



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Artur Michel papers, Additions**

1922-1947

(S) \*MGZMD 350

Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2014

## Summary

**Creator:** Michel, Artur

**Title:** Artur Michel papers, Additions

**Date:** 1922-1947

**Size:** 2.73 linear feet (7 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by the Estate of Maria Leschnitzer.

**Abstract:** Artur Michel (1883-1946) was a dance critic and historian. The Artur Michel papers, Additions (1922-1947) contain research materials, manuscripts, and articles on dance criticism and dance history. Materials are chiefly in German and English.

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**Preferred citation:** Artur Michel papers, Additions, (S) \*MGZMD 350. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2014 Materials were removed from envelopes and placed in folders. Original labels were used.

## Creator History

Artur Michel (1883-1946) was a dance critic and historian. He was born in Barmen, Germany. After immigrating to the United States in 1941, he became a dance reviewer for the New York-based German-language periodical *Aufbau*. He later began writing dance reviews for English-language periodicals such as *Dance Magazine* and *Dance Observer*. At the time of his death, he was working to

have his book on theatrical dance, *Der Tanz auf der Bühne: Geschichte des Theatertanzes seit der Renaissance*, published.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The Artur Michel papers, Additions (1922-1947) contain research materials, manuscripts, and articles on dance criticism and dance history. Materials are chiefly in German and English.

Research materials concern the history of dance, especially in Europe. The materials consist almost entirely of Michel's handwritten notes, but also contain clippings, photographs, letters, and ballet programs. Among the research subjects are dance in England, Italy, and Russia in the 18th and 19th centuries. Other subjects include shawl dance, court dance, folk dance, and individual dancers. Many of Michel's notes are in the language of the source material, such as French or Italian.

Writings consist of typed manuscripts of unpublished books, drafts of articles, and two periodicals containing articles by Michel. Book manuscripts comprise two volumes of Michel's criticism (including writings on Mary Wigman) and three volumes on the history of theatrical dance (*Bühnentanz*). The manuscripts hold a small number of relevant clippings, and the history manuscripts have minor handwritten corrections. Draft articles are about the history of Salome and Herodias in the arts (the article was occasioned by Martha Graham's *Herodiade*), and the genesis of the ballet. Drafts are in German and English; some of Michel's research notes accompany the articles.

### **Key Terms**

#### **Subjects**

Dance -- History  
Dance criticism  
Dance critics -- Germany -- 20th century  
Dance critics -- United States -- 20th century

#### **Occupations**

Dance critics

#### **Names**

Wigman, Mary, 1886-1973

## Container List

### Research Material

- b. 3 f. 1-6 1924-1946
- b. 1 f. 1-9 1930s-1940s
- b. 2 f. 1-7 1930s-1940s
- b. 4 f. 1-8 1930s-1940s
- b. 5 f. 1-6 1930s-1940s
- b. 5 f. 7-8 Metropolitan Opera House Ballet Programs 1942-1943

### Writings

- b. 6 f. 1 "The Ballet d'Action Before Noverre" in Dance Index 1947
- b. 6 f. 2-3 Der Tanz auf der Bühne: Geschichte des Theatertanzes seit der Renaissance
- b. 6 f. 4 Die Anfänge des Bühnentanzes: Der Schautanz der Renaissance
- b. 6 f. 5 Mary Wigman - Kritiken 1922, 1931
- b. 6 f. 6 "Mary Wigmans Sendung und Weg" in Schwäbische Thalia 1930
- b. 6 f. 7 "Salome and Herodias" and "Genesis of the Ballet" 1945
- b. 7 f. 1 Tanzkritiken, 1922-1933 1922-1939