



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

Guide to the

Robert Fletcher Civil rights collection

1962-1967

Sc MG 402

Summary

Creator: Fletcher, Robert, 1938-

Title: Robert Fletcher Civil rights collection

Date: 1962-1967

Size: .2 linear feet (1 box)

Source: gift, Fletcher, Robert E, 09/--/90

Abstract: Collection of assorted printed material gathered by photographer Robert E. "Bob" Fletcher concerning the civil rights movement between 1962 and 1967. Included is printed material for the March on Washington, 1963; Free Southern Theatre, 1967; Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, 1963-64; Freedom Summer WATS Line Messages, 1964; Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, 1964; 3 issues of Broadside Topical Song Magazine, 1962, 1964 and other miscellaneous newspaper clippings.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: Robert Fletcher Civil rights collection, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

Creator History

Robert E. "Bob" Fletcher, photographer, film maker, writer and educator. Born in 1938 in Detroit, Michigan, Fletcher majored in History and English at Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee and Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan. In 1963 Fletcher became active in the civil rights movement, taking photographs for and administering the National Student Association's Detroit Tutorial Program. After moving to New York City he worked at the Harlem Education Project and set up a photographic workshop.

In the summer of 1964 Fletcher became a Freedom School teacher in Mississippi and joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) staff as a photographer and documented the Civil Rights Movement throughout the South, between 1964 and 1968. After returning to New York in 1969, Fletcher set up a photography workshop at the Henry Street Settlement, and taught photography at

Antioch College and Brooklyn College Film Studio.

Fletcher has also done photographic work for films which include "The Wiz"; the "Freddie Prinz Story"; he co-directed "A Luta Continua" ("The Struggle Continues"), 1971, and was cinematographer for "O Povo Organizado" ("The People Organized"), 1975. Fletcher's work has appeared in such publications as "Jet", "Ebony", "Ms.", "Redbook" and "Life". His exhibitions include "Us" (1965), "Now" (1968), and a travelling exhibition of his Cuban trip by the Van Der Zee Institute (1968). Fletcher worked as a cinematographer for the PBS television programs "Black Journal" and "Enterface". In 1980 his work appeared in the Smithsonian Institute/Howard University photographic exhibition "We'll Never Turn Back, a component of "Voices of the Civil Rights Movement: A National Working Conference on Civil Rights Movement Culture."

Scope and Content Note

Collection of assorted printed material gathered by photographer Robert E. "Bob" Fletcher concerning the civil rights movement between 1962 and 1967. Included is printed material for the March on Washington, 1963; Free Southern Theatre, 1967; Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, 1963-64; Freedom Summer WATS Line Messages, 1964; Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, 1964; 3 issues of Broadside Topical Song Magazine, 1962, 1964 and other miscellaneous newspaper clippings.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American photographers
African Americans -- Civil rights
Civil rights movements -- United States -- History -- 20th century
Civil rights workers -- United States
March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, Washington, D.C., 1963

Titles

Schomburg NEH Automated Access to Special Collections Project

Names

Fletcher, Robert, 1938-
Fletcher, Robert E., 1938-
Free Southern Theater
Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party
Mississippi Freedom Project
Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (U.S.)