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: 1.5 linear feet

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

Abstract: The Meta Warrick Fuller Papers consist of personal and professional papers, correspondence (1880's-1960's), subject files, her estate papers, and diaries documenting 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 and exhibitions during and after her lifetime, her poetry and prose, and biographical information. Her diaries cover the years 1895-1897 and 1940-1965 (incomplete); she also maintained address and guest books.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: Meta Warrick Fuller papers, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

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 1890's 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 (now Philadelphia College of Industrial Art). 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 Massachussets. Fuller received many

diverse commissions over the years, exhibited regularly, and also guided young artists. She was married to Solomon Carter Fuller, Liberian born and American educated neuropathologist and psychiatrist.

Scope and Content Note
The Meta Warrick Fuller Papers consist of personal and professional papers, correspondence (1880's-1960's), subject files, her estate papers, and diaries documenting 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 and exhibitions during and after her lifetime, her poetry and prose, and biographical information. Her diaries cover the years 1895-1897 and 1940-1965 (incomplete); 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, includes correspondence and publications. Additionally, there is poetry written by her son, Solomon C. Fuller, Jr., and files he kept dealing with Meta Fuller's estate and requests for loans of her artwork for exhibitions.

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

Key Terms

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

Titles
Schomburg NEH Automated Access to Special Collections Project

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