



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Sergei Denham papers, Additions**

1905-1937

(S) \*MGZMD 399

Compiled by Lea Jordan, 2014

## Summary

**Creator:** Denham, Sergei, 1896-1970

**Title:** Sergei Denham papers, Additions

**Date:** 1905-1937

**Size:** .25 linear feet (1 box)

**Source:** Donated by Irina Pabst, 2009.

**Abstract:** Sergei Denham was a businessman and ballet enthusiast who became the director of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. The collection holds a handwritten biography of Denham by Michael Subotin, as well as Denham's own writings on ballet history and records from the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. There is also manuscript and published sheet music with annotations from Denham's personal collection.

**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:  
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**Preferred citation:** Sergei Denham papers, Additions, (S) \*MGZMD 399. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library

**Processing note:** Compiled by Lea Jordan, 2014

### Related Materials:

Sergei Denham Papers, 1918-1936, (S) \*MGZMD 179. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

Sergei Denham Records of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, \*ZBD-492. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

## **Creator History**

Sergei Denham was a businessman and ballet enthusiast who became the director of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. He was born Sergei Ivanovich Dokouchaiev in 1896 in Russia. As a child and a young man, he was an avid pianist. He immigrated to the United States after the Russian revolution in 1921. After arriving in New York, Denham became vice-president at Bankers Trust.

As a ballet enthusiast he became vice-president of World Art (later Universal Art), the American corporation which took over the operation of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo in 1938, following the departure of Leonide Massine. He directed the company for 24 years and founded the Ballet Russe School in New York in 1954.

Sergei Denham died in New York City in 1970.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Sergei Denham papers, Additions hold a handwritten biography of Denham by Michael Subotin, as well as Denham's own writings on ballet history and records from the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. There is also manuscript and published sheet music with annotations from Denham's personal collection.

The Subotin biography includes the Russian original as well as an un-credited English translation. The Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo material dates from 1937 and consists of repertory information with details on personnel, artists, and finances, as well as notes on possible contributors and a list of amounts given to the ballet. Writings hold Denham's history of Russian Ballet and other notes on ballet history in French and Russian. Sheet music consists of both original manuscript compositions for piano (many un-credited) as well as annotated, published piano music in English, French, and Russian.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Ballet  
Impresarios -- United States  
Pianists

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Sheet music

### **Names**

Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo