



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Maria Bonfanti papers

1868-1917

(S) *MGZMD 43

Processed by Nancy M. Shawcross.

Summary

Creator: Bonfanti, Maria

Title: Maria Bonfanti papers

Date: 1868-1917

Size: 109 items 66 folders

Source: Gift. Estate of Gwendolyn Ruddell. Material received: December 1983.

Abstract: This collection, a gift from the estate of Gwendolyn Ruddell (Miss Bonfanti's granddaughter), consists primarily of correspondence with her Italian relatives and accounts of her ballet school in New York.

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:
<https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

Preferred citation: Maria Bonfantí Papers, (S)*MGZMD 43, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Language of the Material: In Italian and English English

Processing note: Processed by Nancy M. Shawcross.

Creator History

Maria Bonfanti (1847-1921), an Italian born and trained ballerina, toured the United States and Europe with great success between 1869 and 1894. She also danced as prima ballerina of the Metropolitan Opera in New York from 1885 to 1886 and maintained a ballet school in New York following her retirement.

Custodial History

Gift of the estate of Gwendolyn Ruddell, 1983.

Scope and Content Note

This collection, a gift from the estate of Gwendolyn Ruddell (Miss Bonfanti's granddaughter), consists primarily of correspondence with her Italian relatives and accounts of her ballet school in New York. In Italian and English.

Arrangement: The collection is organized in 10 series: Correspondence, Autographs, Itinerary for Tour, Contract, Financial Accounts, Names and Addresses, Bonfanti Advertisements, Prayer Book, Wills, and Materials Related to Internments and Cemeteries.

Key Terms

Subjects

Dancers -- United States -- 19th century

Manuscripts -- Collections

Titles

Estate of Gwendolyn Ruddell

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Personal records

Names

Bonfanti, Maria

Container List

- I. Correspondence
 - f. 1 Garrett, Palmer/MB 1868
 - f. 2-10 Teodora Manara/MB 1872-1874
 - f. 11-12 MB/Olympia Bonfanti 1876, 1879
 - f. 13 Tho. Barker/MB 1893
 - f. 14 ?/MB 1894
 - f. 15 Kate M. Widner/MB 1897
 - f. 16-17 Emilia Bonfanti/MB 1901-1902
 - f. 18 Graziora Bonfanti Signorini/MB 1903
 - f. 19-20 Emilia Bonfanti/MB 1905
 - f. 21-22 Privato Bonfanti/MB 1905-1906
 - f. 23-40 Emilia Bonfanti/MB 1906-1914
 - f. 41 Pietro Giuseppe Zenoni/MB 1914
 - f. 42-43 Pietro Giuseppe Zenoni & Emilia Bonfanti/MB 1914
 - f. 44 The Fifth Avenue Bank of New York/MB 1919
 - f. 45 Privato Bonfanti/MB n.d.
 - f. 46 Emilia Bonfanti/MB n.d.
 - f. 47 Teodora Bonfanti/MB n.d.
 - f. 48 MB/To whom it may concern n.d.
- f. 49 II. Autographs
- f. 50 III. Itinerary for Tour
- f. 51 IV. Contract
- V. Financial Accounts
 - f. 52 with Teodora Manara 1870-1871
 - f. 53 with Griffiths, Curtiss & Co. 1884
 - f. 54-58 with pupils 1903-1917
- f. 59 VI. Names & Addresses
- f. 60 VII. Bonfanti Advertisements
- f. 61 VIII. Prayer Book?
- IX. Wills
 - f. 62 Maria Bonfanti
 - f. 63 Olimpia Bonfanti
- X. Materials relating to interments & cemeteries
 - f. 64 Bonfantis
 - f. 65 Ruddells
 - f. 66 Maps