



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Sophie Maslow papers**

1934-1994

(S) \*MGZMD 372

Compiled by Lea Jordan, 2014

## Summary

**Creator:** Maslow, Sophie

**Title:** Sophie Maslow papers

**Date:** 1934-1994

**Size:** 1.89 linear feet (5 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by Abby Blatt, 2006.

**Abstract:** Sophie Maslow was an American choreographer and dancer. The Sophie Maslow papers contain programs, photographs, flyers, scripts, choreographic notes, and clippings documenting Maslow's career as a dancer and choreographer.

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**Preferred citation:** Sophie Maslow papers, (S) \*MGZMD 372. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

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

## Creator History

Sophie Maslow (1911-2006) was an American choreographer and dancer. After studying dance with Martha Graham at the Neighborhood Playhouse, she joined the Martha Graham Company in 1931 and was a soloist there for 12 years. Maslow was an early member of the New Dance Group, where she began dancing with fellow artists Jane Dudley and William Bales. The Dudley-Maslow-Bales Trio was a success and toured extensively throughout the United States in the 1940s. This trio evolved into the

Sophie Maslow Dance Company. She helmed the company for over 30 years, producing works such as *Folksay* (1942), *Dust Bowl Ballads* (1941), *The Village I Knew* (1951), *Poem* (1964), and *Tzilling* (1984).

Maslow was often invited to be a guest choreographer and worked with such companies as the Danskern Company, Harkness Ballet, Merry-Go-Rounders, Winnipeg Contemporary Dance Company and the Batsheva and Bat-Dor companies in Israel.

Maslow designed movement for several plays, including *The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window*, *Sandhog*, and *Machinal*. She created dances for the 1952 and 1961 seasons of the New York City Opera. In 1952, 1955, 1956, and 1960 to 1962, Maslow choreographed the Chanukah Festivals held at Madison Square Garden.

Maslow retired in Manhattan and lived there until her death in 2006.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Sophie Maslow papers contain programs, photographs, flyers, scripts, choreographic notes, and clippings documenting Maslow's career as a dancer and choreographer.

Programs trace Maslow's dance and choreographic career from 1942 to 1994 and are for the Sophie Maslow Dance Company, Martha Graham Dance Company (as a dancer and later a consultant), the Dudley-Maslow-Bales Trio, and many other groups and theater companies. Photographs are of the Bat-Dor company's presentation of *The Bacchae* in 1969 and a contact sheet of rehearsal photographs for *Tvilling* (1984). Choreographic notes consist of group sketches, dancer entrances and exits, and notes on timing. Some are in notebooks which hold several works. The choreographic notes are occasionally unidentified. Scripts are for *Where the Rainbow Ends*, *Machinal*, and *Sandhog*, and are annotated. Clippings hold copies of reviews, groupings of press quotes, and articles about Maslow or her company. Fan mail is primarily from school children who had seen her or her company in workshops or presentations. There are a small number of advertising flyers, the bulk of which are for the Sophie Maslow Dance Company.

**Arrangement:** Alphabetical by subject.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Choreographers -- United States

Dance companies

Modern dance

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Correspondence

Programs

### **Names**

Martha Graham Dance Company

New Dance Group (New York, N.Y.)

## Container List

### Choreographic Notes

- b. 1 f. 1 *Anniversary* 1956
- b. 1 f. 2 *The Big Winner* 1974
- b. 1 f. 3 *Black Elk Speaks* 1978
- b. 1 f. 4 *Celebration* 1966
- b. 1 f. 5 *Champion* 1948
- b. 1 f. 6-7 Chanukah Festivals 1965, undated
- b. 1 f. 8 *Country Music* 1971
- b. 1 f. 9 *The Dybbuk* 1965
- b. 1 f. 10 *Neither Rest Nor Harbor* 1969
- b. 1 f. 11 *Raincheck* 1966
- b. 1 f. 12 *Reverie* 1982
- b. 1 f. 13 *The Snow Queen* 1966
- b. 1 f. 14 *Themes and Variations* 1979  
Annotated sheet music.
- b. 1 f. 15 *Tvilling* 1981
- b. 2 f. 1-4 Various undated
- b. 2 f. 5-7 Clippings 1942-1982
- b. 3 f. 1 Clippings 1942-1982
- b. 3 f. 2-3 Fan Mail 1958-1979
- b. 3 f. 4 Flyers 1955-1982
- b. 3 f. 5-6 Photographs 1968, 1981  
Bat-Dor Company (1968) and *Tvilling* rehearsal (1981).

### Programs

- b. 3 f. 7-9 1943-1984
- b. 4 f. 1 Chanukah Festival 1956-1970
- b. 4 f. 2 Dudley-Maslow-Bales Trio 1942-1946
- b. 4 f. 3-4 Martha Graham Dance Company 1934-1994
- b. 4 f. 5 The New Dance Group 1940-1953
- b. 4 f. 6-8 Sophie Maslow Dance Company 1956-1984
- b. 5 f. 1 Theater and Opera 1954-1974

### Scripts

- b. 5 f. 2 Chanukah Festival 1952
- b. 5 f. 3 *The Last Sabbath* 1960
- b. 5 f. 4 *Machinal* 1960
- b. 5 f. 5 *Sandhog* 1954
- b. 5 f. 6 *Where the Rainbow Ends* undated