



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Ann Hutchinson Guest papers**

1948-1961

(S) \*MGZMC-Res. 4

Processed by Marion Kahn and Carol Boggs.

## Summary

**Creator:** Guest, Ann Hutchinson

**Title:** Ann Hutchinson Guest papers

**Date:** 1948-1961

**Size:** 14 folders

**Source:** Gift of Ann Hutchinson. Material received on: August 1962.

**Abstract:** Ann Hutchinson Guest, born November 3, 1918 in New York, is an American dancer and dance notator. Her initial dance training began in the mid 1930's at the Jooss-Leeder School at Dartington Hall, England. When World War II broke out in Europe, she returned to New York where her continued training included ballet, modern, tap, and ethnic dance. In the 1940's she danced with the Welland Lathrop Company and in Broadway musicals, including *One Touch of Venus*, *Billion Dollar Baby*, and *Kiss Me, Kate*. In 1947, she returned to London and worked closely with Rudolf Laban. She is credited with coining the term Labanotation and, in 1954, published her book of that title. A prolific writer, she also has created games, wall charts, and other aids for teaching notation to children. Ms. Hutchinson Guest has notated many major choreographic works including those by George Balanchine, Kurt Jooss, Marius Petipa, Antony Tudor, Hanya Holm, and Doris Humphrey. She was one of the founders of the Dance Notation Bureau and served as its president until 1961, when she moved to London, where she founded the Language of Dance Centre in 1967. A recipient of three Rockefeller Foundation grants for the research and writing of Labanotation textbooks, she also has received honorary doctorates from Marygrove College in Detroit, Michigan, and Ohio State University. In 1987, Ms. Hutchinson Guest inaugurated the Language of Dancer series of publications, whose output has included Nijinsky's "Faune" Restored. She is married to dance historian Ivor Forbes Guest. Papers of the eminent dance notator, one of the founders of the Dance Notation Bureau, teacher, writer and lecturer, including labanotation in complete and rough notes of works by George Balanchine, Gower Champion, Hanya Holm, Doris Humphrey, Kurt Jooss and Ted Shawn. Two folders include preparation for a textbook on Labanotation, ca., 1954 with preface by George Balanchine.

**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:** Hutchinson, Ann. Papers, (S) \*MGZMC-Res. 4, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Marion Kahn and Carol Boggs.

## Creator History

Ann Hutchinson Guest, born November 3, 1918 in New York, is an American dancer and dance notator. Her initial dance training began in the mid 1930's at the Jooss-Leeder School at Dartington Hall, England. When World War II broke out in Europe, she returned to New York where her continued training included ballet, modern, tap, and ethnic dance. In the 1940's she danced with the Welland Lathrop Company and in Broadway musicals, including *One Touch of Venus*, *Billion Dollar Baby*, and *Kiss Me, Kate*. In 1947, she returned to London and worked closely with Rudolf Laban. She is credited with coining the term Labanotation and, in 1954, published her book of that title. A prolific writer, she also has created games, wall charts, and other aids for teaching notation to children. Ms. Hutchinson Guest has notated many major choreographic works including those by George Balanchine, Kurt Jooss, Marius Petipa, Antony Tudor, Hanya Holm, and Doris Humphrey. She was one of the founders of the Dance Notation Bureau and served as its president until 1961, when she moved to London, where she founded the Language of Dance Centre in 1967. A recipient of three Rockefeller Foundation grants for the research and writing of Labanotation textbooks, she also has received honorary doctorates from Marygrove College in Detroit, Michigan, and Ohio State University. In 1987, Ms. Hutchinson Guest inaugurated the Language of Dancer series of publications, whose output has included *Nijinsky's "Faune" Restored*. She is married to dance historian Ivor Forbes Guest.

## Scope and Content Note

Papers of the eminent dance notator, one of the founders of the Dance Notation Bureau, teacher, writer and lecturer, including labanotation in complete and rough notes of works by George Balanchine, Gower Champion, Hanya Holm, Doris Humphrey, Kurt Jooss and Ted Shawn. Two folders include preparation for a textbook on *Labanotation*, ca., 1954 with preface by George Balanchine.

## Key Terms

### Subjects

Dance notation -- Systems -- Specimens -- Labanotation  
Dance notation, Works in -- Labanotation  
Labanotation  
Manuscripts -- Collections

### Titles

Gift of Ann Hutchinson

### Names

Guest, Ann Hutchinson  
Balanchine, George  
Champion, Gower, 1919-1980  
Holm, Hanya, 1893-1992  
Humphrey, Doris, 1895-1958

Jooss, Kurt, 1901-1979  
Shawn, Ted, 1891-1972

## Container List

- f. 1 Shawn's 16 dances.
- f. 2 Kiss me Kate (Holm) - rough notes.
- f. 3 Night shadow (Balanchine) - rough notes.
- f. 4 Orpheus (Balanchine) - rough notes.
- f. 5 Bye bye Birdie (Champion) - rough notes.
- f. 6 Mozartiana (Balanchine) - rough notes.
- f. 7 Textbook - original notes.
- f. 8 Symphony in C (Balanchine) - rough notes.
- f. 9 Orpheus (Balanchine) - rough notes.
- f. 10 Green Table (Jooss) - rough notes.
- f. 11 Shakers (Humphrey) - rough notes.
- f. 12 New dance (Humphrey) - rough notes.
- f. 13 Theme and Variations (Balanchine) - rough [UNK].
- f. 14 Textbook - rough layout.