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Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

Fisher family papers

1873-1926

Sc MG 312

Home to Harlem Project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Compiled by Mamie Gumbs, 1994. Photographs transferred to Photographs and Prints Division. Finding aid edited and adapted to digital form by Kay Menick in 2016.

Summary

Creator: Fisher, Rudolph, 1897-1934

Title: Fisher family papers

Date: 1873-1926

Size: .63 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Donated by Edgecombe Tenants Association in 1988.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Allison Hughes

Abstract: The Fisher family papers touch on five members of the Fisher family: the siblings Rudolph (1897-1934), Pearl, and Joseph, and their father, John Wesley, and mother, Glendora Williamson. Rudolph Fisher was a Harlem Renaissance author best known for his novels, *The Walls of Jericho* (1928) and *The Conjure-Man Dies: A Mystery Tale of Dark Harlem* (1932). The bulk of the material relates to his sister, Pearl, a teacher who was educated at the College Preparatory School in Fall River, Mass., and taught at P.S. 23 in Manhattan and the Colored Teachers Training School in Baltimore, MD.

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Scope and Content Note

The Fisher family papers touch on five members of the Fisher family: the siblings Rudolph (1897-1934), Pearl, and Joseph, and their father, John Wesley, and mother, Glendora Williamson.

Rudolph Fisher's papers consist of his short story "City of Refuge" and a graduation program from his alma mater, Brown University. Among Pearl Fisher's papers are class notes, an essay, test papers, a year book for the Colored Teachers Training School, and a program for the Scribbler, a poets' club, which she belonged to, along with May Miller (poet and playwright), the daughter of Kelly Miller, Professor at Howard University.

There are a number of letters from Joseph to his mother concerning his financial and personal problems. Receipts for the Macedonia Church in Providence, R.I., are the only documentation in the collection related to Rev. John Wesley Fisher.

Key Terms

Subjects

African Americans -- Harlem (New York, N.Y.)
African Americans -- New York (State) -- New York
African Americans in literature

Names

Fisher, Glendora
Fisher, John Wesley
Fisher, Pearl
Fisher, Rudolph, 1897-1934

Container List

Rudolph Fisher

- b. 1 f. 1 "The City of Refuge" (short story) 1925
- b. 1 f. 2 Graduation Program, Brown University 1919

Pearl Fisher

- b. 1 f. 3 Class Writing
- b. 1 f. 4 Colored Teachers Training School -- Yearbook 1921
- b. 1 f. 5 State Normal School -- Notes 1924
- b. 1 f. 6 Notebook -- Art 1924
- b. 1 f. 7 Notebooks -- Literature and class schedule 1924
- b. 1 f. 8 Course Notes -- Biology, History, English Lit
- b. 1 f. 9 Test Papers
- b. 2 f. 1 Printed Material 1901-1926
- b. 2 f. 2 Program -- The Scribbler 1923-1924

Glendora Fisher

- b. 2 f. 3 Letters from son Joe 1921-1924
- b. 2 f. 4 Letters 1919-1923
- b. 2 f. 5 John Wesley Fisher -- Receipts 1873-1919