



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Gabriella Sedgwick collection of Ted Shawn materials**

1939, 1962-1966

(S) \*MGZMD 345

Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2014

## Summary

**Creator:** Sedgwick, Gabriella

**Title:** Gabriella Sedgwick collection of Ted Shawn materials

**Date:** 1939, 1962-1966

**Size:** .21 linear feet (1 box)

**Source:** Donated by Lithgow Osborne, 1997.

**Abstract:** Ted Shawn was a dancer, choreographer, and director of the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival. He was friends with Gabriella Sedgwick, a modern dance enthusiast. The Gabriella Sedgwick collection of Ted Shawn materials (1939, 1962-1966) contains letters from Shawn discussing his work and personal life; programs from the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival; and various clippings, images, and notes related to Shawn.

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**Preferred citation:** Gabriella Sedgwick collection of Ted Shawn materials, (S) \*MGZMD 345. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2014 Original order was maintained.

## Creator History

Ted Shawn (1891-1972) was a dancer and choreographer who was a pioneer in men's modern dance. He married dancer Ruth St. Denis, with whom he founded the Denishawn dance company. In 1930, Shawn bought Jacob's Pillow, a farm in Beckett, Massachusetts, to serve as a dance retreat and

performance center. In 1941, the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival was established, with Shawn as director.

Gabriella Sedgwick was a modern dance enthusiast and a close friend of Shawn.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The Gabriella Sedgwick collection of Ted Shawn materials contains letters, programs, clippings, and images dating from 1962 to 1966. Most of the correspondence consists of letters from Shawn to Sedgwick; subjects include the challenges of touring, performing, and managing the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, as well as personal topics. Programs for the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival date to 1964 and 1966. Other materials include clippings and images of Shawn, and Shawn's 1964 newsletter. The collection holds notes and a poem whose author is unidentified. A copy of Shawn's "Fundamental Training Exercises," published 1939, is also present.

### **Key Terms**

#### **Subjects**

Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival  
Modern dance

#### **Names**

Shawn, Ted, 1891-1972

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 "Fundamental Training Exercises" 1939
- b. 1 f. 2 Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival 1964, 1966
- b. 1 f. 3 Letters to Gabriella Sedgwick 1963-1966
- b. 1 f. 4-5 Miscellaneous Notes, Clippings, Images, and Letters 1962-1966