



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Meta Warrick Fuller papers

1864-1990

Sc MG 395

Summary

Creator: Fuller, Meta Warrick, 1877-1968

Title: Meta Warrick Fuller papers

Date: 1864-1990

Size: 2.0 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Gift of Solomon C. Fuller, Jr., 1990.

Abstract: The Meta Warrick Fuller Papers consist of personal and professional papers, correspondence (1880s-1960s), subject files, estate papers, and diaries documenting aspects of the career of this important sculptor.

Preferred citation: [Item], Meta Warrick Fuller papers, Sc MG 395, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

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Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs

Creator History

Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller was a productive sculptor for over seventy years whose work may be divided into distinct phases. Early works, beginning in the 1890s, dealt with the grotesque followed by her growing interest in African American themes and more realism. Later, she focused on religious subjects. Portraiture and mythological figures were also the subject of many of her works.

Born in Philadelphia to a middle class family, Fuller showed an early interest in the performing and fine arts, and won a scholarship to J. Liberty Tadd's Industrial Art School. She earned her diploma, in 1898,

from Pennsylvania Museum School of Industrial Art (now the University of the Arts). She received a postgraduate scholarship to specialize in sculpture and in 1899, arrived in Paris to begin three years of study. During her final year in Paris, she met the great sculptor Auguste Rodin, who was impressed with her work and often critiqued it. A 1910 fire at her studio destroyed almost all her early work, and she later opened another studio in Massachusetts. Fuller received many diverse commissions over the years, exhibited regularly, and also guided young artists. She was married to Solomon Carter Fuller, a Liberian-born and American- educated neuropathologist and psychiatrist.

Scope and Content Note

The Meta Warrick Fuller papers consist of personal and professional papers, correspondence (1880s-1960s), subject files, estate papers, and diaries, all of which document aspects of the career of this important sculptor. Papers pertaining to Fuller's artistic career consist of files providing lists and prices of her artwork; exhibitions during and after her lifetime; her poetry and prose; and biographical information. Her incomplete diaries cover the years 1895-1897 and 1940-1965; she also maintained address and guest books. Family papers include correspondence and documents from the estate of her brother, William Henry Warrick, a prominent Philadelphia physician. Papers pertaining to her husband, Dr. Solomon C. Fuller, a noted psychiatrist, include correspondence and publications. Additionally, there is poetry written by her son, Solomon C. Fuller, Jr., files that he kept dealing with Meta Fuller's estate, and requests for loans of her artwork for exhibitions.

Arrangement: Organized into seven series: I. Personal; II. Family; III. Correspondence; IV. Professional activities; V. Subject file; VI. Meta W. Fuller Estate; and VII. Diaries.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American artists
African American women artists
Sculptors -- United States
Women artists -- United States

Names

Fuller, Meta Warrick, 1877-1968
Fuller, Solomon C. (Solomon Carter), 1872-1953
Warrick, William Henry

Container List

Personal 1864-1966

- b. 1 f. 1 Biographical information
- b. 1 f. 2 Personal papers
- b. 1 f. 3 Address books
- b. 1 f. 4 Diary 1938-1952
- b. 1 f. 5 Lists
- b. 1 f. 6 Mortgage and deed for 31 Warren Road studio
- b. 1 f. 7 135 Warren Road
- b. 1 f. 8 Receipt book of William Warrick 1864-1886
- b. 1 f. 9 Warrick estate 1929-1966
- b. 1 f. 10 Guest book 1934-1945

Family

- b. 1 f. 11 Correspondence
- b. 1 f. 12-13 Fuller, Solomon C. (husband) 1872-1953
Includes his publications.
- b. 1 f. 14 Fuller, Solomon C., Jr. (son)
Includes his poetry.

Correspondence 1880s-1980s

- b. 1 f. 15 1880s-1890s
- b. 1 f. 16 1906-1918
- b. 1 f. 17 1920s
- b. 1 f. 18 1930s
- b. 1 f. 19 1940s
- b. 1 f. 20 1950s
- b. 1 f. 21 Horrin, Anne and Esther Shaw 1954-1956
- b. 1 f. 22 Thurman, Howard and Sue Bailey 1956-1965
- b. 1 f. 23 1960s
- b. 1 f. 24 1980s
- b. 1 f. 25 undated

Professional 1932-1957

- b. 1 f. 26 Commissions 1932-1957
- b. 1 f. 27 Lists of artworks
- b. 1 f. 28 Exhibitions
- b. 1 f. 29 American Negro Exposition
- b. 1 f. 30-31 Writing
Includes wrting on art.
- b. 1 f. 32 Poetry
- b. 1 f. 33 Articles and papers on Fuller
- b. 1 f. 34 Clippings on Fuller

Subject files

Subject files (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 35 Liberia
- b. 1 f. 36 Livingstone College
- b. 1 f. 37 Negro history
- b. 1 f. 38 Miscellaneous
- b. 1 f. 39 Writings by others

Meta W. Fuller Estate 1966-1990

- b. 1 f. 40 Fuller, Solomon C., Jr. correspondence
- b. 1 f. 41 1966-1969
- b. 1 f. 42 Museum of the National Center of Afro-American Artists exhibition 1969
- b. 1 f. 43 Artwork, "Emancipation Group" Project 1975
- b. 1 f. 44 Danforth Museum of Art exhibition 1984-1985
- b. 1 f. 45 Studio Museum in Harlem 1986-1990

Diaries 1895-1965

- b. 2 1895
- b. 2 1896
- b. 2 1897
- b. 2 1940
- b. 2 1946-1950
- b. 2 1951-1952
- b. 2 1956-1960
- b. 2 1961
- b. 2 1963
- b. 2 1964
- b. 2 1965