



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Letters from Martha Graham to David Zellmer**

1942-1945

(S) \*MGZMD 117

## Summary

**Creator:** Graham, Martha

**Title:** Letters from Martha Graham to David Zellmer

**Date:** 1942-1945

**Size:** .2 linear feet (30 letters)

**Source:** Purchase, David Zellmer, 06/28/96

**Abstract:** American modern dancer and choreographer. Typescript and holograph letters written by Martha Graham to a member of her dance company during his military service in World War II.

**Preferred citation:** Letters from Martha Graham to David Zellmer, (S) \*MGZMD 117. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

## Creator History

American modern dancer and choreographer.

## Scope and Content Note

Typescript and holograph letters written by Martha Graham to a member of her dance company during his military service in World War II.

The letters, written mainly from New York City and Bennington College, candidly discuss Martha Graham's creative activities, interests, and associates during the three year period. Subjects of the letters include dance works, "Deaths and entrances," "Salem Shore," "Herodiade," and "Appalachian Spring."

Individuals mentioned in the letters include Charlotte Trowbridge, Samuel Barber, Aaron Copland, Paul Hindemith, Katharine Cornell, Carlus Dyer, Lincoln Kirstein, Merce Cunningham, Ethel Butler, Robert Horan, and Pearl Lang.

The letters also give insight into Martha Graham's interest in Buddhism and 20th century poetry. Preliminary material includes an Apologia (5 leaves), list of dates and origins of letters (2 leaves), and index to the letters by subject and name (5 leaves), all by David Zellmer.

**Arrangement:** Arranged chronologically

## **Key Terms**

### **Titles**

Deaths and entrances (Choreographic work : Graham)

Hérodiade (Choreographic work : Graham)

Salem shore (Choreographic work : Graham)

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Letters (correspondence)

### **Subjects**

Manuscripts -- Collections

### **Occupations**

Women choreographers

Women dancers

### **Names**

Barber, Samuel, 1910-1981

Butler, Ethel

Copland, Aaron, 1900-1990

Cornell, Katharine, 1893-1974

Cunningham, Merce

Dyer, Carlus, 1917-

Graham, Martha. Appalachian spring. Appalachian spring

Hindemith, Paul, 1895-1963

Horan, Robert, 1922-

Kirstein, Lincoln, 1907-1996

Lang, Pearl, 1921-2009

Trowbridge, Charlotte

Zellmer, David

Martha Graham Dance Company