



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Papers relating to the Guglielmo Ebreo manuscript

1935-1967

(S) *MGZMD 60

Processed by Teresa Heiland.

Summary

Creator: Toscanini, Walter, 1898-1971

Title: Papers relating to the Guglielmo Ebreo manuscript

Date: 1935-1967

Size: 98 items in 23 folders

Source: Cia Fornaroli Collection, Gift of Walter Toscanini. Received: 1972.

Abstract: The Toscanini/Ebreo materials consist of correspondence and research pertaining to the Ebreo manuscript and the Jewish dancing masters. The correspondence is mainly between Walter Toscanini and scholars of Ebreo. The research materials vary from articles with Toscanini's annotations to Toscanini's own compilation of data. Photocopies of dancing master's treatises are included with annotations by Toscanini.

Preferred citation: Toscanini, Walter, 1893-1971. Papers Relating to Guglielmo Ebreo Manuscript, (S) *MGZMD 60, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Language of the Material: In English, Italian, and Russian English Italian Russian

Processing note: Processed by Teresa Heiland.

Separated Materials:

The following material was received with the original gift, but has been separated from the manuscript collection. The location of the materials is indicated.

Pamphlet - *The Earliest Dance-Manuals* by Artur Michel, 1945 - Location: *MGP 89-5628

Creator History

Walter Toscanini was born (1893) in Turin, Italy, son of maestro Arturo Toscanini. He attended the Universities of Urbino and Pavia where he obtained a law degree, although he never practiced.

During WWI as a captain posted in an Austrian farmhouse, he came across an interesting dance book. He held onto this little treasure and later found himself dating an Italian ballerina, Cia Fornaroli. He, as a matter of courting, often presented her with rare dance books he searched out just for her. This was the beginning of the wonderful, rare dance book collection of Walter Toscanini who became known as a rare book collector and dealer.

His wife, Cia Fornaroli, b. Milan 16 Oct. 1888 d. 16 Aug. 1954, is considered the greatest Italian dancer of her generation. She trained with Cecchetti and at La Scala ballet school. She was the premiere danseuse at the New York Metropolitan Opera House from 1910-1914. She danced with the Pavlova company as a prima ballerina assoluta at La Scala (1921-1932). Because of Fascist attacks on her and her husband, they moved to New York in 1933 where she conducted her own school from 1943 to 1950.

After her death, Walter Toscanini in 1955 handed over a great part of their collection of dance memorabilia to the Dance Collection and entitled it the "Cia Fornaroli Collection" as a memorial to her. He also, at that time, presented much of his personal collection of prints relating to the ballet.

The gift included more than 2,000 prints, 3,500 librettos, 850 pieces of music, 23,000 letters and manuscripts, and 15,000 clippings, photographs, and playbills.

In 1965, Walter Toscanini gave to the Dance Collection the earliest and most significant item of his collection, the Guglielmo Ebreo manuscript. Ebreo, a student of Domenico da Piacenza, wrote it probably with the help of a student, in Tuscany around 1465. He used it as a teaching tool when he instructed social dances in the Italian courts. The manuscript, entitled *Trattato della danza and De Pratica sue arte tripudii vulghare opusculum*, describes the necessary qualifications of a dancer and the dances he created.

The manuscript is one of six known. The other five are stored in Paris, Florence, Modena and Siena and are formal manuscripts for court libraries. Toscanini's Ebreo manuscript is a plain, homely, practical manuscript for Ebreo's own use. It consists of 70 pages, 34-37 lines on each page of paper, with a watermark dating from about 1465. It explains the theoretical precepts of the art of dancing and gives descriptions of 23 bassedances and 32 balli.

Three of these bassedances and 13 of the balli are not found in any of the other known treatises. The manuscript has never been formally printed.

Walter Toscanini's materials related to the Ebreo manuscript were donated to the Dance Collection in 1972, one year after his death.

Scope and Content Note

The Toscanini/Ebreo materials consist of correspondence and research pertaining to the Ebreo manuscript and the Jewish dancing masters. The correspondence is mainly between Walter Toscanini and scholars of Ebreo. The research materials vary from articles with Toscanini's annotations to Toscanini's own compilation of data. Photocopies of dancing master's treatises are included with annotations by Toscanini. |||Language: In English, Italian and Russian.

Key Terms

Subjects

Manuscripts -- Collections

Names

Toscanini, Walter, 1898-1971

Guilielmus, Monachus, active 15th century

Guilielmus, Monachus, active 15th century

Cia Fornaroli Collection

Container List

I. Correspondence (43 items)

The "Correspondence" section is made up of letters to and from Walter Toscanini, Professor Bassani, Professor Dante Bianchi, Ingrid Brainard, Fredrick Crane, Mabel Dolmetsch, Otto Kinkeldey, Genevieve Oswald, Professor Cecil Roth, Walter Schatzky, Dr. Cesare Valabrega, and Lawrence Witten; and are chronologically organized. The letters are both of personal and business nature in English, Italian and Russian.

- f. 1 1934-1959 (8 Items 15 Leaves)
- f. 2 1960-1963 (7 Items 8+1 env)
- f. 3 65 Mar.-65 June (8 Items 13+1 env)
- f. 4 65 July- 65 Dec (10 Items 18 Leaves)
- f. 5 1966-1967 (7 Items 11 Leaves)
- f. 5 not dated (1 Item 1 Leaves)

Letter to Dante Bianchi from Walter Toscanini 4/15/66

- f. 6 Manuscript version (1 Item 13 Leaves)
- f. 6 Partially typed version (1 Item 3 Leaves)

II. Toscanini's Notes of His Study of the Italian Jewish Dancing Masters (10 items)

Included in "Toscanini's Notes" are his personal records of his studies of the Italian dancing masters. They are typed and hand written. Dances are described with references made to the manuscripts in which they were found. Photocopied materials with Toscanini's annotations, and music scores are included.

A. Definitions and Descriptions of Dances

- f. 7 Definitions of dances (1 Item 10 Leaves)
- f. 8 Creators of specific dances and where they were performed (7 Items 14 Leaves)
- f. 9 Dancing master list compiled by Walter Toscanini (1 Item 1 Leaves)
- f. 9 Copies of music scores showing various dancing master's style of musicality (1 Item 5 Leaves)

- f. 10 B. Description of paper stock used in manuscripts (1 Item 1 Leaves)

C. History Notes

- f. 10 History notes (2 Items 3 Leaves)
- f. 10 "Musici alla Corte Degli Sforza" annotations by W.T. (1 Item 1 Leaves)
- f. 10 "Dal Messori Roucaglia Della Virtute etc. Modena Tip dell' Gmm. Concezione. 1885" annotations by W.T. (1 Item 1 Leaves)
- f. 10 Letter to Walter Toscanini from H. (1 Item 1 Leaves)
- f. 10 Letter to Ebreo from unknown author copied in Walter Toscanini's hand (2 Items 4 Leaves)

III. Copies of Treatises and Related Information (5 items)

"Copies of Treatises and Related Information" includes photocopies of portions of manuscripts: Siena, Modena, Ebreo, and "Qui va. due Figure in danza e uno fonatore." Also included here is Toscanini's microfilm list.

- f. 11 Siena manuscript (1 Item 1 Leaves)
- f. 11 Modena manuscript (1 Item 1 Leaves)
- f. 12-14 Ebreo's manuscript, annotations by W.T. (1 Item 49 Leaves)

III. Copies of Treatises and Related Information (cont.)

- f. 15 "Qui va. due Fighure in danza e uno fonatore" (1 Item 2 Leaves)
- f. 15 W.T.'s microfilm list of treatises (1 Item 2 Leaves)

IV. Bibliography (4 items)

The "Bibliography" is Toscanini's personal listing. A few pages of endnotes from "Gesamt Katalog der Wieltendrucke" are included.

- f. 16 W.T.'s bibliographies (3 Items 4 Leaves)
- f. 16 Endnotes from "Gesamt Katalog der Wieltendrucke" Band VII K.W. Miersman-Leipzig (1 Item 3 Leaves)

V. Articles of Reference Used by Walter Toscanini (8 items)

"Articles of Reference" comprises Toscanini's collected articles of reference concerning Ebreo. Some include annotations. One article "Notizie e Appunti sui Maestri di Ballo Ebrei in Italia nel 1400" was written by Toscanini.

- f. 17 "Aspects of Medieval and Renaissance Music: A Birthday Offering to Gustave Reese"- title page, (article missing) (1 Item 1 Leaves)
- f. 17 "A Chanson Rustique of the Early Renaissance: Bon temps" by Helen Hewitt (1 Item 1 Leaves)
- f. 17 "A 15th Century Ballo: Roti Bouilli Joyeux" by Donald Hertz (1 Item 9 Leaves)
- f. 17 "Guglielmo Ebreo da Pesaro Maestro di Ballo del Quattrocento" by Ada Melica (1 Item 6 Leaves)
- f. 18 "Intorno ad Alcuni Maestri di Danza del Secolo XV°" by Dante Bianchi, annotations by author (1 Item 7 Leaves)
- f. 18 "The Jews of the Renaissance" by Cecil Roth (1 Item 6 Leaves)
- f. 18 "Notizie e Appunti sui Maestri di Ballo Ebrei in Italia nel 1400" by Walter Toscanini (1 Item 7 Leaves)
- f. 19-21 "Preludes, Chansons and Dances for Lute" by Daniel Hertz (1 Item 55 Leaves)

VI. Manuscript Business (20 items)

"Manuscript Business" includes evaluations of the Ebreo manuscript by Witten, Fletcher and Kraus, as well as formal and informal notes regarding the welfare of the manuscript. In 1989 Witten appraised the Ebreo manuscript for insurance purposes as it was to be displayed in the Jewish museum.

- f. 22 Three evaluations of the Ebreo manuscript by Witten, Fletcher and Kraus (3 Items 6+2 bus. cards)
- f. 22 Exhibition preparation outline (1 Item 1 Leaves)
- f. 23 Miscellaneous notes not in Walter Toscanini's hand (16 Items 19+1 env)