



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

Schomburg NEH Automated Access to Special Collections Project

Summary

Creator: Fletcher, Robert, 1938-

Title: Robert Fletcher civil rights collection

Date: 1962-1967

Size: 0.21 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Gift of Robert E. Fletcher, September 1990.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

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

Preferred citation: [Item], Robert Fletcher civil rights collection, Sc MG 402, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Accessioned by Berlena H. Robinson, September 1995.

Related Materials:

Also found in the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture:

(Catherine Clarke) Civil rights collection, Sc MG 95

(Roberta Yancy) Civil rights collection, Sc MG 388

Creator History

Robert E. "Bob" Fletcher was a photographer, filmmaker, writer, and educator. Born in 1938 in Detroit, Michigan, Fletcher majored in History and English at Fisk University and Wayne State University. 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; he 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 contributed photographic work to the films *The Wiz* and *Freddi Prinz Story*; he co-directed *A Luta Continua (The Struggle Continues)*, 1971, and was the 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 traveling exhibition of his Cuban trip sponsored 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's and Howard University's 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

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

Key Terms

Subjects

African American civil rights workers
African American motion picture producers and directors
African American photographers
African Americans -- Civil rights
Authors, Black
Civil rights movements

Occupations

Cinematographers.

Names

Fletcher, Robert, 1938-
Free Southern Theater
March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom (1963 : Washington, D.C.)
Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party
Mississippi Freedom Project
Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (U.S.)

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee 1963-1964
- b. 1 f. 2 Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party 1964
- b. 1 f. 3 March on Washington 1963 August 28
- b. 1 f. 4 Freedom Summer WATS Line Messages 1964
- b. 1 f. 5 Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) 1963
- b. 1 f. 6 Free Southern Theater 1967
- b. 1 f. 7 Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee 1967
- b. 1 f. 8 *Broadside Topical Song Magazine* 1962-1964
- b. 1 f. 9 Miscellaneous clippings