



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Royal Academy of Dancing records

1916-1967 [bulk 1933-1955]

(S) *MGZMD 71

Processed by Henley Haslam.

Summary

Creator: Royal Academy of Dancing (Great Britain)

Title: Royal Academy of Dancing records

Date: 1916-1967 [bulk 1933-1955]

Size: 13 document boxes 207 folders

Source: Purchase from Peter Eaton (Booksellers) Ltd. Received: July 1972.

Abstract: The records of the Royal Academy of Dancing document that organization and much of its work from its beginnings in 1920 as the Association of Operatic Dancing through 1960 (bulk dates 1933-1955). Most of the material consists of correspondence, minutes of meetings, documents, drafts of speeches and reports, schedules of classes and events, and some financial information. The correspondence and documents relating to the application and granting of the Royal Charter are extensive. Correspondence to and from Adeline Genée, the founder-president (known also as "Madame," "Nina," or "Mrs. Isitt"), is important and is found throughout the collection. Of interest are the accounts of life in London during World War II in correspondence for the years 1940-1941 in the following series or subseries: II. Correspondence - Genée; VI. Examination Tours - Australasia; and VII. Scholarships.

Conditions Governing Use: [FAKE PARAGRAPH] Permission of the Royal Academy of Dancing must be obtained to publish material in this collection. For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Library for the Performing Arts.

Preferred citation: Royal Academy of Dancing, London. Records, (S) *MGZMD 71, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Henley Haslam.

Separated Materials:

The following items were received with the purchase but have been separated from the manuscript collection. The current location of these items (as of April 1991) is indicated.

c. 15 clippings - Location: *MGZR
Monograph ul>
Galina Ulanovaby Lvov-Anokhin - Location: *MGYB

Magazines

About the House - Location: *MGZA ul>
vol. 2, no. 6, June 1967
vol. 2, no. 8, Dec. 1967

Ballet Today - Location: *MGZA
Sept./Oct. 1966
Jan./Feb. 1967
Nov./Dec. 1967
July/Aug. 1968

Ballroom Dance Magazine, Dec. 1965 - Location: *ZAN-*T150
Dancing Times - Location: *MGZA
Oct., Nov., Dec. 1962
Mar., June, Aug. 1966
June, Aug., Sept., Oct., Dec. 1967
Mar., May, June, Aug., Nov. 1968

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Creator History

The first meeting of the Royal Academy of Dancing [R.A.D.], then the Association of Operatic Dancing of Great Britain, was held on December 31, 1920, with Mme. Adeline Genée as president, P.J.S. Richardson as secretary-treasurer, and a committee consisting of Phyllis Bedells, Madame Lucia Cormani, Edouard Espinosa, and Tamara Karsavina. King George V granted the academy a Royal Charter in 1935, and by Royal Command the title was changed to the Royal Academy of Dancing. The Royal Charter of Incorporation was signed on January 17, 1936. A Supplemental Charter was granted on November 15, 1948. The headquarters are in London, England.

The objectives of the R.A.D. are to improve the standard of classical ballet technique and to act as guardians of correct teaching standards, and to advance the art of the dance throughout Great Britain and the British Commonwealth. The academy was established as a non-profit organization which also promoted the teaching of Greek dance and the preservation of national dances. It has developed syllabi used by teachers and holds regular examinations. It also awards scholarships and medals to talented students and gives special lectures and post-graduate courses. There is a Teachers' Training Course designed for students wishing to teach but not to become professional dancers. The *Royal Academy of Dancing Gazette* is the official publication and is published quarterly.

In addition to the courses and examinations given in Great Britain, R.A.D. examinations are held and scholarships granted to members in South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Examiners also annually visit the United States, where a number of teachers follow the R.A.D. syllabi. The R.A.D. also

values dance in education and physical education for children who are not studying the dance professionally but who take it as part of their general education.

Adeline Genée was the founding president and served until her retirement in 1954. She was succeeded by Margot Fonteyn who served until her death in 1991. Antoinette Sibley was named acting president in March, 1991.

Scope and Content Note

The records of the Royal Academy of Dancing document that organization and much of its work from its beginnings in 1920 as the Association of Operatic Dancing through 1960 (bulk dates 1933-1955). Most of the material consists of correspondence, minutes of meetings, documents, drafts of speeches and reports, schedules of classes and events, and some financial information. The correspondence and documents relating to the application and granting of the Royal Charter are extensive. Correspondence to and from Adeline Genée, the founder-president (known also as "Madame," "Nina," or "Mrs. Isitt"), is important and is found throughout the collection. Of interest are the accounts of life in London during World War II in correspondence for the years 1940-1941 in the following series or subseries: II. Correspondence - Genée; VI. Examination Tours - Australasia; and VII. Scholarships. In processing the collection, most of the original headings and divisions of the materials have been maintained, along with the original order within the folders. Correspondence is arranged at times alphabetically by correspondent and at times chronologically, generally by year but not always exact as to month and day. A summary of the correspondence in the collection and brief biographical information on 22 correspondents, prepared by Peter Eaton (Booksellers) Ltd., is found in folder 207. There is some duplication and overlapping in the content of series, such as Annual General Meetings (III), which were held during the Special Weeks (IV).

Arrangement: I. Organization and Incorporation II. Correspondence III. Annual General Meetings IV. Special Weeks V. Committees VI. Examination Tours VII. Scholarships VIII. Medals and Casket IX. Functions X. Gazette XI. Miscellany

Key Terms

Subjects

Manuscripts -- Collections
World War, 1939-1945 -- Dance and the war

Names

Royal Academy of Dancing (Great Britain)
Gene_e, Adeline, 1878-1970
Gordon, Kathleen
Richardson, P. J. S. (Philip John Sampey), 1875-

Container List

I. Organization and Incorporation 1935-1950 (3 folders)

The Organization Series (I) contains copies of the petition and Royal Charter, and a 1935 booklet that gives a brief history of the association, its objectives, and an explanation of the examinations, scholarships, and competitions.

- b. 1 f. 1 Petition and Charter 1935
- b. 1 f. 2 Charter and Bye-Laws 1939, 1950
- b. 1 f. 3 Informational Brochures 1920-1935, 1938

II. Correspondence 1916, 1928-1957 (48 folders)

The Correspondence Series (II) contains, in addition to the material mentioned above and routine business correspondence, notes from Lilian Baylis, Anton Dolin, J. Maynard Keynes and P.J.S. Richardson in the 1916-1943 subseries. The 1933 Contracts and Correspondence subseries contains correspondence relating to auditions; contracts for dancers including Phyllis Bedells, Claude Newman and Harold Turner; and a casting list, salary list and program synopsis for "The Debutante." The General subseries contains, for 1934-1938, requests to use various notable names in connection with the formation of the Grand Council and includes notes from Lilian Baylis, Arnold Haskell, J. Maynard Keynes, Sir Malcolm Sargent and Ralph Vaughan Williams.

(Arranged by subject, then chronologically, then often alphabetically by correspondent within a time span.)

Royal Charter

- b. 1 f. 4-5 1928-1936
- 1929-1936
- b. 1 f. 6 A-C
- b. 1 f. 7 D-J
- b. 1 f. 8 K-M
- b. 1 f. 9 N-Z
- b. 1 f. 10 [Congratulatory] 1935-1936

Genée

1916, 1936-1943

- b. 1 f. 11 A
- b. 1 f. 12 B
- b. 1 f. 13 C
- b. 1 f. 14 D-F
- b. 1 f. 15 G-H
- b. 1 f. 16 I-M
- b. 1 f. 17 N-R
- b. 2 f. 18 S-T
- b. 2 f. 19 U-Z
- b. 2 f. 20 Unidentified signatures
- 1939-1941
- b. 2 f. 21-23 Genée/Gordon
- b. 2 f. 24 Gordon/Genée
- b. 2 f. 25 1940-1941

II. Correspondence (cont.)

Genée (cont.)

b. 2 f. 26 1942-1944

b. 2 f. 27 Australian Visit 1957

Contracts and Correspondence 1933

b. 2 f. 28 A-B

b. 2 f. 29 C-E

b. 2 f. 30 F-H

b. 2 f. 31 I-M

b. 2 f. 32 N-R

b. 2 f. 33 S

b. 2 f. 34 R-Z

General

b. 2 f. 35 1928-1932

1934-1938

b. 2 f. 36 A-B

b. 2 f. 37 C-E

b. 2 f. 38 F-I

b. 2 f. 39 J-L

b. 2 f. 40 M-P

b. 3 f. 41 R-S

b. 3 f. 42 T-Z

b. 3 f. 43 1939

b. 3 f. 44 1940

b. 3 f. 45 1941

b. 3 f. 46-47 1942

b. 3 f. 48 1943-1944

b. 3 f. 49 n.d

b. 3 f. 50-51 Education, Physical Fitness 1938-1939

III. Annual General Meetings 1939-1955 (10 folders)

The Annual General Meetings Series (III) contains correspondence pertaining to the meetings; the agenda, minutes and reports of the meetings; drafts and notes for speeches by the president and chairman; balance sheets; schedules for Special Weeks and telegrams of greetings.

(Arranged chronologically.)

b. 3 f. 52 1939-1946

b. 3 f. 53 1948

b. 3 f. 54 1949

b. 3 f. 55 1950

b. 3 f. 56-58 1951

b. 4 f. 59 1952

b. 4 f. 60-61 1955

IV. Special Weeks 1939-1955 (18 folders)

The Special Weeks Series (IV) contains correspondence pertaining to teachers, judges, the rental of halls, etc.; schedules for classes, events and examinations; notes for speeches by the president and chairman; information on entries for medals and casket competitions; reports and minutes from other committees; balance sheets and telegrams of good wishes. The correspondence includes notes about teaching classes from John Cranko and Lydia Sokolova (1951), Nicholas Beriosoff and Anton Dolin (1952), Tamara Karsavina (1954), and Irina Baronova (1955).

(Arranged chronologically.)

b. 4 f. 62	1939
b. 4 f. 63	1945
b. 4 f. 64	1946
b. 4 f. 65	1947
b. 4 f. 66	1948
b. 4 f. 67	1949
b. 4 f. 68	1950
b. 4 f. 69-70	1951
b. 4 f. 71-72	1952
b. 5 f. 73-73a	1953
b. 5 f. 74-76	1954
b. 5 f. 77-78	1955

V. Committees 1934-1960 (44 folders)

The Committees Series (V) contains correspondence relating to the activities of the various committees; agendas, minutes and reports of meetings and financial reports. The Technical subseries contains notes for major examinations (1955) and suggestions by Ninette de Valois for technical revisions (1955-1957).

(Arranged by type of committee, then chronologically.)

Children's Examinations

b. 5 f. 79	1951
b. 5 f. 80	1952
b. 5 f. 81	1953-1954
b. 5 f. 82	1955
b. 5 f. 82a	1956
b. 5 f. 83	1957
b. 5 f. 84	1958
b. 6 f. 85	1959

Grand Council and Executive

b. 6 f. 86	1934
b. 6 f. 87	1935-1938
b. 6 f. 88	n.d

Overseas

b. 6 f. 89	1951
b. 6 f. 90	1952

V. Committees (cont.)
Overseas (cont.)

b. 6 f. 91	1953
b. 6 f. 92	1954
b. 6 f. 93-95	1955-1956
b. 6 f. 96-97	1957
b. 6 f. 98-100	1958
b. 7 f. 101-103	1959
b. 7 f. 104-106	1960

Technical

b. 7 f. 107-113	1934-1935
b. 7 f. 114	1950-1951
b. 8 f. 115	1952
b. 8 f. 116	1953
b. 8 f. 117	1954
b. 8 f. 118	1955
b. 8 f. 119	1956-1957

Ballet in Education

b. 8 f. 120	1951-1960
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Permanent Examiner [Ad Hoc]

b. 8 f. 121	1959-1960
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VI. Examination Tours 1928-1953 (17 folders)

The Examination Tours Series (VI) contains correspondence pertaining to the tours and examinations, minutes of meetings, reports on examinations and financial information. In the Australasia subseries are copies of the rules and regulations and syllabi (1935-1938). In the South Africa subseries there are agreements with examiners and a copy of the 1953 solo seal dances.

(Arranged by geographic area, then chronologically.)

Australasia

b. 8 f. 122	1928-1931
b. 8 f. 123	1932
b. 8 f. 124	1933
b. 8 f. 125-126	1934
b. 8 f. 127	[Rules] 1935-1938
b. 8 f. 128	1937
b. 8 f. 129	1938
	1940-1941
b. 8 f. 130	A-M
b. 8 f. 131	N-R
b. 8 f. 132	S-Z

South Africa

b. 9 f. 133-138	1953
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VII. Scholarships 1933-1943 (24 folders)

The Scholarship Series (VII) contains correspondence, lists of entrants, audition notes and decisions by judges, lists of students chosen, signed agreements and evaluations of some students. The correspondence (1933-1938) includes a petition from dissatisfied students and a response from de Valois; letters from John Hart, Ursula Moreton, Alicia Markova and P.J.S. Richardson about choreographic classes (1936-1937); and letters to Genée from de Valois with a proposal for a course of study for the choreographic classes.

Arranged by subject, then chronologically, then some correspondence arranged alphabetically within a time span)

Choreographic Scholarships

Correspondence 1933-1938

b. 9 f. 139	A-C
b. 9 f. 140	D-F
b. 9 f. 141	G-J
b. 9 f. 142	K-M
b. 9 f. 143	N-U
b. 9 f. 144	V
b. 9 f. 145	W-Z

b. 9 f. 146 Documentation and Rolls 1936-1938

Auditions

London

b. 9 f. 147	1940
b. 9 f. 148	1941

Provincial

b. 10 f. 149-150	1940
b. 10 f. 151	1941
b. 10 f. 152	1943

Classes

1939-1940

b. 10 f. 153	A-C
b. 10 f. 154	D-J
b. 10 f. 155	K-O
b. 10 f. 156	P-R
b. 10 f. 157	S-Z
b. 10 f. 158-159	1940
b. 10 f. 160-161	1941
b. 10 f. 162	1942-1943

VIII. Medals and Casket 1946-1949 (4 folders)

The Medals and Casket Series (VIII) contains requests to enter the competitions, correspondence pertaining to the judges, lists of contestants and winners of the Adeline Genée Gold and Silver Medals and the Pavlova Casket, judges' notes on contestants, story lines for applicants' character solos and notes for a "male dancer" variation (1946).

(Arranged chronologically by year)

VIII. Medals and Casket (cont.)

- b. 10 f. 163 1946
- b. 10 f. 164 1947
- b. 10 f. 165 1948
- b. 10 f. 166 1949

IX. Functions 1939-1953 (24 folders)

The Functions Series (IX) contains correspondence relating to various social events, notes of acceptance and regret in response to invitations and some financial information regarding expenditures. The 1939 Ball subseries contains libretti for a pageant; the 1952 Garden Party subseries contains a handwritten note from Moira Shearer about autographing a pair of shoes supposedly made for her for the film *The Red Shoes*; the 1953 Cocktail Party subseries contains a copy of "A Dancing World," an address made by Genée to the group.

(Arranged chronologically by year, then by event)

- 1939
 - b. 11 f. 167 Ball
 - b. 11 f. 168 Danetree Farewell Dinner
- 1945-1946
 - b. 11 f. 169 Lunches
- 1946
 - Silver Jubilee
 - b. 11 f. 170-171 Dinner
 - b. 11 f. 172-174 Provincial Teachers, Schools
- 1947-1948
 - b. 11 f. 175 Ball
 - b. 11 f. 176 Garden Party
- 1949
 - b. 11 f. 177 Genée Tea
 - b. 11 f. 178 Sadlers Wells Cocktail Party
- 1950
 - b. 11 f. 179 Festival Ballet Performance
 - b. 11 f. 180 Garden Party
 - b. 11 f. 181 Genée Executive Dinner
 - b. 11 f. 182 New York City Ballet Reception
- 1951
 - b. 11 f. 183 Classes
 - b. 11 f. 184 Garden Party
 - b. 12 f. 185 International Ballet Gala (Proposed)
 - b. 12 f. 186 Yugoslav Folk Dance Team Tea
- 1952
 - b. 12 f. 187 Dinner
 - b. 12 f. 188 Garden Party
 - b. 12 f. 189 Lecture/Demonstration
- 1953

IX. Functions (cont.)
1953 (cont.)

b. 12 f. 190 Genée Overseas Cocktail Party

X. Gazette 1930-1954 (7 folders)

The Gazette Series (X) contains 56 issues of the magazine. [see attached listing of issues]

(Issues arranged chronologically)

Operatic Association Gazette

b. 12 f. 191 1930-1934

b. 12 f. 192 1935

Royal Academy of Dancing Gazette

b. 12 f. 193 1936-1939

b. 12 f. 194 1940-1942

b. 12 f. 195 1943-1946

b. 12 f. 196 1948-1949

b. 13 f. 197 1950-1954

XI. Miscellany (10 folders)

The Miscellany Series (XI) contains magazines articles, programs, sheet music for dances, copies of a speech and an interview with Genée, a fragment of shrapnel from a Nazi bomb that came through the roof of the R.A.D. office in 1941, and a summary of correspondence in the collection.

(Arranged by type of item)

b. 13 f. 198 Fragment of Nazi Bomb

Genée Interview

b. 13 f. 199 "Ballet in England Today" 1941

b. 13 f. 200 Magazine Articles

"Do you know your ballets?" 1937

"*The Prize Dancers*", *The Tatler* 1963

"*Haute Ecole of the ballet*," *International Scala* 1965

"*De Balletschool van de K.V.O. en het Studioballet*," *De Scene* 1967

Programs

b. 13 f. 201 Royal Academy of Dancing

Demonstration 1938

Gala Matinee 1959

Gala Matinee 1962

b. 13 f. 202 Royal Theater, Copenhagen

Lille Juleaften 1939

H.C. Lumbye Fantasi

b. 13 f. 203 Sheet Music

Asztali zene (Poldini?)

Greek Dances

Lakodalmas Tancz (Lavotta)

Valse (Tchaikovsky)

XI. Miscellany (cont.)

- b. 13 f. 204 Speech [draft], "Male Dancing"
- b. 13 f. 205 Syllabus and Dance Notes
- b. 13 f. 206 List, Royal Ballet Dancers 1966-1967
- b. 13 f. 207 Summary of Correspondence in Collection