



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Sophie Maslow research materials

1938-2003

(S) *MGZMD 361

Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2014

Summary

Creator: Korff, William

Title: Sophie Maslow research materials

Date: 1938-2003

Size: 1.76 linear feet (5 boxes)

Source: Donated by Muriel Manings, 2005.

Abstract: Sophie Maslow was a choreographer and dancer. The Sophie Maslow research materials were compiled by William Korff in preparation of a biography of Maslow. The collection contains clippings, photographs, programs, promotional material, a scrapbook, and transcripts of oral history interviews. The materials are both originals and copies, and date from 1938 to 2003.

Access: Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult:
<https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

Conditions Governing Use: The author/creator retains copyright of materials. For information on obtaining permission to publish, contact the Dance Division at dance@nypl.org.

Preferred citation: Sophie Maslow research materials, (S) *MGZMD 361. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2014

Creator History

Sophie Maslow (1911-2006) was a choreographer and dancer. She was born in New York City. She began studying dance as a child at the Neighborhood Playhouse, where she was taught by Blanche Talmud and Martha Graham. She danced with Graham's company beginning in 1931. In 1942, she formed the Dudley-Maslow-Bales Trio with Jane Dudley and William Bales. She later founded the

Sophie Maslow Dance Company. Maslow's choreographic works included *Dust Bowl Ballads* (1941), *Champion* (1948), *The Village I Knew* (1953), *Prologue* (1959), *Decathlon Etudes* (1976), and *Woody Sez* (1980).

Custodial History

Material in the collection was collected by William Korff, and added to by Muriel Topaz after Korff's death. The collection was donated by Korff's widow.

Scope and Content Note

The Sophie Maslow research materials (1938-2003) were compiled by William Korff in preparation for a biography of Maslow, which was unfinished at the time of his death. The collection spans Maslow's career and contains clippings, photographs, programs, a scrapbook, and promotional material such as dance company brochures and fliers. The collection also contains transcripts of oral history interviews with Maslow and chronologies of her work.

Materials are both originals and copies. The collection includes research files that are arranged chronologically according to the time period in Maslow's life or the choreographic work that they relate to. For example, records related to a 1999 performance of *Champion* are held in the 1948 file, since *Champion* was first performed in 1948. The research files contain clippings, programs, fliers, photographs, and other material.

A scrapbook assembled by Maslow's husband, Max Blatt, dates from 1941 to 1948 and concerns her work as part of the Dudley-Maslow-Bales Trio. The scrapbook holds letters, telegrams, clippings, and programs. Photographs include contemporary prints and reproductions of prints dating from 1937 to the 1980s. Among the photographs are images of *Champion* and *The Village I Knew*, and pictures of Maslow with Martha Graham's company and with the Dudley-Maslow-Bales Trio. The collection also includes original art for a slide projection used in Maslow's *Poem* (1963).

The collection also contains notes and transcripts from interviews with Maslow. The interviews were conducted by Korff and by Muriel Topaz, who continued work on the biography after Korff's death. Some of Topaz's notes and draft chapters for the biography are also present.

Key Terms

Occupations

Choreographers
Dancers

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings (information artifacts)
Photographs
Programs
Scrapbooks

Names

Maslow, Sophie

Container List

Chronological Research Files

- b. 2 f. 1 Works Choreographed 1990s
- b. 2 f. 2 1934-1939: Programs with Jane Dudley 1990s
- b. 2 f. 3 1941: Dust Bowl Ballads, Mountain Song 1940s, 1996
- b. 2 f. 4 1942: Folksay, Woodie Guthrie 1942-1949, 1976
- b. 2 f. 5 1944-1945: Llanto, Fragments of a Shattered Land 1945
- b. 2 f. 6 1946: Dudley-Maslow-Bales Trio 1946
- b. 2 f. 7 1948: Champion 1948-1949, 1999
- b. 2 f. 8 1949-1951: The Village I Knew, Festival 1949-1965
- b. 2 f. 9 1950-1953: Diamond Backs, Snow Queen, Manhattan Suite 1952-1953
- b. 2 f. 10 1951: Four Sonnets 1951, 1986
- b. 2 f. 11 1951-1952: New York City Opera, Hansel and Gretel, The Dybbuk, Aida 1951-1956
- b. 2 f. 12-13 1954: Sandhog, Celebration, Boston 1954-1955
- b. 2 f. 14 1958-1959: Raincheck, Scarlatti Sonatas 1954-1955, 1964
- b. 2 f. 15 1959: Prologue 1959-1976
- b. 2 f. 16 1960-1961: The Shoemaker and the Peddler, Machinal, The Golem 1960-1965
- b. 2 f. 17 1963-1965: Poem, The Snow Queen, The Dybbuk 1964, 1997
- b. 2 f. 18 1967-1969: Last Sabbath, Epeisodia, Ladino Suite, The Bacchai, Neither Rest nor Harbor 1967-1969
- b. 2 f. 19 Channukah Festival 1963-1969, 1972
- b. 3 f. 1 1971-1972: Country Music, Journey, Where the Rainbow Ends 1972-1979
- b. 3 f. 2 1974-1976: The Big Winner, The 5th Season, Primitive Mysteries 1974-1983
- b. 3 f. 3 1975-1978: Such Sweet Thunder, Decathlon Etudes, Black Elk Speaks 1975-1980
- b. 3 f. 4 1980-1981: Woody Sez, Voices (Kreisleriana), The Parting 1980-1989
- b. 3 f. 5 Sophie Maslow Dance Company 1963-1989
- b. 3 f. 6-7 "Celebrating Sophie Maslow" 1972-1996

Clippings, Programs, and Promotional Material

- b. 1 f. 1-8 1938-1997
- b. 5 f. 4 1942-1997
- b. 4 f. 1-3 1952-1966
- b. 5 f. 3 Sophie Maslow Dance Company Poster undated
- b. 5 f. 5-12 Dudley-Maslow-Bales Trio Scrapbook 1941-1948
- b. 3 f. 8-11 Interviews, Notes, and Drafts 1990s-2003

Photographs

- b. 1 f. 9-10 1938-1990s
Includes photographs of Martha Graham's company.
- b. 4 f. 4-6 Champion, Decathlon Etudes, The Village I Knew 1948, 1976
- b. 5 f. 2 Voices 1980

b. 5 f. 1 Poem Slide Projection 1963