



Emil Fuchs Papers
1880-1931

Compiled by Ed McLoughlin

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Biographical note

Emil Fuchs was born in Vienna, Austria in 1866. He studied art in Vienna and Berlin before emigrating to London in 1897, where he exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1898. Fuchs' work as a medallist and sculptor was well received and his portraits became very fashionable, notably among the British royal family. He modeled a number of medals, portraying Princess Alexandra, which were struck for Queen Victoria; executed a coronation medal for Edward VII; and created the King's likeness for a penny postage stamp. Fuchs was principally a medallist and sculptor until 1898 when he commenced an intensive study of painting. He learned quickly with the help of his friend John Singer Sargent and soon became a skilled and much sought after portraitist. During World War I Fuchs moved to New York and offered help to the American war effort, becoming an American citizen in 1924. He continued to work and live in New York until his death by suicide in 1929.

Administrative note

Under the terms of his will, the executors of Fuchs' estate (Lee McCanliss, attorney and the Guaranty Trust Company of New York) were given the power to decide on a resident corporation to house Fuchs' works and the contents of his studio and receive funds to support the collection. Wilford S. Conrow (artist and portraitist of W.H. Goodyear, the Brooklyn Museum's first Curator of Fine Arts, 1890-1923) was "advisor and instructed liaison officer" to the executors. It was Conrow who advised the Museum's director, W.H. Fox, that the Fuchs Estate and Collection was available. Personal recollections by Fox of the events leading up to the acquisition are found in "Memoirs of Dr. William Henry Fox, 1858-1919," pp. 867-869, call number N61 B8 F83. The Fuchs Collection was first offered to the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, where it was rejected. The official transfer of the Estate to the Brooklyn Museum was made in March 1931.

Over the course of the correspondence, letters were addressed to Fuchs at various locations and the following is a summary list taken from envelopes, most of which were not retained:

Jan. 1901-Jan. 1903 - **54 Devonshire St., Portland Place, London;**

During May 1901 he was reached at **Moulton Paddocks, Newmarket, England;**

Dec. 1901 at **Schloss Rosenau, Coburg, Germany;**

Aug. 1908 and Feb. 1916-Jan. 1918 – letters were addressed to

Bryant Park Studios, 80 West 40th St., Apt. 83, New York;

May 1910-Sept. 1915 – letters were addressed to

Abbey Lodge, 115 Park Rd., Regent's Park, London;

During Dec. 1910 he was at the **Hotel Mangna, St. Moritz, Switzerland;**

Dec. 1926-July 1928 – letters were addressed to **1 West 67th St., New York.**

In Nov. 1911 Emil Fuchs' sister, **Renee Fuchs** was at **1062 Madison Ave., Apt.1, New York.**

Processing and arrangement

The project archivist observed the following processing guidelines: staples and metal clips were detached; folded materials were flattened; oversize materials were either photocopied to a reduced size or housed in appropriate containers; loose photographs were removed and placed in photograph storage; most duplicates were discarded; some returned to the Department of Painting & Sculpture.

Newsprint and other highly acidic paper were photocopied and retained in separate storage. Photostats were photocopied and then discarded.

The records are sorted by type or format. Some envelopes were retained, but most were discarded.

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used in this finding aid:

I.f. linear feet
DB document box

Scope and content

Extent: 2 l.f. (2 DB, 2 Bound volumes)
Inclusive dates: 1880-1931
Bulk dates: 1897-1927

The Fuchs Papers document Emil Fuchs' activities, mainly during the years 1897 through 1927, and also includes documents related to the disposition of the collection in the years after his death. The Papers are organized into two series: General correspondence and Visual materials.

Series descriptions

Series 1: General correspondence
Dates: 1897-1931
Extent: 1 DB (0.5 l.f.)
Arrangement: Chronological and alphabetical

General correspondence files are organized into three groups. Correspondence: British Royal family includes letters from secretaries and assistants to the British Royals (organized chronologically) documenting Fuchs' activities and his numerous commissions for them. The development of Fuchs' relationship with the British Royals from 1897 through the death of Queen Victoria and accession to the throne of her son Edward VII is well noted in this series of letters. General correspondence (organized alphabetically) includes letters from clients and friends, giving insight into the broad range of his commercial success as an artist and the long-term friendships that grew from his social and artistic skills. Of note are letters from his friends John Singer Sargent, David Belasco and Daniel Chester French. In addition, this series includes inventories of the artworks in Fuchs' studio and papers relating to the bequest of his collection.

Series 2: Visual materials
Dates: 1880-1928
Extent: 1 DB (0.5 l.f.) 2 Bound Albums (1 l.f.)
Arrangement: Chronological and alphabetical

Visual materials files are organized by format. Photographs of Fuchs' artworks are arranged by type: portrait paintings, portrait sculpture, medals, monuments; an album contains mounted and labeled photographs of Fuchs' artwork. The photographs within

each folder are arranged alphabetically by sitter or title; pencil sketches and autographs are contained in a bound album and a folder.

The sketch album is especially rich in historical and artistic content and includes invitations, letters, autographs, sketches and ephemera. Fuchs was invited to the bedchamber of Queen Victoria at her death to make sketches and a death mask for a bust of the Queen. The album contains several sketches made on this occasion and a sprig of dried flowers from Queen Victoria's room that was given Fuchs by the Princess of Wales. Numerous studies depict the British Royals, including Queen Alexandra and King Edward VII, at leisure: playing piano, reading, playing cards and writing. Sketches of notables of the day include I.J. Paderewski and Robert Todd Lincoln. Among the numerous autographs in the volume are Queen Victoria, King Edward VII and Brooks Atkinson. There are also letters from Grace (Mrs. Calvin) Coolidge and Robert Todd Lincoln, President Lincoln's son.

Folder descriptions

General correspondence series

Bequest: receipt. (1931).

Annotated receipt listing Fuchs' bequest, Schedule A: securities and cash, Schedule B: books and prints, with values.

Corresp: British Royal family [01]. (1897-1901).

Corresp through secretaries and assistants with British Royals and others including Queen Victoria; Prince of Wales; King Edward VII; Queen Alexandra; Queen Maud of Norway; Duke of York; Lord Marlborough. Correspondents include F. Knollys; C. Knollys; M. Muther; S. Ellis; G. Holford; D. Probyn; A. Davidson; E. Lock. Corresp refers to appointments for sittings; to view and discuss the progress of commissioned works.

Corresp: British Royal family [02]. (1902-1928).

Corresp through secretaries and assistants with British Royals and others, including Prince of Wales; King Edward VII; Queen Alexandra; Queen Maud of Norway. Correspondents include F. Knollys; C. Knollys; M. Muther; S. Ellis; G. Holford; D. Probyn; A. Davidson; E. Lock; others. Corresp refers to appointments for sittings; viewing and discussing commissioned works.

Corresp: British Royal family [03]. (n.d.).

Corresp, undated from Prince Francis of Teck; Inscriptions for medallion, memorial.

General corresp, A-F. (1902-1927).

Corresp, including with E. Adams re investment; Adriana; Margaret Allen; A. Anderson re Bryant Park Studios, New York lease; American Numismatic Society re medal competition; W. Ashley; P. Barlettelli; C. Hobbs re payment for H.W. Beal portrait; Bertha Beckwith re sculptured head of her husband; David Belasco re bust of Forbes Robertson; Bramah & Co. re damages; J.A. Brashear re dinner program; T. Bromwell re painting for Mrs. Matthew Scott; H. Brown re gift; Isabelle Cameron in French; P. Cappe re Underwood typewriter; A. Carrel; Cartier & Cie annotated brochure for peace plaque design; A. Chickering; Marie E. Clews re portrait; E.N. Collins re photos; Columbia University Athletic Association re intercollegiate fencing championships; J.W. Corrigan re his father's portrait; M. Crowninshield re Paderewski head; Val Davis; H. Dear re resigning his post at Abbey House and Miss Torrens replacing him; Maurice de Bunter; E. de Fair (Havana); M. de Herter; E. Paul Dibdin; L. Dicksee re G. Custard; A. Doria; N. Earl; L. Evans; W. Evans; C. Fique lecture ticket; M. Fleischmann; Daniel Chester French re recital invitation; from Emil Fuchs to his sister; Renee (Nelly) Fuchs re plans after war. Telegram: Mrs. Coolidge. Lecture ticket: C. Fique. Passport: Emil Fuchs, Austro-Hungary, 1902. 'The speech.'

General corresp, G-L. (1915-1926).

Corresp, including with M. Garrison and U.S. War Department re portrait of L. Garrison, Secretary of War; E. Gary; A. Gilbert, sculptor; J. Gordoni; E. Gould; W. Graf (Fuchs' assistant) re expenses; E. Graham; Guaranty Trust Company of New York re investments; Elsie Guelet; F.R.H.; Sherman Hall; L. Hamilton re portrait; L. Harcourt re Fuchs' business affairs in London; Juliet Hill; H. Holt; I.H. Hoover (White House); H.M. Income Tax; Dora Ingram; F. Joubert re frames; T. Kato, Japanese Ambassador to Great Britain, re T. Koume; G. Kelly; R. Kirchner; F. Kleinberger Gallery; Korner & Wood, Cleveland re Fuchs exhibition; T. Koume; Amy Leefe; Liberty Loan Committee; Lincoln Safe Deposit Company re stored goods; B. Livingstone re Saturday Evening Post reproduction of Fuchs' painting; M. Livingstone; J. Loring re war effort. Autograph: Charles A. Lindbergh on White House stationery. Clipping: poem by A.E. Lobeck.

General correspondence series (cont'd.)

General corresp, M-R. (1915-1926).

Corresp, including with W. Macbeth; Maisime; M. Manchester, wedding invitation; Katherine Mackey; L. McKinney; A. Mitchell; H.E. Moses re expenses for household and studio in London, Mollie Torrens; J. Murray; D. Myers; National Academy of Design re portrait in exhibition; A. Nelson; New York Parks Department re permit; New York Telephone Company; H. Norris re autographs; N. Okabe; Anna Peter; A. Pinero; M. Pinero; L. Richard; Willy Rieser.

General corresp, S-Y; unidentified. (1902-1921).

Corresp, including with C. Sacks; R. Sager; G. Schirmer re music; E. Schott; Charles Schwab, re price of painting 'Mollie'; G. Seiberling; L. Senac re brochure of fencing academy; T. Shaughnessy re portrait; C. Shayne; Clare Sheridan; J.W. Singer & Sons re Drinkwater portrait bust; Speyer & Co. re investments; Maria Steininger; J. Storrs, Renee Fuchs; A. Swasey; Thomas Throck; Town & Country; E. Torrens re studio and London affairs; Molly Torrens; Union League Club; H. Van Dyke; Van Ingen re Fuchs' desire to serve war effort; J. Van Houten; Violet-Mond; Sophie Hall Walker re memorial to her son, Wilfred; F. Wanklyn; Lady F. Warwick; Mrs. C. Whelan; Carrie Wiley; E. Wilson re Fuchs' boat; C.B. Stuart Worlla; Dorothy Wright; 3 pieces of unidentified corresp, with unattributed poem, 'Playfellows'. Article: re A. Swasey in the Journal of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Clipping: re N. Taylor suicide. Invitation: Mrs. Woodrow Wilcon. Poem: 'Playfellows.'

General corresp: Sargent, John Singer. (1897).

Letters (3) from Sargent, re visits, bronzes, with envelopes, 1 including pencil sketches. Letters to Sargent from Dame Thornycroft re Fuchs' work; from H.H. Armstead re Fuchs' work. Sargent's calling card (annotated).

Studio inventory. (n.d.).

Lists of works by Fuchs, including sculptures; portraits; medals; exhibitions; framed photographs; untitled (on Hopson & Juniel, Photographers letterhead). Notes.

Visual materials series

Medals. (1928).

Medal, with side view relief of head, inscribed 'Schubertjahr 1928.'

Photographs, works of art; album. (n.d.).

Bound album (32x35 cm.) containing mounted photographs of works by Emil Fuchs, including 'In Maiden Meditation'; 'Betty'; 'Mabel'; 'The Dancer'; 'Girl With Dog'; 'Phyllis'; 'Miss Desmond'; 'The Grip of Death'; 'Dawn'; 'Reclining Nude'; 'Eva'; 'Memories'; 'The Reader'; 'La Pensierosa'; 'Mr. Gari Melchers'; 'Mr. Carroll'; Mr. Seligmann.

Photographs, works of art; drawings. (1920).

Photographs of drawings by Emil Fuchs.

Photographs, works of art; medals. (n.d.).

Photographs of medals by Emil Fuchs, including for the Hispanic Society; J.P. Morgan; Distinguished achievements in science, art and music; Hudson-Fulton Celebration; Baden Powell; unidentified.

Photographs, works of art; monuments. (n.d.).

Photographs of monuments by Emil Fuchs, including 'The Two Sisters'; design for the Champlain monument; Coolidge monument; Heinz memorial; Franklin Murphy memorial; Ashley monument. Photographs, works of art; portrait paintings. (n.d.). Photographs of portrait paintings by Emil Fuchs and one other, including Edward D. Adams; Miss Allen; Edward E. Bartlett; Mrs. Bevas; Miriam Clemens; Simone d'Herlys, 'Lady with a Rose'; Mrs. D. Bryson Delavan; Col. Orestes Ferrara; Mrs. William A. Hamilton; Beatrix Hughes; 'Lady in Black'; 'Little Jane'; 'Little Jane and her Mother'; Mr. M. Kobayashi; Joseph Loring; 'Modern Juno'; Sir George Martin; Ethel Mary Oakland; Reba Owen; 'Portrait of the Artist' (Emil Fuchs) by his Japanese pupil; Johnston Forbes Robertson; Mrs. Oakley Rhinelander; 'Roshanara'; Frank Seiberling; Clare Sheridan; Miss Sinclair; Melville E. Stone; Ambrose Swasey; Mrs. J. Lee Taylor; Lady Wavertree; Mrs. Allan Wellman; Mrs. Sydney Whelan; C. Wood.

Photographs, works of art; portrait sculpture [01]. (n.d.).

Photographs of portrait sculpture by Emil Fuchs, including 'Betty'; Harvey W. Corbett; Baroness Deichman; George Drinkwater; 'Eva'; Lady Victoria Grenfel; T. Koume; Liston L. Lewis; Anthony F. Lucas.

Photographs, works of art; portrait sculpture [02]. (n.d.).

Photographs of portrait sculpture by Emil Fuchs, including 'Mabel'; Sir George Martin; George Maynard; Gari Melchers; Sir David Murray; 'Phyllis'; 'Phryne'; Pinero; 'Rita'; Mr. Seymour; 'Sylvana'; Mrs. Francis Wellman, 'Portrait of a Lady'; unidentified.

Photographs, works of art; sculpture. (n.d.).

Photographs of Fuchs sculpture, including 'The Call From Beyond'; 'Carmela'; 'The Dancer'; 'Dawn'; 'The Girl with a Fan'; 'The Group'; 'In Maiden Meditation'; 'The Lesson'; 'Memories'; 'Mother and Child'; 'Mother's Love'; 'Nude in Wicker Chair'; 'Nymph'; 'La Pensierosa'; 'Sancta Cecilia'; unidentified.

Photographs: Fuchs, Emil. (1925-1926).

Photographs of Emil Fuchs working; fencing; in groups.

Photographs: Heinz, H.J. (n.d.).

Photographs of H.J. Heinz; Heinz factory and office interiors including employees at work.

Visual materials series (cont'd)

Photographs: individuals. (1880-1919).

Photographs, including Sarah Bernhardt, carte de visite; S.J. Koumie; unidentified individuals, groups.

Photographs: installations. (n.d.).

Photographs of exhibition installations of Emil Fuchs works in Cleveland, Detroit, and unknown (Cartier?) location.

Photographs: negatives. (n.d.).

4x5 negatives: burial site, 3 workmen with shovels; outdoor scene with 3 persons at tea, and a dog in foreground.

Photographs: Swasey, Ambrose. (1913-1920).

Photographs of Ambrose Swasey.

Proofs: stamps. (1901).

Original design and proofs for the King Edward stamps.

Sketchbook: album. (n.d.).

Bound sketchbook, scrapbook containing autographs, including Queen Victoria; King Edward VII; I.J. Paderewski, with a music notation; Daniel Chester French; Robert Todd Lincoln; Brooks Atkinson; others. Drawings by Emil Fuchs, including a card playing group with the Prince of Wales at Sandringham, Norfolk; Charles of Denmark; Queen Victoria on her deathbed; King George of Greece; Marquis and Marchioness of Londonderry; King Edward VII for a postage stamp; I.J. Paderewski; Lord Salisbury; Robert Todd Lincoln; King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra; others. Corresp from Queen Alexandra and other Royals; Grace (Mrs. Calvin) Coolidge; Robert Todd Lincoln; others. Objects, including dried flowers taken from the deathbed of Queen Victoria; invitations; tickets to the coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Victoria and other events.

Sketches. (1901).

Pencil sketches of the Prince of Wales; Gari Melchers.