



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Paul Love collection of Doris Humphrey and Charles Weidman materials**

bulk 1930s-1953

(S) \*MGZMD 346

Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2014

## Summary

**Creator:** Love, Paul, 1908-

**Title:** Paul Love collection of Doris Humphrey and Charles Weidman materials

**Date:** bulk 1930s-1953

**Size:** .21 linear feet (1 box)

**Source:** Donated by Paul Love, 1973.

**Abstract:** The Paul Love collection of Doris Humphrey and Charles Weidman materials (1930s-1953, bulk 1930s) consist of notes, publicity materials, essays, and correspondence. Materials are chiefly written by Love or Humphrey, and mostly concern the Humphrey-Weidman dance company. Humphrey's notes on specific dances are present.

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**Preferred citation:** Paul Love collection of Doris Humphrey and Charles Weidman materials, (S) \*MGZMD 346. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2014

## Creator History

Paul Love was a dance writer, critic, and an editor of *The Dance Observer*. He also served as dance editor for publications such as the *New York World Telegram* and *New Theatre Magazine*. His book, *Modern Dance Terminology*, was published in 1953.

Doris Humphrey (1895-1958) and Charles Weidman (1901-1975) were choreographers and dancers. The two met when Weidman studied dance at the Denishawn School, where Humphrey was his teacher. They established the Humphrey-Weidman dance company in New York City in 1927. Their partnership remained intact until arthritis obliged Humphrey to retire from dancing in 1945.

## Scope and Content Note

The Paul Love collection of Doris Humphrey and Charles Weidman materials (1930s-1953) consists of notes, publicity materials, essays, and correspondence. The materials date to the 1930s, with the exception of two letters from Humphrey to Love, which are dated 1949 and 1953. Publicity materials include press releases, biographical information, and program notes about the Humphrey-Weidman company. Outlines of projects which the company planned to undertake in the 1930s are present. Notes and other writings in the collection are about specific dances as well as about Humphrey and Weidman's approach to modern dance more generally. The authorship of notes and writings is not always stated, but most handwritten notes are likely by Doris Humphrey. The collection includes Humphrey's notes on choreography for *Orestes* and *Paul Bunyan*, and a transcript of a 1937 radio address she gave on modern dance. The collection also holds Love's notes for a dance program he was creating for the New School of Social Research.

## Key Terms

### Occupations

Choreographers  
Dancers

### Subjects

Modern dance

### Names

Humphrey, Doris, 1895-1958  
Weidman, Charles

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Letters 1936, 1949, 1953
- b. 1 f. 2 New School of Social Research Notes 1935
- b. 1 f. 3-6 Notes and Writings 1930s
- b. 1 f. 7 Project Plans 1930s
- b. 1 f. 8-9 Publicity Materials 1930s