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403 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

COX-McCORMACK, NANCY
(1885-1967)
PAPERS
1911-1965

Processed by:

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INTRODUCTION

The papers (1911-1965) of sculptor Nancy Cox-McCormack Cushman (1885-1967) were a gift by the author, Ithaca, New York and also of Mrs. Anne M. Cushman. The materials in this finding aid measure 1.68 linear feet. Literary rights on the unpublished writings of Nancy Cox-McCormack Cushman papers have been dedicated to the public. Single photocopies of unpublished writings may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The papers of sculptor Nancy Cox-McCormack Cushman containing 4 volumes and approximately 600 items, spans the period 1911-1965. The collection is composed of correspondence, photographs and memoirs. Mrs. Cushman's commissions encompass many of the important personalities for this period both in Europe and America. The subjects of her sculptures include Jane Addams, Stell Anderson, M. Partelemy, Giacomo Boni, Lauro De Bosis, Mrs. Joseph T. Bowen, Edward Ward Carmack, the Rev. John Cavanaugh, Charles Upson Clark, Virginia Clark, Charles Thomas Cushman, Clarence Darrow, Zanas C. Eldred, Rudolph Evans, Henry P. Fletcher, Mahatma Gandhi, Alice Gerstenberg, Julia Gerstenberg, Dr. Laurence M. Gould, Charles Haubiel, Dean Craven Laycock, Marian Nevins MacDowell, Giuseppe Marussig, Doctor McGannon, Benito Mussolini, Harold Noice, Max Pam, Caroline Parkdull Perkins, Hiram Mills Perkins, Ezra Pound, Col. George C. Rankin, Lola Ridge, Lidia Rismondo, Eunice Tietjens, and Hugh C. Wallace.

Two large volumes contain photographs of the above named sculptures. There are letters and memoirs dealing with the experiences of Mrs. Cushman while in the process of executing these commissions. Also, the collection contains some genealogical items pertaining to Mrs. Cushman's family.

Mrs. Cushman has added to the above collection two volumes of letters. The first volume contains approximately 50 letters written by Mr. and Mrs. Cushman during the sixteen months spent in Italy in 1952-1954. The letters were written to Mr. Cushman's mother, Mrs. Charles A. Cushman; his sister, Lona; his son and daughter-in-law, C. S. and Anne and describe their many interesting experiences.

The second volume is composed of 40 letters written by the family of Mme. Maurice Triand of Bordeaux to the Cushmans in 1945-1951, immediately following World War II. In Mrs. Cushman's words, "The letters describe the hardships, suffered by a cultured French family (husband, wife and two little girls) under the German occupation of the city of Bordeaux and the accompanying allied bombings, and also some problems in resuming normal living in that city after the Germans had evacuated and combined that movement with a final spree of looting."

These papers are composed of six articles written by Mrs. Nancy Cox-McCormack Cushman, the sculptor, together with photographs of her work. The articles are:

1. Items about the Carmack statue (32 pages)
2. "Five Weeks in London, England, 1931, Modeling From Life the Bust of Mahatma Gandhi" (35 pages)
3. "I Model the Portrait Bust of Dean Craven Laycock of Dartmouth College" (16 pages)
4. "La Famiglio De Bosis and other Memoirs" (126 pages)
5. "Social life of Old Virginia after the War"
6. "Two Letters of Reminiscence Covering My Decade in Chicago, 1911-1920"

The photographs include the Carmack statue, the Boni bust, the Mahatma Gandhi, the Memorial Medal of Jane Addams, and Liliana De Bosis. There are 26 photographs of the

sculptor and her subjects with the “Reminiscence” article. These articles are primarily memoirs of Mrs. Nancy Cox-McCormack Cushman and contain interesting information about various commissions which she has executed during her life. Memoirs added at a later date include the following:

1. Memoirs of Conversations with the American Poet, Ezra Pound, and his wife, Dorothy Shakespeare Pound 1921-1931
2. Memoirs – 1922-1924
 - a. “I Settle Myself in Rome – 1922”
 - b. “A Day at Lake Nemi – 1922”
 - c. “A Brief Visit to the Island of Procida – 1924”
3. Three Memoirs
 - a. “Mussolini Comes to Power”
 - b. “Mussolini Assumes Power”
 - c. “I model from Life the Portrait of Italian Premier Benito Mussolini”
4. Two Memoirs
 - a. “I attend the Coronation of Pope Pius XI”
 - b. “A Private Audience with Pope Pius XI”

These memoirs contain information regarding Giacomo Boni, a distinguished Roman archaeologist.

Some correspondence and other data regarding Ezra Pound, American poet; Charles U. Clark, well known educator; Henry P. Fletcher, American Ambassador to Italy and Charles Haubiel, composer-pianist, were added to the collection. Three letters regarding the ancestry of Nancy Cox-McCormack Cushman have been added to the collection at the request of Mrs. Cushman.

About 300 items including primarily letters of Margaret Storrs Grierson to Nancy Cox-McCormack Cushman for the years 1948-1963 in regard to Sophia Smith Collection of papers of professional women graduates of Smith College. Mrs. Charles A. Beard began the collection with the objective of a National Women’s Archives which was to have been located in Washington, D. C.. This idea was abandoned with the outbreak of World War II. Mrs. Grierson, a former professor of Philosophy, became Archivist at the Neilson Library, Smith College and according to Mrs. Cushman has “created archives of vast scope based on the original Sophia Smith Collection.” In addition to these letters, the diary of Charles T. Cushman for the dates March-June 1961 while on a trip to Italy, Greece, Yugoslavia and Austria; several items giving family data and photographs and two Florence magazines with data about Riccardo Nobili; two volumes containing correspondence, clippings, photographs, programs, notices dealing with the work of Nancy Cox-McCormack Cushman, the sculptor; pamphlets about the acquisitions of the Houghton Library of Harvard University, the story of the Palazzo-Convent of Annalena by Elsa Dawson, and Friends of the Smith College Library have been added to the collection.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

NANCY COX-McCORMACK

- 1885 August 15, born the daughter of Herschel McCullough and Nannie Morgan Cox, Nashville, Tennessee
Named Nannie Mai Cox for mother Nannie Morgan Cox, born in Dixon Springs, Smith County, Tennessee, June 27, 1861
Father Herschel McCullough Cox, born in Livingston, Overton County, Tennessee, October 14, 1861
Mother and father were first cousins and their marriage was strongly opposed by their respective parents
- 1888 December 13, mother died of galloping tuberculosis (T. B.), after the deaths in May of her 6 year old daughter, Corinne, from polio, and a baby son buried the same day
Nannie Mae, then 3 years old, contracted polio at this time and was an invalid for a considerable period of time
- 1889 Father remarried to Lena L. Warren
One child was born to this marriage, Henry Herschel Cox, in 1890
- 1899 December 31, father killed in a carriage accident
- 1900 Sent to boarding school in Arkansas but forced for health reasons to return to Nashville after a few months
Entered Ward 's Seminary
- 1903 Married Mark McCormack, Nashville
- 1909 Separated from husband.
Went to St. Louis, Missouri, where father's brother's family lived
Attended St. Louis School of Fine Arts of Washington University
- 1910 Moved to Chicago, Illinois
Attended Chicago Art Institute, studying sculpture
- 1911 Divorced Mark McCormack
Opened studio in Tree Building, Chicago
- 1912 Sculptured composition HARMONY: three copies sold
Entered the Edward Ward Carmack Memorial Competition, Nashville

- 1913 Carmack Memorial entry accepted by Memorial Committee
- 1920 Made death mask and modeled portrait bust of Doctor McGannon, founder of Women's Hospital, Nashville
- 1921 Went to Europe, visiting France and Germany
- 1922 Continued to Rome, Italy
Opened studio at Via Margutta 48
- 1922/24 Modeled heroic figure of Edward Ward Carmack for Nashville Memorial. Modeled portrait busts of Mussolini, U. S. Ambassador Henry P. Fletcher, Giacomo Boni, and noted archaeologist Lydia Rismondo
- 1924 Returned to New York City and opened studio there
- 1925 May, sailed for Spain
Visited France
Traveled to Spain to model portrait bust of Primo de Rivera
- 1926 Returned to New York
- 1927 Her book "Pleasant Days in Spain" published by J. H. Sears, New York
Later this book was published in England
- 1931 To England to model portrait bust of Mahatma Gandhi, who was then attending Indian Conference in London
- 1939 December 21, married Charles Thomas Cushman of Brooklyn Heights, New York City
- 1940 Established residence at 62 Montague Street, Brooklyn Heights, New York City
- 1952 November 1, sailed with husband for Italy. Lived for six weeks in Taormina, Sicily, two months in Rome and about one year in Florence
- 1954 April, returned to United States
- 1955 December 1, moved to Ithaca, New York
- 1967 Died

CONTAINER LIST

BOX 1

1. Article – “Carmack Memorial Competition and Difficulties encountered during the Execution of the Contract”
2. Article – “Five Weeks in London, England, 1931, Modeling from Life the Bust of Mahatma Gandhi”
3. “I Model the Portrait Bust of Dean Craven Laycock of Dartmouth College”
4. “La Famiglia De Bosis and Other Memoirs”
5. “Social Life in Old Virginia after the War” including a Thomas Nelson Page letter dated August 14, 1922
6. Photographs
7. “Two Letters of Reminiscence Covering My Decade in Chicago, 1911-1920 ”

BOX 2

1. Photographs of sculptures by Nancy Cox-McCormack, 1921-1923
This volume contains 32 photographs
2. Memoirs of conversations with the e American poet, Ezra Pound and his wife, Dorothy Shakespeare Pound, 1921-1931
3. Memoirs
 - a. “I attend the Coronation of Pope Pius XI” – 1922
4. Memoirs – 1922-1924
 - a. “I Settle Myself in Rome” – 1922
 - b. “A Day at Lake Nemi – 1922”
 - c. “A Brief Visit to the Island of Procida” – 1924
5. Three memoirs – 1924
 - a. “Mussolini Comes to Power”
 - b. “Mussolini Assumes Power”
 - c. “I Model from Life the Portrait of Italian Premier Benito Mussolini”
6. “The Good Neighbor,” material for Radio interview with Nancy Cox-McCormack, sculptor, on Jane Addams, 1936
7. Correspondence and other data regarding Charles U. Clark and Ezra Pound, 1923-1960
8. Additional data regarding American Ambassador Henry P. Fletcher, 1921-1953
9. Correspondence and other data regarding Charles Haubiel, composer-pianist, 1947-1960
10. Correspondence dealing with ancestry of Nancy Cox-McCormack
11. Correspondence – Italian trip, 1952-1954
12. Correspondence – Mme. Triand and family – France during German occupation written immediately following, 1945-1951

BOX 3

1. Two volumes containing correspondence, clippings, photographs, program and notices dealing with the work of Nancy Cox-McCormack Cushman the sculptor
2. Pamphlets
 - a. Acquisitions of the Houghton Library of Harvard University
 - b. The story of the Palazzo – Convent of Annalena by Elsa Dawson
 - c. Friends of the Smith College Library

BOX 4

1. Diary of Charles T. Cushman
2. Family data and photographs
3. Letters of Margaret Storrs Grierson, 1948-1957
4. Letters of Margaret Storrs Grierson, 1958-1965
5. Printed matter: "Florence Magazine" (2 issues) re: Riccardo Nobili