



The New York Public Library Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Carl Van Vechten Slides

1940-1964

*MGZKA 14-6754

Compiled by Camille Croce Dee, 2015

Summary

Creator: Van Vechten, Carl, 1880-1964

Title: Carl Van Vechten Slides

Date: 1940-1964

Size: 2.1 linear feet (5 boxes)

Abstract: The Carl Van Vechten Slides collection contains approximately 2,800 color slides of dancers (primarily ballet) photographed by Carl Van Vechten in his studio, from 1940 to 1964.

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Creator History

Author, critic and photographer Carl Van Vechten (1880-1964) was born to a wealthy family in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He moved to New York City in 1906 and worked as a music critic for *The New York Times* and later became its first modern dance critic. Van Vechten also photographed many African-American artists and performers, as well as ethnic dancers. He died in his sleep in New York City at age 84.

Scope and Content Note

The Carl Van Vechten Slides collection contains approximately 2,800 mounted color slides, mostly of dancers (primarily ballet), photographed by Carl Van Vechten in his studio, from 1940 to 1964. Some modern, African-American, ethnic dancers, and choreographers are also included. Dancers are usually dressed in costumes from ballets or other dances, but costumes were sometimes improvised or devised by Van Vechten. There are also some frontispieces, such as posters, still life objects and

outdoor scenes.

A few performers and choreographers in the collection include Agnes de Mille, Anton Dolin, Katherine Dunham, Martha Graham, Nora Kaye, Hugh Laing, Avon Long, Alicia Markova, Pearl Primus, Ni Gusti Raka, Bill Robinson, Donald Saddler, Paul Taylor, and Carmen Vasquez. Costume designer Barbara Karinska, impresario Lincoln Kirstein and lighting designer Jean Rosenthal are also among Van Vechten's subjects.

Slides of Violette Verdy were photographed by Saul Mauriber, Van Vechten's assistant.

Arrangement: Alphabetically by name or title.

Key Terms

Subjects

African American dancers

Ballet dancers

Dance -- United States -- 20th century -- slides

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Color slides

Occupations

Photographers

Names

Mauriber, Saul

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 **Box Lists** circa 1940s-1960s
Includes 4 handwritten lists found in slide box lids.
- b. 1 f. 2 **La Argentinita** 1940 October 17
- b. 1 f. 3 **Baldrich, Hernan** 1962 November 6
Includes *Progression* and *On the Beach*.
- b. 1 f. 4 **Banks, Diana** 1953 April 14
Belle Rosette - See **McBurnie, Beryl**
- b. 1 f. 5 ***Black Ritual*** 1940
Includes Muriel Cook, Dorothy Williams, Maudelle Bass, and Lewanne Kennard.
- b. 1 f. 6 **Blackwell, Charles** 1955 July 5
- b. 1 f. 7 **Bolender, Todd** 1947 January
Includes *(The) Four Temperaments* and *Renard the Fox*.
- b. 1 f. 8 **Cohan, Robert** 1955 May 17
Includes *Canticle for Innocent Comedians* and *Every Soul Is a Circus*.
- b. 1 f. 9 **Collins, Janet** 1949
Includes a Mozart Rondo, New Orleans Carnival Number and *Spirituals*.
- b. 1 f. 10 **Curtis, Robert** 1955 April 19
- b. 1 f. 11 **De Lavallade, Carmen** 1955 March 3
- b. 1 f. 12 **De Mille, Agnes** 1940 February 13-1940 April 8
Includes *Hell on Wheels* and *Judgment of Paris*
See also Three Virgins and a Devil.
Dolin, Anton
- b. 1 f. 13 ***Bluebeard*** 1944 May 11
- b. 1 f. 14 ***Bluebird Variation - (The) Sleeping Beauty*** 1941 February 5
- b. 1 f. 15 ***Capriccioso (Or, Italian Suite)*** 1940 October 22
- b. 1 f. 16 ***Danse Espagnole*** 1940 October 9
- b. 1 f. 17 ***(The) Fair at Sorochinsk*** 1944 May 11
- b. 1 f. 18 **Fustinella Costume** 1941 February 5
- b. 1 f. 19 ***Giselle*** 1940-1941
- b. 1 f. 20 ***(The) Nutcracker*** 1944 May 18
- b. 1 f. 21 ***Princess Aurora*** 1943 May 7
See also Markova, Alicia.
- b. 1 f. 22 ***Quartet*** 1940 October 1
- b. 1 f. 23 **Spanish Peasant Dance** 1941 February 5
- b. 1 f. 24 **Studies and Nudes** 1940-1941
- b. 1 f. 25 ***Swan Lake*** 1941 March 11
See also Markova, Alicia.
- b. 1 f. 26 ***(The) Sylphide and the Scotsman*** 1941 April 21
See also Markova, Alicia.
- b. 1 f. 27 ***Tally-Ho*** 1944 May 18
- b. 1 f. 28 ***Le Train Bleu Costume Facsimile*** 1940 October
- b. 1 f. 29 **Dunham, Katherine** 1940

- b. 1 f. 30 Earl, William 1960-1961
Includes *(The) Figure in the Carpet*.
- b. 1 f. 31 Eglevsky, André 1944 December
Includes *Prince Goudal's Festival*.
- b. 2 f. 1 Gibson, Ian 1941 December 8
Includes *La Fille Mal Gardée* and *Princess Aurora*.
- b. 2 f. 2 Graham, Martha and Ross, Bertram 1961 June 27
Includes *Orestes and Clytemnestra* and *Visionary Recital*.
- b. 2 f. 3 Gray, Gilda 1940 September 11
- b. 2 f. 4 Hayden, Melissa 1956 June 19
Herrero, Miguel - See Vasquez, Carmen
- b. 2 f. 5 Holder, Geoffrey 1954 September
- b. 2 f. 6 Horn, Harald 1956 May 27
- b. 2 f. 7 *Jardin aux Lilas - Langner Lane Farm, Cannondale, Connecticut* 1941 May 13
Includes Nora Kaye, Hugh Laing, Annabelle Lyon, and Antony Tudor.
- b. 2 f. 8 Karinska, Barbara 1962 June 26
Kaye, Nora
See also *Jardin aux Lilas* and Laing, Hugh.
- b. 2 f. 9 (The) Black Swan 1948 November 2
- b. 2 f. 10 *Dark Elegies* 1941 March 5
- b. 2 f. 11 *Dim Lustre* 1944 October 27
- b. 2 f. 12 *Facsimile* 1946 October 31
- b. 2 f. 13 *Fall River Legend* 1948 August 3
- b. 2 f. 14 *Gala Performance* 1941 March 5
- b. 2 f. 15 *Giselle* 1949 February 26
- b. 2 f. 16 *On Stage!* 1946 October 31
- b. 2 f. 17 *Peter and the Wolf* 1941 March 5
Includes slides of Kaye's legs.
- b. 2 f. 18 *Pillar of Fire* 1942 April 16
- b. 2 f. 19 Rehearsal Clothes 1942 April 16
- b. 2 f. 20 Russian Posters 1959 September 29
- b. 2 f. 21 Kirstein, Lincoln 1964 November 17
- b. 2 f. 22 Kriza, John 1948-1949
Includes *Billy the Kid* and *Fancy Free*.
Laing, Hugh
- b. 2 f. 23 With Alan Meadows; "Al Fresco" 1940 June 8-1940 July 18
- b. 2 f. 24 *Aleko* 1942 October 26
See also Markova, Alicia.
- b. 2 f. 25 *L'Après Midi d'un Faune* 1941 December 1
- b. 2 f. 26 *Dark Elegies* 1943 May 5
Antony Tudor and Nora Kaye also pictured.
- b. 2 f. 27 *Dim Lustre* 1944 October 27
Nora Kaye also pictured.
- b. 3 f. 1 *Gala Performance* 1941 February 16

Laing, Hugh (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 2 *Goya Pastoral* 1940 August 5
- b. 3 f. 3 *Hoe Down* 1941 June 1
- b. 3 f. 4-5 *Improvised Costumes* 1940
- b. 3 f. 6 *Jardin aux Lilas* 1940-1941
Annabelle Lyon also pictured.
- b. 3 f. 7 *Judgment of Paris* 1941 December 9
Maria Karnilova and Antony Tudor also pictured.
- b. 3 f. 8 *May Day* 1941 June 1
- b. 3 f. 9 *Peter and the Wolf* 1940 October 19
- b. 3 f. 10 *Petrouchka* 1948 June 7
Nora Kaye also pictured.
- b. 3 f. 11 *Pillar of Fire* 1942 April 16
Nora Kaye and Sono Osato also pictured.
- b. 3 f. 12 *Romeo and Juliet* 1943 May 6
See also Markova, Alicia.
- b. 3 f. 13 *Swan Lake* 1940 July 9
- b. 3 f. 14 *Tally-Ho* 1944 October 27
Janet Reed also pictured.
- b. 3 f. 15 *Long, Avon - As Sportin' Life in Porgy and Bess* 1942
- b. 3 f. 16 Lyon, Annabelle 1941 December 19
Includes *Bluebeard*, *Jardin aux Lilas* and *Princess Aurora*.
See also Laing, Hugh.
- b. 3 f. 17 Mabry, Iris 1954 April 25
Includes *Appassionata* and *Dreams*.
- b. 3 f. 18 McBurnie, Beryl (Belle Rosette) in Trinidad Carnival Costume 1941
- b. 3 f. 19 Marchant, Claude 1947
- b. 3 f. 20 Marionette; Spanish Bullfighting Poster 1940, 1961
Markova, Alicia
- b. 4 f. 1 *Aleko* 1942 October 6, 1952 December 10
Includes slide of frontispiece; Hugh Laing also pictured.
- b. 4 f. 2 *L'Après-Midi d'un Faune* 1940 May, 1954 October 31
Includes slide of Central Park; Milorad Miskovitch also pictured.
- b. 4 f. 3 *(The) Bluebird Variation* 1940 October 6, 1952 October 20
Includes slides of *(The) Bluebird* by Karl Priebe and Markova's legs.
- b. 4 f. 4 *Bolero 1830* 1955 May 5
Includes slide of frontispiece.
- b. 4 f. 5 *Caesar and Cleopatra* 1954 October 31
- b. 4 f. 6 *Camille* 1946 October 27, 1952 December 10
Includes slide of frontispiece.
- b. 4 f. 7 *Don Domingo* 1942 October 6, 1952 December 10
Includes slide of frontispiece.
- b. 4 f. 8 Dressing Room - Metropolitan Opera House 1944 May 20, 1954 October 10
Includes slide of Stage Door; Anton Dolin also pictured.
- b. 4 f. 9 *(The) Dying Swan* 1948 November 24
Includes slide of frontispiece.

Markova, Alicia (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 10 "En Ville" 1943-1952
Includes slides with Taglioni's slipper and Alvin Colt's valentine.
- b. 4 f. 11 *(The) Firebird* 1945 November 1
Includes slide of frontispiece and Markova's legs.
- b. 4 f. 12 *Die Fledermaus* 1955 May 9
Includes slide of frontispiece.
- b. 4 f. 13 *Foyer de Danse* 1940 May 13, 1954 November 16
Includes slide of poster.
- b. 4 f. 14 Frontispieces 1940-1954
- b. 4 f. 15 *Giselle* 1940-1952
Includes slides of Giselle crypt, Santa Barbara Mission and Markova's hands and arms.
- b. 4 f. 16 In Street Clothes and Gown 1963 February 12, 1963 May 15
Includes slide of portrait by Richard Banks.
- b. 4 f. 17 *Ixtepec (?)* 1948 November 24, 1952 December 18
Includes slide of frontispiece.
- b. 4 f. 18 *(The) Merry Widow* 1955 December 26
Includes slides of frontispiece (Broadway Theatre marquee and poster); Oleg Briansky also pictured.
- b. 4 f. 19 *(The) Nutcracker* 1943 September 25, 1945 January 4
Includes slide of Christmas candles.
- b. 4 f. 20 *Orfeo* 1955 March 28
Includes slide of frontispiece.
- Pas de Quatre*
- b. 4 f. 21 1943 October 12
Includes slide of frontispiece.
- b. 4 f. 22 1948 September 23, 1952 March 22
Includes slide of frontispiece; Alexandra Danilova, Nathalie Krassovska and Mia Slavenska also pictured.
- b. 4 f. 23 *Princess Aurora* 1943 May 6, 1954 November 16
Includes frontispiece for *Aurora's Wedding*; Markova's legs and Anton Dolin also pictured.
- b. 4 f. 24 *Romeo and Juliet* 1940 June 7, 1943 May 6
Includes slide of Central Park; Laing also pictured.
- b. 4 f. 25 *Rouge et Noir* 1948 October 11, 1952 December 10
Includes slide of frontispiece.
- b. 4 f. 26 *Seventh Symphony* 1948 October 4
Includes slide of frontispiece.
- b. 4 f. 27 *Swan Lake* 1940-1941
Includes slide of swan in Zoological Gardens, Fairmont Park; Anton Dolin also pictured.
- b. 4 f. 28 *(The) Sylphide and the Scotsman* 1941 April 21, 1954 November 16
Includes frontispiece; Anton Dolin also pictured.
- Les Sylphides* 1944 May 29, 1945 May 25
Includes slide of Central Park.
- b. 5 f. 1 Maule, Michael 1953 April 27
Meadows, Alan - See Laing, Hugh
- b. 5 f. 2 Mitchell, Arthur [1955 December 20]
- b. 5 f. 3 Mitchell, James 1952 February 5
- b. 5 f. 4 Morris, Lenwood 1940 July 18

- b. 5 f. 5 *Paint Your Wagon* 1951-1952
Includes Mary Burr, Tamara Chapman and Dorothy Hill.
- b. 5 f. 6 Primus, Pearl 1943
- b. 5 f. 7 Raka, Ni Gusti in the Legong and Sampih in the Kebyar 1952 October 6
- b. 5 f. 8 Riabouchinska, Tatiana 1942 November 5
Includes *Les Sylphides*.
- b. 5 f. 9 Robinson, Bill 1941
- b. 5 f. 10 Rosenthal, Jean 1951 December 11
Ross, Bertram - See Graham, Martha
- b. 5 f. 11 Saddler, Donald 1941-1948
Includes *Billy the Kid*, *Coppélia*, *Giselle*, *Jardin aux Lilas*, and *Princess Aurora*.
Sampih - See Raka, Ni Gusti
- b. 5 f. 12 Savage, Archie 1942
- b. 5 f. 13 *Sebastian* 1944 November 20
Includes Viola Essen, Kari Karnakoski and Francisco Moncion.
- b. 5 f. 14 *Shadow of the Wind* 1948 April 23
Includes Diana Adams, Eric Braun, Mary Burr, Crandall Diehl, Barbara Fallis, Nana Gollner, Ruth Ann Koesun, and Hugh Laing.
- b. 5 f. 15 Skibine, George 1946 January 4
- b. 5 f. 16 Solov, Zachary 1958 February 28
- b. 5 f. 17 Taylor, Paul 1960
Includes *Alcestis*, *Episodes* and *(The) Least Flycatcher*.
- b. 5 f. 18 Thompson, Claude 1959 February 5
- b. 5 f. 19 *Three Virgins and a Devil* 1941 March 8
Includes Lucia Chase, Agnes de Mille, Annabelle Lyon, and Jerome Robbins.
- b. 5 f. 20 Tudor, Antony 1940-1941
Includes *Gala Performance* and *Jardin aux Lilas*.
- b. 5 f. 21 *Vasquez, Carmen and Herrero, Miguel - Cabalgata* 1949
- b. 5 f. 22 *Verdy, Violette in Serenade* 1961 December 4
Photographed by Saul Mauriber (Carl Van Vechten's assistant).
- b. 5 f. 23 *Zoritch, George As the Baron in Gaîté Parisienne* 1940 April 11