

Fuller, R. Buckminster, Collection

R. Buckminster Fuller Collection

1949-1978



Title Statement

Fuller, R. Buckminster, Collection R. Buckminster Fuller Collection, 1949-1978 Ms.1975.007

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Publication Statement

Publisher: Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries (0434)
560 Drillfield Drive
Newman Library, Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
Business Number: 540-231-6308
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URL: <http://spec.lib.vt.edu>



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Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2024-03-26 07:00:18 -0400.

Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Ms.1975.007

Unit Date

1949-1978

Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

Abstract

R. Buckminster Fuller (1895-1983) was a poet, philosopher, inventor, engineer and architect. Fuller, or "Bucky" to his friends and colleagues, was most well known for his invention of the geodesic dome, a ground-based dome with no limiting dimensions. The collection contains unsigned correspondence by Fuller and others, as well as various articles on architecture and the geodesic dome, nature, utopian design, space and science.

Creator

Fuller, R. Buckminster (Richard Buckminster), 1895-1983

Extent

0.4 Cubic Feet 2 boxes

Repository

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply. See the WATCH File for R. Buckminster Fuller at https://norman.hrc.utexas.edu/watch/contact_list.cfm?ArtistID=731. See also the Estate of R. Buckminster Fuller's website at <https://buckminsterfuller.net/> for more information. Contact Special Collections and University Archives for assistance in determining the use of these materials.

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Source of Acquisition

The R. Buckminster Fuller Collection was purchased for the architectural collection of the library around 1975.

Processing Information

An inventory of the R. Buckminster Fuller Collection was created in 1976. The processing, rearrangement and description of the collection was completed in August 2006.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], R. Buckminster Fuller Collection, Ms1975-007, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

Biographical Note

R. Buckminster Fuller was born in Milton, Massachusetts on July 12, 1895. He attended Harvard University from 1913-15, but never finished his degree. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy in 1917 and served as an officer in the U.S. Navy during World War I. In 1954, Fuller patented the geodesic dome, the structure he is most famous for as an architect. The U.S. Pavilion, a geodesic dome designed by Fuller, was a main feature of the Canadian Universal and International Exhibition in 1967. Fuller was also the inventor of a "dymaxion" car as well as a "dymaxion" world map, a map which limited the distortions that are common with most world maps. Fuller was not just an inventor and architect, but also a philosopher and poet. He published many books and articles throughout his life, both fiction and non-fiction. Fuller's contributions as a poet, philosopher, architect and inventor have made him the subject of numerous books and articles, as well as earning him many honorary degrees and awards.

Scope and Content

The R. Buckminster Fuller Collection consists of correspondence written by Fuller himself as well as letters written to him from various sources. Correspondence consists of unsigned copies of letters to and from Fuller; most pertain to the operation of his business, Geodesics, Inc. In addition, there are numerous reprints of newspaper, magazine, and scholarly journal articles written about Fuller's architecture and achievements. Also included are many examples of Fuller's own writing, including a reprint of a portion of his book, *Nine Chains to the Moon*.

Related Archival Material

See the Don Fusaro Collection on R. Buckminster Fuller, Ms2023-117, also at Virginia Tech Special Collections and University Archives.

Stanford University's Department of Special Collections has the R. Buckminster Fuller Papers, M1090, as well as an online exhibit of selections from the collection.

Keywords

Architects

Fuller, R. Buckminster (Richard Buckminster), 1895-1983

Rights Statement for Archival Description

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Arrangement

The R. Buckminster Fuller Collection is divided into three series by material type and arranged chronologically within each series.

Series I: Letters to and from R. Buckminster Fuller, 1953-1962, contains correspondence of Fuller and others pertaining to various subjects, such as the running of his business Geodesics, Inc.

Series II: Writings of R. Buckminster Fuller, 1952-1976, contains poems, articles, and stories written by Fuller throughout his life.

Series III: Writings about R. Buckminster Fuller, 1949-1978, contains articles and other materials written about the life and works of Fuller.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I: Letters to and from R. Buckminster Fuller

Unit Date 1953-1962

Unit Date Nov 1953-Dec 1962

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Series II: Writings of R. Buckminster Fuller

Unit Date 1952-1976

Unit Date 1952-1965

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Unit Date Sep 1965-Aug 1969

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Unit Date Oct 1969-May 1976

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Unit Date 1974

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Series III: Writings about R. Buckminster Fuller

Unit Date 1949-1978

Unit Date Jun 1949-Jan 1959

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Unit Date May 1959-Apr 1965

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Unit Date Apr 1965-1969

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Unit Date Nov 1969-Dec 1973

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Unit Date c. 1975-Sep 1978

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Honorary Doctorate Citations

Unit Date 1954-c. 1975

box-folder 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Unit Date 1955-1967

box-folder 2 (box)

Container 2 (folder)