



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Paul David Magriel papers

1925-1957

(S) *MGZMD 390

Compiled by Lea Jordan, 2014

Summary

Creator: Magriel, Paul, 1906-1990

Title: Paul David Magriel papers

Date: 1925-1957

Size: .63 linear feet (2 boxes)

Source: Gift of Paul David Magriel, 1976.

Abstract: Paul David Magriel was a dance historian and author. The Paul David Magriel papers hold correspondence, notes, and bibliographic cards, used to compile *A Bibliography of Dancing*; along with clippings and reviews of his works Duncan, Nijinsky and Pavlova.

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Creator History

Paul David Magriel was a dance historian and author. He is best known for his *A Bibliography of Dancing* (1936), which was the twentieth-century's first major bibliography of printed dance books. Drawing on material in the collections of the Library of Congress, New York Public Library, Boston Public Library, Harvard College Library and from the catalogues of major European libraries, Magriel produced a bibliography listing nearly five thousand books and articles. Magriel later compiled a series

of supplements and specialized bibliographies on other aspects of the dance.

In 1936 he was engaged as the advance man for Lincoln Kirstein's Ballet Caravan. Since the company was booked primarily at universities, Magriel used the travel opportunity to continue his dance research with the goal of compiling a dance dictionary. In 1939 he was hired by the Museum of Modern Art to be the first curator of their new Dance Archives, a position he had to leave in 1942 after he was drafted into the service.

After World War II, Magriel began work as an editor with the Ballet Society. He published three illustrated monographs while working there – *Nijinsky*, *Pavlova*, and *Duncan*. He also published a larger work, *Chronicles of the American Dance* (1948).

In 1955 Magriel began to work on an updated version of *A Bibliography of Dancing*, but the project was never completed.

Scope and Content Note

The Paul David Magriel papers hold correspondence, notes, and bibliographic cards, used to compile *A Bibliography of Dancing*; along with clippings and reviews of *Duncan*, *Nijinsky* and *Pavlova*.

The bulk of the collection concerns *A Bibliography of Dancing*. Correspondence documents researchers with questions about books in the volume, as well as colleagues passing on lists of books or articles not included in the original edition due to oversight or more recent publication. Magriel's notes are primarily handwritten lists of books from various institutions. The *Duncan*, *Nijinsky* and *Pavlova* files hold a small amount of correspondence about the works along with the clippings.

Arrangement: Alphabetical by title.

Key Terms

Subjects

Bibliographers
Dance -- History

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-8 *A Bibliography of Dancing* 1925-1957
- b. 2 f. 1 *Duncan* 1947
- b. 2 f. 2 *Nijinsky* 1947
- b. 2 f. 3 *Pavlova* 1947