u>: 1 Linear Feet <u>Language of the Material</u>: English.</p>	box 3	folder 1
<p>Scrapbooks, (1958-1964) <u>Physical Description</u>: 1 Linear Feet <u>Language of the Material</u>: English.</p>	box 4	folder 1
<p>Scrapbooks, (1958-1964) <u>Physical Description</u>: 1 Linear Feet <u>Language of the Material</u>: English.</p>	box 5	folder 1
<p>Frames, 1960 <u>Physical Description</u>: 1 Linear Feet <u>Language of the Material</u>: English.</p>	box 6	folder 1
<p>Frames, (1971-1980) <u>Physical Description</u>: 1 Linear Feet <u>Language of the Material</u>: English.</p>	box 6	folder 2
<p>Frames, n.d <u>Physical Description</u>: 1 Linear Feet <u>Language of the Material</u>: English.</p>	box 6	folder 3
<p>Frames, 1971 <u>Physical Description</u>: 1 Linear Feet <u>Language of the Material</u>: English.</p>	box 6	folder 4