



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Louis Horst collection**

1928-1964

(S) \*MGZMC-Res. 22

Processed by A.M. Wentink.

## Summary

**Creator:** Horst, Louis

**Title:** Louis Horst collection

**Date:** 1928-1964

**Size:** 500 items 94 folders

**Source:** Gift. Louis Horst Estate. Material received on: 1964.

**Abstract:** Part of the bequest of the late Louis Horst, this collection consists of five groups of manuscript materials: [Personal] Correspondence, Business Correspondence, Manuscripts, Records, and Miscellaneous items (mostly photostats of drawings and paintings). The personal correspondence, excepting a folder of letters from his mother to Louis Horst ca. 1928-29, is primarily social and congratulatory, i.e., telegrams, birthday cards, postcards, and Christmas cards. The business correspondence is almost exclusively concerned with [UNK] Observer, the magazine Mr. Horst founded in 1934 and edited until his death in 1964. The majority of the manuscripts, which comprise the bulk of the collection, are edited articles for Dance observer. There is, however, a notebook containing Mr. Horst's classes in pre-classic dance forms and modern dance forms, and a second notebook, possibly kept by Gertrude Lippincott, for a class in dance composition taught by Mr. Horst in [UNK]. The records and miscellaneous items are scant representations of a career fully documented in: \*MGZRS Horst, Louis, 1884-1964. Scrapbooks, 1915-1959.

**Preferred citation:** Horst, Louis, 1884-1964. Louis Horst Collection, (S) \*MGZMC-Res 22, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by A.M. Wentink.

## Creator History

Louis Horst was born to Conrad and Leva Horst on the twelfth of January, 1884, in Kansas City, Missouri. Horst began to study piano at an early age. He became a professional accompanist, playing for silent films, stock theater companies, Broadway rehearsals, and later for many of the modern dance

personalities of the thirties and forties.

In 1915, Horst joined the Denishawn Company as accompanist; his wife, Betty, was a member of the company. He remained with Denishawn until 1925. There he met, among others, Doris Humphrey, Charles Weidman, and Martha Graham. Horst later collaborated with these second generation modern dance pioneers as accompanist, composer and teacher of choreography.

Leaving Denishawn with Martha Graham, Horst composed several of Graham's early group works: *Primitive Mysteries*(1931), *Frontier*(1935), and *El Penitente*(1940). He also wrote scores for other dance artists, for dance classes and for publication. He taught the art of choreography at the Neighborhood Playhouse, several colleges such as the Juilliard School of Music and Connecticut College, and in workshops around the country.

In 1934, Horst founded a major dance periodical, *The Dance Observer*. This magazine was a voice through which modern dance spoke. He and the other writers volunteered their knowledge, experience, and time to the critical review of modern dance concerts and recitals. Horst also published two books, *Pre-Classic Dance Forms*(1937) and *Modern Dance Forms*(1960). Aside from Horst's musical, literary, and aesthetic criticism of modern dance performances, he "managed to train at least half of the choreographers now producing." His students include Anna Sokolow, Meredith Monk, Yvonne Rainer, and Lucinda Childs.

Louis Horst was granted many awards, including the Capezio Award and an honorary degree from Wayne State University in 1964.

## Scope and Content Note

Part of the bequest of the late Louis Horst, this collection consists of five groups of manuscript materials: [Personal] Correspondence, Business Correspondence, Manuscripts, Records, and Miscellaneous items (mostly photostats of drawings and paintings). The personal correspondence, excepting a folder of letters from his mother to Louis Horst ca. 1928-29, is primarily social and congratulatory, i.e., telegrams, birthday cards, postcards, and Christmas cards. The business correspondence is almost exclusively concerned with [UNK] Observer, the magazine Mr. Horst founded in 1934 and edited until his death in 1964. The majority of the manuscripts, which comprise the bulk of the collection, are edited articles for Dance observer. There is, however, a notebook containing Mr. Horst's classes in pre-classic dance forms and modern dance forms, and a second notebook, possibly kept by Gertrude Lippincott, for a class in dance composition taught by Mr. Horst in [UNK]. The records and miscellaneous items are scant representations of a career fully documented in: \*MGZRS Horst, Louis, 1884-1964. Scrapbooks, 1915-1959.

**Arrangement:** I. Correspondence II. Business Correspondence III. Manuscripts IV. Records V. Miscellaneous

## Key Terms

### Titles

Dance observer  
nuc

**Subjects**

Manuscripts -- Collections

**Names**

Horst, Louis

Beiswanger, George W.

Dlugoszewski, Lucia, 1931-

Graham, Martha

Horst, Betty

Lippincott, Gertrude Lawton

Mattlage, Louise

Rudko, Doris

Sorell, Walter, 1905-1997

Todd, Arthur

## Container List

- I. Correspondence
  - f. 1 Correspondence. 1928-29  
Mrs. C. Horst to Louis Horst (LH) (In German)
  - f. 2 Correspondence.  
Birthday greetings 1953  
"Observing a Birthday?"
  - f. 3 Correspondence. 1953-57
  - f. 4 Correspondence. 1960-62
  - f. 5 Correspondence.  
Christmas greetings 1960-62
  - f. 6 Correspondence.  
Birthday greetings 1961-62
  - f. 7 Correspondence. 1961-62  
Gertrude Lippincott to LH
  - f. 8 Correspondence. 1962-63  
Letters to Doris Rudko  
(re: LH's 79th birthday gift)
  - f. 9 Correspondence.  
Birthday greetings 1963
  - f. 10 Correspondence. 1963 (Feb.-Mar.)
  - f. 11 Correspondence. 1963 (Apr.-May)
  - f. 12 Correspondence. 1963 (June-Aug.)
  - f. 13 Correspondence. 1963 (Sept.-Oct.)
  - f. 14 Correspondence. 1963.  
Telegrams
  - f. 15 Correspondence.  
Christmas greetings 1963
  - f. 16 Correspondence.  
Birthday greetings 1964
  - f. 17 Correspondence. n.d.
  - f. 18 Correspondence.  
Birthday greetings n.d.
  - f. 19 Correspondence.  
Christmas greetings n.d.
  - f. 20 Correspondence. (Unidentified correspondents) n.d.
  - f. 21 Correspondence.  
Birthday greetings (Unidentified correspondents) n.d.
  - f. 22 Correspondence.  
Christmas greetings (Unidentified correspondents) n.d.

## II. Business Correspondence

- f. 23 Business Correspondence. 1939-53  
re: *Dance Observer*
- f. 24 Business Correspondence. 1954-60  
re: *Dance Observer*
- f. 25 Business Correspondence. 1960.  
Ruth Schneidman
- f. 26 Business Correspondence. 1961.  
re: *Dance Observer*
- f. 27 Business Correspondence. 1962.  
re: *Dance Observer*
- f. 28 Business Correspondence. 1963 (Jan.-Sept.)  
re: *Dance Observer*
- f. 29 Business Correspondence. 1963 (Oct.-Nov)  
re: *Dance Observer*
- f. 30 Business Correspondence. 1963-64

## III. Manuscripts

### A. Articles

- f. 31 Manuscripts.  
Bales, William.  
TLS 1958 Oct. 22  
Hayes, Richard.  
"The stage of [UNK] Worlds."
- f. 32 Manuscripts.  
Bissell, Judith.  
"*Camelot, Hanya Holm, and Notation*"
- f. 33 Manuscripts.  
Burtner, Elisabeth.  
"...from Paris...The Ballets Contemporains"
- f. 34 Manuscripts.  
"These Days"
- f. 35 ["Codification of Movement in Modern Dance"]
- f. 36 Crown, Bonnie R.  
TLS n.d.  
"*Open letter to Dance Observer*"  
"Space and Time in Modern Dance and Sculpture"
- f. 37 Manuscripts.  
Dalby, Norma.  
"Rhythm lies in the seed"
- f. 38 Manuscripts.

III. Manuscripts (cont.)

A. Articles (cont.)

[UNK]

"Hari: a story"

"Green suite"

f. 39 Manuscripts.

Erlanger, Margaret.

ALS 1961 July 28

"Katherine Litz, guest artist, at the University of Illinois..."

Statement of plans for sabbatical leave 1961-62

f. 40 Manuscripts.

"Foreward"

"Modern dance in relation to our culture"

f. 41 Gilbert, [UNK].

"Notes on camera and dance"

f. 42 Manuscripts.

Graham, Martha.

"Speech to 1952 Student Composers' Symposium..."

"Epigrammatic excerpts"

f. 43 Manuscripts.

Hodgin, Andora.

ALS 1959 Mar. 2

Copeland, Virginia.

"To D.H. in Memory"

Miscellaneous

f. 44 Manuscripts.

[Horst, Louis]

"Cocteau"

f. 45 Manuscripts.

"More Husbandry...by a dancer's husband"

f. 46 Jackson, George.

"The Living Dolls"

f. 47 Manuscripts.

Jay, Leticia.

"American ethnic dance: tap and jazz"

f. 48 Manuscripts.

[Johnston, Jill]

"Merce Cunningham"

f. 49 Manuscripts.

Juana.

"Comments upon the state of notation in general, and Jaynotation in particular"

f. 50 Manuscripts.

- III. Manuscripts (cont.)  
A. Articles (cont.)
- Lind, Betty.  
"Primitive dance as an art form"
- f. 51 Manuscripts.  
Lippincott, Gertrude.  
"Innovators in the dance: Noverre and Fokine"
- f. 52 Manuscripts.  
Lippincott, Gertrude.  
TLS 1962 Nov. 4  
National Council for the Arts in Education, First National Conference...
- f. 53 Manuscripts.  
Litvinoff, Valentina.  
TLS 1962 Oct. 12  
"Shankar through a modern dancer's eyes"
- f. 54 Manuscripts.  
Mattlage, Louise.  
"Panegyric: Doris Humphrey"  
"Dances of faith"
- f. 55 Manuscripts.  
"Modern dance in India"
- f. 56 Ritchie, Elisavietta A.  
"Mary-Averett Seelye's Poetry-in-dance"
- f. 57 Manuscripts.  
Santaro, Mikhail.  
"Article [The Calligraphy of dance]"
- f. 58 Manuscripts.  
Scenario: "A modern dance-drama or Alice in Wonderland brought up to date"
- f. 59 Schlundt, Christena L.  
TLS 1961 May 1  
"A 'decadent' season"
- f. 60 Manuscripts: (Schulman, Jennie)  
TN(S) n.d.  
"Belles and ballets"  
"Dancer with a mission"  
"Moses Soyer - painter of dance"
- f. 61 Sorell, Walter.  
"In defense of the future"  
"In defense of the future" (revised)  
"A nightmare, new facets and criticism"
- f. 62 Manuscripts.  
Sorell, Walter.

- III. Manuscripts (cont.)
  - A. Articles (cont.)
    - Sorell, Walter. (cont.)
      - "Louis Horst, mentor of the modern dance" (2 copies)
  - f. 63 Manuscripts.
    - Stodelle, Ernestine.
      - "The 20th century Greek experience"
  - f. 64 Manuscripts.
    - Stodelle, Ernestine.
      - Twenty-six poems.
  - f. 65 Manuscripts.
    - Tula (Gertrude P. Kurath)
      - "Fiestas of the Rio Grande Valley"
      - "Creative dance in modern American culture"
      - "Symbolic dance designs of native and modern America"
  - f. 66 Manuscripts.
    - Walton, Ruth.
      - "Modern dance; it's influence of American ethnic dance"
  - f. 67 Manuscripts.
    - Wiener, Jack.
      - TLS 1962 May 15
      - "A plea for movement"
  - f. 68 Manuscripts.
    - Wigman, Mary.
      - "Composition"
- B. Horst, Louis. Notes and drafts.
  - f. 69 Manuscripts.
    - "" "Immediacies in modern life. (I) Introspection"
    - "Archaic"
    - "Archaic [notes and quotations]"
    - "Secular medieval"
    - "Religious medieval"
  - f. 70 Manuscripts.
    - Miscellaneous notes
- C. Dlugoszewski, Lucia. Poems.
  - f. 71 Manuscripts.
    - Poems to Louis [UNK] 1962
- D. *Dance Observer*. Reviews and newscopy
  - f. 72 Manuscripts.
    - Reviews (books and records)
  - f. 73 Reviews (dance events)
  - f. 74 Layout sheets (advertisements)
  - f. 75 News items
  - f. 76 Press releases



- III. Manuscripts (cont.)
  - E. Notebooks.
    - f. 77 Manuscripts.  
Horst, Louis.  
"Notebook. ca. 1939-43"
    - f. 78 Manuscripts.  
[Lippincott, Gertrude]  
"Notebook. 1939. 'Louis Horst - June course - 1939' "
  - F. Miscellaneous manuscripts.
    - f. 79 Manuscripts.  
Typescripts (incomplete)
    - f. 80 Lists, notes, music notation, etc.
- IV. Records
  - f. 81 Records.  
Horst, Louis.  
Contract, between Juillard School of Music and LH 1963 May 1
  - f. 82 Records.  
Connecticut College School of Dance 1962.  
[Address list]
  - f. 83 Records.  
[Address lists. ] ca. 1963
  - f. 84 *[Address cards and payment records re: Dance Observer]*
  - f. 85 *[Receipts, cancelled checks, etc.]*
- V. Miscellaneous
  - f. 86 Miscellaneous.  
Horst, Louis.  
"Notebook. n.d."
  - f. 87 Miscellaneous.  
Antrim?  
12 [linoleum cuts?]
  - f. 88 Miscellaneous.  
Leseur, Lorraine.  
["Dancer" and "Dancing man and woman"] (2 halftone reproductions of drawings)  
Fruhauf, Aline.  
"Max and Louie" (photostats of ink drawing)  
Remisoff, N.  
[Portrait of "Louis Horst and Max"] (photostats)  
2 miscellaneous photostats of paintings
  - f. 89 Miscellaneous.  
"Stonewall does an 'Archaic' " (Ink and pastel [crayon])
  - f. 90 "Martha Graham" (drawing in ink & water color)

V. Miscellaneous (cont.)

- f. 91 Capezio Dance Award, to Louis Horst. 1955 Mar. 15
- f. 92 Miscellaneous.  
Notebook 1958.  
*"Salute to Louis Horst and the Dance Observer upon the occasion of its  
Twenty-fifth Anniversary, December, 1958."*
- f. 93 Miscellaneous.  
Honorary Degree, conferred upon Louis Horst, Doctor of Humanities, by  
Wayne State University. 1963 Dec. 15
- f. 94 Miscellaneous.  
Citation, by Wayne State University in recognition of Louis Horst's honorary  
degree. 1963 Dec. 15