



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Alexis Kosloff papers

1919-1957

(S) *MGZMD 342

Compiled by Jennifer A. Ferretti, Pratt Institute 2014, 2013

Summary

Creator: Kosloff, Alexis

Title: Alexis Kosloff papers

Date: 1919-1957

Size: .25 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Gift of the Historical Society of Woodstock, 2011

Abstract: Alexis Kosloff (circa 1888-1983) was a dancer, instructor, writer, and choreographer. The Alexis Kosloff papers (1905-1951) hold sheet music, photographs, programs, publications, promotional materials, writings, clippings, and correspondence documenting Kosloff's teaching career.

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Preferred citation: Alexis Kosloff papers, (S) *MGZMD 342. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Jennifer A. Ferretti, Pratt Institute 2014, 2013 The original order of papers was maintained.

Creator History

Russian born Alexis Kosloff (circa 1888-1983) was a dancer, instructor, writer, and choreographer who began his career in the Imperial Russian Ballet. Kosloff arrived in New York in 1915 at age 27. He immediately opened Kosloff Dancing Studio at 24 West 57th Street where he taught all levels and forms of dance. He was also the dance master of the Metropolitan Opera Company from 1922 to 1929.

In addition to teaching, Kosloff composed music for dance and also authored the book *Russian Ballet Technique* in 1921, which was intended for home instruction and reference. Kosloff's aim was to clearly and analytically describe every fundamental step of classical dancing.

Kosloff retired in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York and died in 1983.

Scope and Content Note

The Alexis Kosloff papers (1919-1957) document Kosloff's career as a dance instructor and consists of correspondence, photographs, programs and publications, sheet music, and writings.

The photographs make up the bulk of the collection and include images of Kosloff, former students, and studios, as well as rehearsal, production, and publicity shots of dancers. Some photographs of dancers or performers are autographed. There is also a photograph of a gold mine in Siberia.

Programs and publications consist of a literary journal titled *The Russian Student* from 1929, promotional material for company performances and Kosloff's dance studio, and a small amount of press clippings. A chapter from an unpublished manuscript titled *The Talisman* by Karl William Zoeller in 1935 and its adaptation for performance is also here. Writings hold Kosloff's notes in Russian as well as his book *Russian Ballet Technique*.

Correspondence holds incoming letters in Russian as well as an unsigned satirical drawing of dancers. Sheet music includes Kosloff's *Dagger Dance* as well as manuscript pages for an untitled work.

Arrangement: Alphabetical by subject.

Key Terms

Subjects

Choreography
Dance -- Study and teaching
Dance -- United States

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings
Photographs
Programs
Sheet music

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Correspondence 1929-1957
- b. 1 f. 2-10 Photographs 1927-1951
- b. 1 f. 11-12 Programs and Publications 1919-1951
- b. 1 f. 13 Sheet Music 1921
- b. 1 f. 14 Writings 1921