

Inventory of the Charles Weidman Papers, 1908-1975

(S)*MGZMD 99

Jerome Robbins Dance Division

**The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
New York, New York**

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Descriptive Summary

Title:	Charles Weidman Papers
Collection ID:	(S)*MGZMD 99
Creator:	Weidman, Charles
Extent:	6.5 linear feet (13 boxes)
Repository:	Jerome Robbins Dance Division. The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
Abstract:	Charles Weidman was one of the founding members of Modern Dance in the United States. In his later years, he created his own dance company, continuing to teach and tour in the early 1970s.

Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.

Publication Rights

For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Jerome Robbins Dance Division.

Preferred Citation

The Charles Weidman Papers, (S)*MGZMD 99, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Custodial History

The Charles Weidman Papers were donated to the Jerome Robbins Dance Division in 1992.

Processing Information

The collection was processed in 1994 and cataloged in 1997 with added material in 2006.

Biographical Note

Charles Edward Weidman Jr. was born in 1904 in Lincoln, Nebraska. In 1920 he left for Los Angeles to study at the Denishawn School. His first teacher there was Doris Humphrey.

During eight years as a soloist in the Denishawn company, Charles Weidman toured the United States, England and the Orient.

In 1929 he and Doris Humphrey established their own school and the Humphrey-Weidman Concert Company. Theirs was the first modern dance group to give a New York Concert. In 1948 due to Doris Humphrey's retirement as a dancer he formed his own company, Charles Weidman Dance Theatre. In his performances he combined dance, mime, narration and, later when the artist Mikhail Santaro joined him in the 1960s, lecture-demonstrations of drawings.

In addition to his concert work, tours and teaching in the 1940s, Charles Weidman choreographed several Broadway shows. For three years (1963-66) he was also a choreographer for the New York City Center Opera Company where he contributed to many of the company's successes. (See *Love for Three Oranges* file of this collection).

Charles Weidman conducted workshops on over two hundred college campuses and as many high schools. He was on the faculty at Bennington College, Mills College, Temple University, Columbia University, New York University, The New School for Social Research, and Connecticut College in New London. He was appointed a Distinguished Professor at Brooklyn College and awarded Jersey City State College Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

For about fifteen years Charles Weidman had a studio in New York that was the home for his company Expression of Two Arts Theatre, and where he taught, choreographed and performed together with his small company up to the very day of his death on July 15, 1975.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Charles Edward Weidman Jr. , 1904-1975 cover the period ca. 1908-1975 and pertain mainly to his professional life and career through the late 1950s up to his death in 1975. Very few letters and photographs are related to his early career.

The papers of Mikhail Santaro included with the original gift were separated from Charles Weidman's papers and processed as a separate manuscript collection.

Some material is fragile and requires special handling.

The collection does not contain much personal material and nothing from his time with Denishawn or the early years of Humphrey/Weidman. The correspondence is mostly business related and is from the 1960s-1970s.

Organization

The collection is organized into 7 series and 1 sub-series. They are:

- Series I: Correspondence and Business Records, 1934, 1958-1975
- Series II: Personal documents, 1955-1974
- Series III: Choreographed Works/Notes/Music Scores, 1921-1975
- Series IV: Oversized Material, ca. 1970, undated

Series Descriptions

Series I: Correspondence, 1934, 1958-1975

4 boxes

Arrangement: Alphabetical

This series consists of correspondence and business records including the Charles Weidman Theatre Dance Company. Some organizations and individuals have correspondence in two places. The items were left where they were found, and cross-references were added. Within the folders, items are mostly in chronological order with the exception of undated items.

Series II: Personal Documents, 1955-1974

2 Boxes

This series contains biographical material; family correspondence, legal and financial papers; social security and Medicare benefits correspondence. Also included are lectures given by Weidman. Awards and honorary degrees received by Weidman, general office records, including bank statements, receipts, mailing list, monthly planners and a sketchbook are also contained within this series.

Series III: Choreographed Works/Notes/Music Scores, 1921-1975

6 Boxes

This series contains Charles Weidman's choreographed works, choreographic notes, some diagrams and drawings, and music scores (with notes) by various composers.

Series IV: Oversized Material, ca. 1970, undated

1 Box

This series contains oversized artwork, musical scores and posters.

Box/Folder	Description
<u>Series I: Correspondence and Business Records, 1934, 1958-1975</u>	
F 1	Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre, 1975
F 2	American Bicentennial Mime Festival, 1975
F 3	American Dance Association, 1937
F 4	Ann Waugh Allen & Company, 1974
F 5	Association of Canadian Television and Radio Artists, 1964
F 6	Beaupre, 1975
F 7	Brooklyn Arts & Culture Association Inc.
F 8	Brooklyn College – CUNY, 1973-1975
F 9	Campbell, Larry, 1974
F 10	Carlson, Richard, 1970-1973 Charles Weidman Theatre Dance Company, (also Expression of Two Arts Theatre)
F 11	Board of Directors, undated
F 12	Budget, 1958-1974
F 13-14	Contracts, 1963-1974 (with correspondence)
F 15	Contributions, 1975
F 16	Expenses, 1958-1973
F 17	Guest book, 1971-1975
Box 2	
F 1	Opening Night telegrams, 1948-1958
F 2	Requisitions, 1972
F 3	Studio, 1964, 1974
F 4	Teachers' course, 1970
F 5	Tours, undated
F 6	Weidman theatre Dance company agreements, undated <i>Christmas Oratorio</i> , 1966-1972
F 7	Correspondence
F 8	Notes
F 9	Colorado State College of Education at Greeley, 1958
F 10	Committee for the Dance Collection, 1975
F 11	Concerned Citizens, 1975
F 12	Creative Artists Public Service Programs, 1971 (CAPS)
F 13	Cunningham Dance Foundation, Inc., 1972
F 14	<i>Dance Magazine</i> , 1966
F 15	Dance Notation Bureau, 1971-1974
F 16	Dougherty, John, 1974
F 17	Duroska, Emilia O., 1971
F 18	Ford, Betty, 1974
F 19	Funk and Wagnells Company, 1963

Box/Folder	Description
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Box 3

F 1	Grimaldi, Vincent, 1972
F 2	Hartford Conservatory of Music, 1960
F 3	Hartong, Corrie, 1965
F 4	Hospital Audiences, Inc., 1971-1974
F 5	Humphrey, Doris, undated
F 6	Ichikawa, Danshichi, 1974-1975
F 7	Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes, Mexico, 1959
F 8	International Center in New York, 1974
F 9	Jersey City State College, 1973
F 10	Jose Limon Dance Foundation, 1975
F 11	Kay Perper Management, 1971-1974 (see also YM/WHHA)
F 12	Kernoodle, George R., 1960-1977
F 13	Kriegsman, Sali Ann, 1973
F 14	Mary Anthony Dance Theatre, 1974-1975
F 15	Mayor's Committee on Cultural Policy, 1974
F 16	McCullagh, Bonnie, 1975
F 17	National Association for Regional Ballet, Inc., 1975
F 18	National Endowment for the Arts, 1973-1975
F 19	National Research Center for the Arts, 1974

Box 4

F 1	New York City Bicentennial Corp. 1973-1974
F 2	New York City Cultural Council, 1974
F 3	New York City Public Library, 1973-1974
F 4	New York State Council on the Arts, 1971-1974
F 5	New York Times, 1963
F 6	Nikitina, Alicia, 1958
F 7	Radford College Dance Department, 1975
F 8	Regents Regional Coordinating Council, 1974
F 9	Regional and Civic Companies, undated
F 10	Ross, George, 1970-1971
F 11-13	St. Denis Project, 1959-1968
F 14	Schurman, Nona, 1971-1972
F 15	Stodelle, Ernestine, 1935, 1972
F 16	Theatre Development Fund, undated
F 17	Thurber, James, 1959-1968
F 18	University of Michigan, 1959
F 19	Wayne State University, undated
F 20	Willmott, Richard, 1958 (letters, photos, notes)
F 21	YM/YWHA at 92 nd Street, 1971-1972

Box/Folder	Description
F 22	Various material, 1958-1971
	<u>Series II: Personal Documents, 1955-1974</u>
	Awards/Degrees, 1970-1973
Box 5	
F 1	American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Heritage Award, 1970
F 2	Doctor of Human Letters Degree, Jersey City State College, 1973 (clippings, photographs, program)
F 3	Biographical information, undated (notes, clippings)
F 4	Clippings
F 5	<i>Et Vous, Mers</i> by St. John Perse, undated General Office Records, 1955-1974
F 6	Bank statements, 1959-1962
F 7-8	Receipts, bills, tax statements, 1957-1968
Box 6	
F 1	Legal, 1957-1975 Lectures, undated
F 2	Notes on lectures on modern dance, undated
F 3	Voice of America, undated (notes)
F 4	Mailing lists, undated (including address books)
F 5	<i>Mr. Fortune's Maggott</i> , undated (script with notes)
F 6	Monthly planners, 1970-1974
F 7	<i>Narration. Peer Gynt</i> , undated
F 8	Notes, undated
F 9	Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company, 1962-1972
F 10	Poetry, undated
F 11	Programs, 1971-1981 Scrapbooks
F 12	Christmas Oratorio, 1962-1970
F 13	Denishawn, ca. 1925
F 14	Scripts, undated
F 15	Social Security Benefits, 1975
F 16	Sketch book, undated (drawing of cat)
F 17	T. Rowe Price Growth Stock Fund, 1971-1975

Box/Folder Description

Series III: Choreographed works/notes/music scores, 1921-1975**Box 7**

- F 1-2 *And Daddy Was a Fireman*, 1943
- F 3-4 *Atavisms-- Bargain Counter and Lynchtown*, undated
- F 5 *Basque Fantasy, Iris Blue, Mountain Rhapsody, Shadows at Twilight, Valse Vienna, White Lilacs* by Bert Reisfeld, 1940
- F 6 *Casse-Noisette, The Nutcracker, Op. 71*-piano, by Tchaikovsky, 1950
- F 7 *Concerto for Piano and Woodwind Quintet, Opus 53*, by Wallingford Riegger, 1956
- F 8 *Cowboys Dance* by Max Ewing, undated

Box 8

- F 1 *Danse A Sept Temps*, by Rhene-Baton, 1923
- F 2 *Dances* by Fr. Schubert, undated
- F 3 *David and Goliath*, by Johann Kuhnau, undated
- F 4 *Demons S'amusent* by W. Rebikoff, 1923
- F 5 *Diabelli Variations opus 120*, undated (program, lighting diagrams, choreographic notes)
- F 6 *Erotikin* by Sjogren, undated
- F 7 *Fables for our Time*, undated (Thurber Tales. Scripts, choreographic notes, musical scores)
- F 8 *Finale from the New Dance*, by Wallingford Riegger, 1940
- F 9-10 *Flickers*, undated
- F 11 *The Heart Remembered*, 1944

Box 9

- F 1 *The House Divided*, 1975 (project printout)
- F 2 *Impressions de New York* by Enrico Soro, 1919
- F 3 *Is Sex Necessary*, undated (script notes by Humphrey/Weidman)
- F 4 *Jugoslavische Suite Opus 2* by Josip Slavenski, 1921
- F 5 *Littlest Revue*, undated
- F 6 *The Love for Three Oranges*, 1963-1966
- F 7 *March in Formal Style*, undated

Box 10

- F 1 *Neuf Etudes-tableaux pour piano Op. 39* by Sergei Rachmanioff, 1920
- F 2 *New Dance* by Wallingford Riegger, 1947 (also known as *Dance Rhythms* by Doris Humphrey)
- F 3 *New Dance for Orchestra Opus 18b* by Wallingford Riegger, 1935 (commissioned by Doris Humphrey)
- F 4 Notes, undated
- F 5 *Passacaglia* by Aaron Copland, 1922
- F 6 *Pavane*, undated
- F 7 *Peer Gynt*, undated (script with choreographic notes)
- F 8 *Poor Butterfly* by Raymond Hubbell, 1926

Box/Folder	Description
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Box 11

F 1-2	<i>Poor Eddy</i> , undated (choreographic notes, scores, stage sketch)
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Box 12

F 1	<i>Primitive</i> by Ada Reif, 1947 (Charles Weidman techniques)
F 2	<i>Purcell Suite</i> , undated
F 3	<i>Quest</i> , ca. 1936 (Charles Weidman)
F 4	<i>Recollections of Concepcion</i> by Enrico Soro, 1923
F 5	<i>Rose of Sharon</i> , undated (score by Lukas Foss)
F 6	<i>Soirees de Vienne Valses Caprices</i> , undated
F 7	<i>Spain Dances</i> by Manuel G. Matos, 1941
F 8	<i>This Passion</i> , undated (choreographic notes, score by Norman Lloyd)
F 9	<i>Two Songs of Old China</i> by Edward Horsman, 1916
F 10	<i>Volpone</i> , undated (choreographic notes)
F 11	<i>War Between Men and Women</i> , undated (photos and reviews)
F 12	<i>Yes Sir, That's My Baby</i> by Walter Donaldson, 1925
F 13	Unidentified, undated

Series IV: Oversized Material, ca. 1970, undated**Box 13**

F 1	Artwork, undated Music scores
F 2	<i>Prize Fight Dance</i> , undated
F 3	<i>Steel and Stone</i> by Henry Dowell, undated
F 4-8	Unidentified, undated
F 9	Posters, ca. 1970