



The New York Public Library Music Division

Guide to the

Joseph Muller drawings

1920-1939, undated

JOB 19-01

Summary

Creator: Muller, Joseph, -1939

Title: Joseph Muller drawings

Date: 1920-1939, undated

Size: 8.7 linear feet (7 boxes)

Abstract: Joseph Muller was a collector, amateur musician, musicologist, and portraitist who worked in the Music Division of the New York Public Library between 1934-1939. The collection consists of ink, pencil, and multi-media sketches of musicians created by him.

Preferred citation: Joseph Muller drawings, JOB 19-01. Music Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Language of the Material: English

Creator History

Joseph Muller was a collector, amateur musician, musicologist, and portraitist. Born of German-Belgian parents in Frankfurt-am-Main, Joseph Muller, who started collecting during his student days, studied violin at the Brussels Conservatory, where, as a student of Alexandre Cornélius, he won first prize in July 1895. But his love of travel led him to a career as a ship's steward. During his many travels he sought out print dealers worldwide, adding to his growing collection. He collected music manuscripts and letters in addition to portraits (not surprisingly he was especially attracted to those of string players). His interest in music and collecting led him to do extensive research, making him an authority on early music and early American music in particular. In his 1935 publication "The Star-Spangled Banner : words and music issued between 1814-1864," Muller compiled an annotated and richly illustrated bibliography, tracing variant early publications of the text and tune of the American national anthem. An amateur artist, Muller drew copies of prints and, to a lesser degree, made portraits from life (usually at the back of a concert hall). Some of these drawings are included in the Muller Collection as well. He died at his home in Closter, New Jersey, on May 9, 1939.

Custodial History

The collection was donated to the Music Division by Joseph Muller during the 1930s.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of portraits of musical composers and performers drawn by Joseph Muller. The majority of the drawings were based on historical prints that Muller collected. Several were done based on first-hand observation of performances.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged into four series: Pencil drawings, Ink drawings, Multimedia drawings, and Large format drawings. Items within each series are arranged alphabetically by subject's last name.

Key Terms

Geographic Names

Europe

Subjects

Musicians -- Portraits

Musicians -- United States

Names

Muller, Joseph, -1939

Container List

Pencil drawings

Consists of drawings primarily created with graphite pencil.

b. 1 **A-D**

Includes drawings of musicians whose last names begin with A through D.

b. 2 **E-L**

Contains drawings of musicians whose last names begin with E through L.

b. 3 **M-R**

Contains drawings of musicians whose last names begin with M through R.

b. 4 **S-Z**

Contains drawings of musicians whose last names begin with S through Z.

b. 5 **Ink drawings**

Consists of drawings created primarily with ink.

b. 6 **Mixed media**

Consists of drawings created with a combination of ink, pencil, pastel, or gouache.

b. 7 **Large format**

Consists of drawings in a format larger than ten inches by 15 inches.