



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Eugenia Delarova papers**

1922-1991

(S) \*MGZMD 343

Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2014

## Summary

**Creator:** Delarova, Eugenia

**Title:** Eugenia Delarova papers

**Date:** 1922-1991

**Size:** .67 linear feet (2 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by the Estate of Gerard Mandelbaum, 2003.

**Abstract:** Eugenia Delarova (1911-1990) was a ballet dancer and a patron of dance. The Eugenia Delarova papers (1922-1991) document Delarova's personal relationships and her activities as a patron of the ballet.

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**Preferred citation:** Eugenia Delarova papers, (S) \*MGZMD 343. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2014 Materials were refoldered.

## Creator History

Eugenia Delarova (1911-1990) was a ballet dancer and a patron of dance. She began her ballet career in the Soviet Union. In 1928, she performed with the Folies-Bergère in Paris, where she met and married choreographer Léonide Massine. The two moved to New York City in 1928. In the 1930s, Delarova danced with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, and in the 1940s she performed on Broadway.

Delarova and Massine divorced in 1938. In 1966, Delarova married engineer and inventor Henri Doll. Delarova contributed substantial amounts of her time and money to the arts, supporting organizations such as the New York City Ballet and the School of American Ballet.

## **Custodial History**

Gerard Mandelbaum purchased the Eugenia Delarova papers from her estate.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Eugenia Delarova papers (1922-1991) document Delarova's personal relationships and her activities as a patron of the ballet.

Correspondence consists largely of short letters of thanks regarding gifts, social engagements, and benefits for dance organizations. The largest grouping of correspondence consists of letters and telegrams from director, writer, and producer George Abbott. Abbott's letters deal with personal matters in detail, and also touch on professional topics. Other correspondents include Mikhail Baryshnikov and Leopold Stokowski. Correspondence also holds a letter to Gerard Mandelbaum from Erick Hawkins, dated 1991.

Photographs date from the 1930s to the 1980s and consist of images of Delarova and her friends and colleagues. These include photographs and promotional images of dancers and other artists, including Baryshnikov.

Several programs for ballets that Delarova performed in in the 1930s are present, as are programs for *Snafu*, a 1944 Broadway play that Delarova performed in. A 1922 issue of Russian-language art magazine *Jar-Ptitsa* ("The Firebird") is held with the programs. An excerpt of an interview with Delarova, intended for use in a book by Murray Louis, is also present, as is Delarova's 1966 marriage certificate.

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Ballet dancers

### **Names**

Abbott, George, 1887-1995

## **Container List**

- b. 1 f. 1-6 Correspondence 1931-1991
  - b. 1 f. 7 Interview Excerpt, Marriage Certificate, and Notes 1966, 1990
- b. 1 f. 9-12 Photographs 1930s-1980s
- b. 2 f. 1-3 Photographs 1930s-1970s
- b. 1 f. 8 Programs and Publications 1922-1944