



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Earle Forbes photographs**

1940s-1950s

\*MGZEB 21-0022

Processed by Heather Lember in 2021.

## Summary

**Creator:** Forbes, Earle

**Title:** Earle Forbes photographs

**Date:** 1940s-1950s

**Size:** 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

**Source:** Source of acquisition is unknown.

**Abstract:** Earle Forbes was a photographer and former dancer with the Denishawn group. The Earle Forbes photograph collection contains an assortment of black and white prints of mostly unidentified dancers.

**Preferred citation:** Earle Forbes photographs, \*MGZEB 21-0022. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Heather Lember in 2021.

## Creator History

Earle Forbes was a dancer with Ruth St. Denis and Ted Shaw's Denishawn group, who began taking photographs with a box camera in the 1940s. Active from the 1940s to 1950s, Forbes was a self-taught photographer who took pictures of many dancers and athletes. His photographs are notable for being posed images, many of which focus on figure and form.

## Scope and Content Note

The collection contains an assortment of black and white eight by ten photograph prints of mostly unidentified dancers and posed individuals. Among the identified images are Marina Svetlova, premier ballerina at the Metropolitan Opera Company; Olga Saurez; and Peter Deign of Ballet Russe de Monte

Carlo. There are also prints simply labeled with a production name or topic. The unidentified images feature mostly photographs of men, who are posed in suits, costumes, or casual clothing. Images with titles are arranged alphabetically by name, production, or topic.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Dance -- Photographs

### **Occupations**

Dancers.

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Photographs

Portraits

### **Names**

Forbes, Earle

Metropolitan Opera (New York, N.Y.)

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-13 1940s-1950s
- b. 1 f. 14 *Le Beau Danube* 1944
- b. 1 f. 15 Brazilian 1940s-1950s
- b. 1 f. 16 *Carmen -- Metropolitan Opera* 1942
- b. 1 f. 17 Deign, Peter -- Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo 1944
- b. 1 f. 18 India 1940s-1950s
- b. 1 f. 19 *Rodeo* 1944
- b. 1 f. 20 Siam 1940s-1950s
- b. 1 f. 21 Saurez, Olga 1940s-1950s
- b. 1 f. 22 Svetlova, Marina circa 1951
- b. 1 f. 23 Tannhäuser -- Metropolitan Opera 1943