

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
RARE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS DIVISION
ACCESSION SHEET

Accession # 63 M 6, 63 M 23

Location 8-j-1

Title Charles R. Knight Papers

Approximate inclusive dates 1867-1964; 1892-1952 bulk dates

Date of receipt 1/21/63; 3/20/63

Received from Lucy Knight Steel

Volume on arrival Unknown

Number of boxes (after reboxing) 9 AB

Condition Good

Restrictions None

Description

(SEE ATTACHED SHEETS)

Special Formats Photographs Maps Audio Tapes Films Graphics
 Artifacts Machine-readable records
 Other (list) _____

Temporary catalog card added entries
(SEE ATTACHED SHEETS)

Accessioned by JT

Date July 13, 1988

CHARLES R. KNIGHT PAPERS

Biographical Note

Charles Robert Knight (1874-1953) was an artist, writer, and paleontologist. His specialty was the painting and sculpting of animal subjects, particularly prehistoric varieties. He was also interested in prehistoric man. Knight was born in Brooklyn, and educated at the Polytechnic Institute. He then studied art at the Metropolitan Museum and at the Art Students League. In 1901 he married Annie (aka Nan) Hardcastle Knight. He had one daughter, Lucy Knight Steel, and a granddaughter, Rhoda Knight Steel. Knight did paintings and models of prehistoric subjects for the United States Government, the Carnegie Museum, the American Museum of Natural History, and other museums in New York City and elsewhere; he also did a series of murals for the American Museum of Natural History. In addition to doing magazine illustrations, Knight published books and articles about prehistoric man and animals, as well as living animals. Reproductions of his work have served as illustrations in many text-books and other reference material.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of Correspondence (1892-1952), Family Correspondence (1885-1949), Correspondence of Lucy Knight Steel (1847-1964), Writings by Charles R. Knight, and Various Papers. The Correspondence consists mostly of incoming letters from museums, libraries, societies, academic institutions, and magazine and newspaper publishers. Other letters include those from Henry Fairfield Osborn (1851-1935), the noted paleontologist, and a few from Cecil B. deMille (1881-1959) about a projected movie. A few personal letters are included, however most of the correspondence is relative to Knight's work as an artist and a writer. Unidentified letters are signed but the identities of the senders are uncertain. Family Correspondence includes letters between Charles R. Knight and his wife, his daughter, and his granddaughter. There are also letters from the Hardcastle family. Most of the Correspondence of Lucy Knight Steel is concerned with her father's work; among other tasks, she set up exhibitions of his work after his death. Some of these letters, however, are concerned with her own work and family. In addition, there are letters (1863-1865) with Dan Varner, a student of scientific art and an admirer of Knight.

Writings by Charles R. Knight include typescripts and drafts of his longer works of non-fiction, including his autobiography. Short written works include scientific articles, early drafts, single chapters, radio scripts, and his poems transcribed by his granddaughter. Two prospectuses include one for a dinosaur park in Florida, with related letters. Finally, there are some unsorted writings. The

last series, Various Papers, includes papers of the Hardcastle family and the Steel family, photographs of Knight and his work, sketches, printed matter, and unsorted papers.

jds
Mar. '78
JT-revised
June '88

C H A R L E S R . K N I G H T P A P E R S

Box Listing

Box 1. Correspondence

f.1 1892-1900
f.2 1901-10
f.3 1911-20
f.4 1921-26
f.5 1927-30
f.6 1931-34
f.7 1935-36
f.8 1937-40

Box 2. Correspondence

f.1 1941-46
f.2 1947-49
f.3 1950-52
f.4 n. d. - ltrs. to CRK, A-Z
f.5 n. d. - ltrs. to CRK, unidentified
f.6 n. d. - ltrs. by CRK, A-Z

Family Correspondence

f.7 1885-1929
f.8 1930-49

Box 3. Family Correspondence

f.1 n. d. - CRK to wife and family
f.2 n. d. - Lucy Knight (Steel) to her parents
f.3 n. d. - Rhoda Steel (granddaughter) to CRK
f.4 n. d. - Unsorted Letters

Correspondence of Lucy K. Steel (daugh. of CRK)

f.5 1947-60
f.6 1961
f.7 1961 (in re exhibition of CRK's works at American Museum
of Natural History, Jan. 12)

C H A R L E S R . K N I G H T P A P E R S

List of
Prominent Correspondents

- BEARD, Charles
n.y. July 2
- BEARD, Mary R.
1935 Dec. 26; 1949 July 17; n.d. "Friday Night"; n.y. Nov. 21; n.d. "Tuesday";
n. d. "The Lee House"
- BLASHFIELD, Edwin Howland
1918 Mar. 12; 1919 May 4
- BOLSCHE, Wilhelm, 1861-193
1931 Jun 6 (w/ English translation)
- BREASTED, James Henry
1935 Aug. 6
- DE MILLE, Cecil B.
1953 Aug. 31; 1956 Feb. 9
- GILDER, Richard Watson
1903 Feb. 4
- HURST, Fannie
1935 Jun 14
- LA GORCE, John O.
n.d. Mar. 18
- McCLURE. S. S.
1902 Mar. 27; 1902 Oct. 8; 1902 Nov. 6; 1924 Mar. 10
- MILLAIS, John Guille, 1865-1931
1929 Oct. 2; 1931 Feb. 8; n.y. Dec.11; n.y. Feb. 11
- MORGAN, J. Pierpont
1904 Apr 4; 1905 Aug. 9
- OSBORNE, Henry Fairfield
1901 Dec. 31; 1902 Jan. 7; 1902 Mar. 20; 1902 May 5; 1902 July 8; 1902 Nov 14;
1904 Aug 18?; 1910 July 1; 1913 July 15; 1915 May 29; Sept 28, 1916; 1916 Aug. 7;
1919 Apr 10; 1919 Mar. 3; 1920 Feb. 17; 1920 Aug. 9; 1922 Mar. 23; 1924 Sept 12;
1924 Sept. 17; 1924 Nov. 29; 1924 Dec. 11; 1925 June 20; 1925 June 24; 1925
Nov 24; 1926 Feb. 10; 1926 Oct. 27; 1927 Mar. 31; 1927 July 26; 1930 Jan. 21;
1932 Dec. 15; 1934 Oct. 21; 1935 Jan. 8; Jan. 15, 1935; 1935 May 13; 1935 May 7.
[see also n. d. section].