



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Lynn Garafola collection on Hubert Stowitts

1914-1983 [bulk 1979-1983]

(S) *MGZMD 518

Processed by Stacey Ference in 2020.

Summary

Creator: Garafola, Lynn

Title: Lynn Garafola collection on Hubert Stowitts

Date: 1914-1983 [bulk 1979-1983]

Size: 2.75 linear feet (7 boxes)

Source: Donated by Lynn Garafola, 2019.

Abstract: Dance historian Lynn Garafola gathered the materials for this collection while in the process of writing a biography about Stowitts. The majority of the collection consists of copies of his correspondence, articles, exhibition guides, photographs and other materials, as well as her accompanying research notes.

Preferred citation: Lynn Garafola collection on Hubert Stowitts, (S) *MGZMD 518. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Language of the Material: Multiple languages The majority of the collection is in English, with some materials in French, Spanish, and Portuguese.

Processing note: Processed by Stacey Ference in 2020.

Creator History

Hubert Stowitts (1892-1953) was an American dancer and painter most notable for being the only American partner of the Russian prima ballerina Anna Pavlova. A 1915 graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Stowitts abandoned plans to attend graduate school at Harvard University in order to focus on ballet. During his time as a dancer he performed not only as a member of Pavlova's company but also with Ruth Page and as a soloist. In addition he traveled the world while painting, working as a choreographer, and designing sets and costumes. Stowitts retired from dance at the age of 33 and devoted the rest of his life to painting. As a visual artist, he is perhaps best known for his series entitled *American Champions*, a collection of paintings featuring male American athletes in the nude. The works were meant to be shown at the 1936 Olympic Games held in Berlin, but the show was forcibly closed by the Nazi party. Despite this he continued to work as a visual artist, focusing on

portraying dance in a visual medium, such as in his series *Vanishing India*. In addition to this work as an artist, Stowitts also had a career in film, most notably appearing in the Greta Garbo feature *The Painted Veil*.

Lynn Garafola (born 1946) is an American dance historian, lecturer, and educator. She graduated from Barnard College in 1968, and received her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from City University of New York in 1985. Her dissertation topic focused on the Ballets Russes, and she later published it as a book, titled *Diaghilev's Ballets Russes*, in 1989.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of research materials collected by the dance historian Lynn Garafola in the process of writing a biography about Stowitts. The vast majority of the collection consists of photocopies of correspondence, articles, exhibition guides, photographs and other materials that were gathered during her research process, as well as her accompanying research notes. Of particular interest are notes taken from interviews of subjects that knew Stowitts, such as Michael Powell, Chester Hale, Francis Lederer, and Boris Kochno. There is also original correspondence from Stowitts, mostly to his mother and sister. The materials in this collection pertain to Stowitts' career as a dancer and as an artist. There are also materials that only concern Anna Pavlova. There is a small amount of material related to Stowitts' interest in esoteric philosophies and his student career at University of California, Berkeley.

Key Terms

Occupations

Artists.

Dancers.

Subjects

Ballet -- 20th century

Ballet dancers

Male dancers -- United States -- 20th century

Names

Garafola, Lynn

Hale, Chester

Kochno, Boris

Lederer, Francis, 1899-2000

Paget-Fredericks, Joseph Rous, 1903-1963

Pavlova, Anna, 1881-1931

Powell, Michael, 1905-1990

Stowitts, Hubert Julian, 1892-1953

University of California (System)

Container List

Series I: Garafola Correspondence and Interviews 1979-1983 (1 box 0.42 linear feet)

- b. 1 f. 1 Correspondence 1981 January 2-November 3
- b. 1 f. 2 Correspondence 1981-1982
- b. 1 f. 3 Correspondence 1980-1983
- b. 1 f. 4 Stowitts; Correspondence 1979-1981
- b. 1 f. 5 Interviews to be Typed 1981-1982

Series II: Research Materials and Drafts 1914-1989 (7 boxes 2.75 linear feet)

The majority of the materials in this series are photocopies.

- b. 1 f. 6 Pavlova Manuscript -- J. Paget-Fredericks circa 1980s
- b. 2 f. 1 Draft Material for Stowitts Article -- Joseph Paget-Fredericks circa 1980s
- b. 2 f. 2 Paget Material circa 1980s
- b. 2 f. 3 Family Life through September 1915 circa 1980s
- b. 2 f. 4 Berkeley and SF Background Material: 1911-1915 circa 1980s
- b. 2 f. 5 October 1915-December 1917 1982, circa 1980s
- b. 3 f. 1 October 1915-December 1917 1981, 1983, circa 1980s
- b. 3 f. 2 January 1918-February 1920 circa 1980s
- b. 3 f. 3 February 1920-October 1921 circa 1980s
- b. 4 f. 1 October 1921-May 1927 circa 1980s
- b. 4 f. 2 October 1921-May 1927 1923, circa 1980s
- b. 4 f. 3 June 1927-December 1930 circa 1980s
- b. 4 f. 4 June 1927-December 1930 1982, circa 1980s
- b. 5 f. 1 Stowitts: 1931-1933 1931, circa 1980s
- b. 5 f. 2 Stowitts: 1931-1933 1933, circa 1980s
- b. 5 f. 3 Stowitts: 1931-1933 1933, circa 1980s
- b. 5 f. 4 1938-1953 1981, circa 1980s
- b. 5 f. 5 1938-1953 circa 1980s
- b. 6 f. 1 1938-1953 circa 1980s
- b. 6 f. 2 *Romantic: Who is Stowitts, Transcripts of Stowitts Letters* circa 1980s
- b. 6 f. 3 Transcripts of Stowitts Letters circa 1980s
- b. 6 f. 4 Epilogue 1955, circa 1980s
Includes material related to Stowitts' estate.
- b. 7 *1915 Blue and Gold, The Vol. 41* 1914

Series III: Photographs 1950-1977 (1 box 0.42 linear feet)

- b. 6 f. 5 Photographs 1977
Copy of a 1920 photograph of Stowitts and Pavlova.
- b. 6 f. 6 Photographs of Artwork circa 1950s
Photographs of Stowitts' art.