



The New York Public Library Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Ari Darom papers

1978-1984

(S) *MGZMD 116

Processed by Ashish Khokar.

Summary

Creator: Darom, Ari

Title: Ari Darom papers

Date: 1978-1984

Source: Gift, Jean Erdman

Abstract: The collection contains research, correspondence, biographical material, performance-related material, correspondence about Ari Darom's memorial tribute, and a list of his book collection.

Preferred citation: Ari Darom Papers, *MGZMD 116, Dance Collection. The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Processing note: Processed by Ashish Khokar; machine-readable finding aid created by Karen Nickeson.

Creator History

Ari Darom was a graduate of Antioch College, received an MFA in modern dance from New York University's School of Arts, and performed and choreographed with Jean Erdman's Theatre of the Open Eye in New York. He first trained in Indian dance with Hadassah and later studied under Matteo and Nala Najan. His interest in eastern dance was further developed by studies with Ibrahim Farrah. He traveled to south India, as a recipient of a grant from the American Institute of Indian Studies. He undertook research in the Shaivite aspect of Bharata Natyam, the south Indian classical dance form.

Darom made extensive visits to India, supported partly by the American Institute for Indian Studies. He resided with a traditional dance teacher and studied the technique of oral transmission of dance traditions. His teacher (or guru) put him in contact with temple authorities from whom he learned the philosophical tenets and beliefs.

Ari Darom died at age forty of pneumonia.

Scope and Content Note

The collection contains research projects, correspondence, biographical material, performance-related materials, memorial tribute correspondence, and a list of Darom's book collection. Correspondence with collaborators and writings give insight into Ari Darom's research subjects and methodology. Other items in the collection include a press review, announcements for his performances in India, and documents related to a memorial tribute organized by his associates in New York after his death. Finally, it includes a list of books acquired in India. The book collection was donated to the Dance Collection in a separate gift.

These papers reveal the various layers of dance tradition in India and the philosophy which raises it from a purely physical activity to a system of belief which has at its roots, thousands of years of collective insights and perceptions. Specifically, it addresses the Shaivite philosophy which manifests through the symbol of Nataraja, the Lord of dance and the cult of shakti or energy.

Key Terms

Subjects

Bharata natyam

Occupations

Dancers

Titles

Gift of Jean Erdman

Names

Darom, Ari

Darom, Art

Container List

f. 1 Research

Bharata Natyam as a symbolic expression of Saiva Siddhanta
Donna J. Geswaldo's paper on a performance
Expression of Saiva Siddhanta
Photographs of temple deities
Uddhava Gita, extracts from

f. 2 Correspondence

Head of a south Indian temple
Dancer, Padma Subrahmanyam
Jean Erdman and Joseph Campbell
Priest from a temple in Chidambram
Official of the Dept. of Culture, Delhi
The Vice-Chancellor, Tamil University in Tanjore
Director, Institute of Traditional Cultures, Madras
Letter from Dept. of Culture, Delhi
Questions from press reporter
Response
Project appraisal to Jean Erdman and Joseph Campbell
Director, Institute of Indian Culture, Madras
Jean Erdman
State Bank of India

f. 3 Biographical material, personal references

Citation from The Open Eye
Recommendation from AARP
Commendation from the head priest, Kasi Mutt
Howard Foundation communication
Request to Dr. Elizabeth M. Bonbright

f. 4 Performances

Congratulatory cards
News release
Congratulatory telegram
New York Times notice
New York Times review
letter thanking NYT critic
program notes
memo
announcement of performance in India
misc. performance notes

f. 5 Ari Darom memorial tribute

Invitation to Oct. 18, 1983 dedication in New York City
press release
Stella Kramrisch correspondence
M. J. Abadie correspondence
Nala Najan correspondence
Arabesque magazine, obituary
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Deutschman (Ari Darom's parents)

f. 6 Book collection (list)

List and appraiser's letter