

Fuller family fonds

RBSC-ARC-1685

Finding aid

Sarah Romkey, February 2011

Rare Books and Special Collections
University of British Columbia Library



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Fonds description

Fuller family fonds.

[ca. 1912-1919].

11 cm of textual records and other material.

Biographical sketch: The Fuller family were from Sturminster Newton, Dorset England. The three sisters of the family, Dorothy, Rosalind and Cynthia, performed traditional English, Scottish and Irish folk songs in Victorian costume; their brother Walter acted as their manager. From 1913 to 1917 the sisters toured American towns and cities, especially in the Eastern and Midwestern United States. During this period Walter Fuller was based in New York City. Walter Fuller was married to Crystal Eastman (feminism activist and sister of Max Eastman, author and activist). At the end of the First World War, Walter Fuller returned to England.

Source: McLeods Books. "The Fuller Sisters in U.S.A." (booksellers' description). Available for consultation upon request in collection accession file.

Custodial history: The material was retrieved from the attic of the Eastman summer home on an unknown date, and was sold by McLeod's books (Vancouver) to Phillip Thomas on an unknown date. The collection was then donated to UBC Library to form part of the Phillip J. Thomas Popular Song Collection.

Scope and content: Fonds consists of textual and graphic material related to the activities of the Fuller siblings as traveling musicians, particularly during their American tour from 1913 to 1917, including correspondence, financial documents such as contracts and receipts, and photographs and drawings from their tours. Fonds also includes printed material such as programs and sheet music which the Fuller family had printed and sold. Fonds is arranged into series according to the type of documentation: Correspondence, Business and concert documents, Sheet music and lyrics and Photographs and drawings.

Source of title proper: Title based on the provenance of the fonds.

Physical description note: Fonds contains 11 cm of textual records; 10 photographs : b&w; 14 drawings : pencil and ink; 7 paintings : watercolour.

Arrangement note: The arrangement into groupings and files by the manuscript seller has been retained.

Finding aids note: File list available.

Accruals note: No further accruals are expected.

Series descriptions

Correspondence.

[ca. 1912 - 1919].

7.5 cm of textual records.

Scope and content: Series consists of letters sent and received by the Fuller siblings, mainly pertaining to singing engagements but also pertaining to personal matters. Letters sent from the sisters to Walter often include descriptions of cities and venues visited; letters received by the sisters or by Walter from external parties often offer praise or compliments for concerts given. One file contains correspondence between Walter and Mary Breck, a friend and manager of the sisters. One file of personal correspondence of Walter (1-8) also contains several personal documents relating to emigration to the United States and registration during war time. Documents are arranged into folders primarily according to the sender and/or receiver.

Source of title proper: Title based on the content of the series.

Business and concert documents.

[ca. 1913 - 1917].

2 cm of textual records.

Scope and content: Series consists of documentation related to concerts and business matters, including documents such as contracts and receipts for business expenses such as printing and photography; concert documents such as reviews, playbills and programs; and requests for songs sent to the sisters. Documents are arranged into files according to the form of document and topic.

Source of title proper: Title based on the content of the series.

Sheet music and lyrics.

[ca. 1915]

1.5 cm of textual records.

Scope and content: Series consists of music and lyrics hand-copied by the Fuller sisters, including lyrics to folk songs interspersed with notes and observations about folk music history and observations from their tours; manuscript sheet music for folk songs, including "When Adam was first created," "The twelve days of Christmas," "Katy cruel, Johnny, the miller," "Blow, ye winds, blow," and others; and sheet music broadsides printed and sold by the Fullers with illustrations by Dorothy, printed at the De Vinne Press and issued by the H.W. Gray Company in New York, including "Mowing the barley," "My man John," "The wraggle-taggle Gypsies, o!", "Brixham town," and "The keeper." Two copies of "Brixham town" are hand-coloured. Documents are arranged into files according to type of document.

Source of title proper: Title based on the content of the series.

Photographs and drawings.

[ca. 1915-1916]

10 photographs : b&w

14 drawings : pencil and ink

7 paintings : watercolour

Scope and content: Series consists of photographs of the Fuller siblings, and drawings and paintings by the Fuller siblings. Most drawings and paintings are unsigned, but may have been by Dorothy, who illustrated their printed broadsides. Depictions in drawings include medieval costumes, people, soldiers, and scenes from their travels; also included are a drawing and embroidery piece probably sent to the sisters by a young relative or friend.

Source of title proper: Title based on the content of the series.

File list

Series: Correspondence

Location (Box-file)	File title	Date
1-1	Letters to the Fuller sisters from Walter	1915-1917
1-2	Letters to the Fuller sisters	[ca. 1914-1917]
1-3	Business correspondence of Walter	[ca. 1913-1917]
1-4	Correspondence between Walter and Mary Breck	[ca. 1915-1917]
1-5	Letters from Rosalind to Walter	[ca. 1915-1917]
1-6	Letters from Dorothy to Walter	1915-1917
1-7	Letters from Cynthia to Walter	[ca. 1915-1917]
1-8	Personal correspondence and documents of Walter	[ca. 1912-1919]

Series: Business and concert documents

Location (Box-file)	File title	Date
1-9	Contracts, bills and receipts	1913-1917
1-10	Playbills, programs and reviews	[ca. 1915-1917]
1-11	Requests	[ca. 1915-1917]

Series: Sheet music and lyrics

Location (Box-file)	File title	Date
1-12	Lyrics and notes	[ca. 1915]
1-13	Manuscript sheet music	[ca. 1915]
1-14	Sheet music broadsides	[ca. 1915]

Series: Photographs and drawings

Location (Box-file)	File title	Date
1-15	Drawings and paintings	[ca. 1915]
1-16	Photographs	[ca. 1915-1916]

Photograph list

Series: Photographs and drawings

Identifier	File (Box-file)	Title	Date
BC-2141-1	1-16	Fuller sisters with harp	[ca. 1915]
BC-2141-2	1-16	Fuller sister, possibly Cynthia Inscribed, "Chicago, 1916"	1916
BC-2142-3	1-16	Fuller sister in a doorway	[ca. 1915]
BC-2142-4	1-16	Dorothy Fuller	[ca. 1915]
BC-2142-5	1-16	Cynthia Fuller	[ca. 1915]
BC-2142-6	1-16	Rosalind Fuller	[ca. 1915]
BC-2142-7	1-16	Man and woman with young girl	[ca. 1915]
BC-2142-8	1-16	Unidentified man sitting at desk, possibly Percy MacKaye	[ca. 1915]
BC-2142-9	1-16	Walter G. Fuller Inscribed, "Photograph by Alice Boughton, New York"	[ca. 1915]
BC-2142-10	1-16	View of a country home, possibly Fuller home in England Inscribed with name of photographer, Alice Boughton	[ca. 1915]