



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Mary Wigman letters**

1932-1969

(S) \*MGZMC-Res. 13

Processed by A.M. Wentink.

## Summary

**Creator:** Wigman, Mary, 1886-1973

**Title:** Mary Wigman letters

**Date:** 1932-1969

**Size:** 91 12 folders items

**Source:** Gift. Gift of Margaret Erlanger. Material received on: 9/68-1/69.

**Abstract:** Mary Wigman, German modern dancer and choreographer, was born Mary Wiegmann, November 13, 1886 in Hanover. She trained first with Emile Jaques-Dalcroze in Hellerau and Dresden and later with Rudolf von Laban in Ansona, Switzerland and in Munich. Her debut as a concert dancer and choreographer occurred in 1919. Successful performances encouraged her to open her own school in Dresden, where among her first students were Yvonne Georgi, Gert Palucca, and Harald Kreutzberg. By 1925, her students included Ruth Abrahamowitsch, Hanya Holm, and Tilly Losch. Her students performed as a company, touring Western Europe throughout the 1930's. Wigman performed at the Berlin Olympics of 1936, but the National Socialists closed her school, and she became a teacher at the Leipzig Music Academy. After World War II, she returned to Berlin, re-opening her school in 1948, which became the center for the German modern dance movement. She choreographed over one hundred dances for herself and her dancers but also worked in various German opera houses, staging productions of Gluck in Leipzig and Mannheim and a famous joint performance of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* and *Catulli Carminain* 1955. She died in Berlin September 18, 1973. A collection of letters written by [UNK] Wigman to Margaret Erlanger, Supervisor of the Dance Division at the University of Illinois. Also included are two letters to a Mr. Potter in 1932 and a number of letters to Margaret Erlanger from other correspondents concerning events honoring Mary Wigman, ca. 1956-66.

**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:** Wigman, Mary, 1886-Letters, (S) \*MGZMC-Res 13, Jerome Robbins Dance

Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by A.M. Wentink.

### **Creator History**

Mary Wigman, German modern dancer and choreographer, was born Mary Wiegmann, November 13, 1886 in Hanover. She trained first with Emile Jaques-Dalcroze in Hellerau and Dresden and later with Rudolf von Laban in Ansona, Switzerland and in Munich. Her debut as a concert dancer and choreographer occurred in 1919. Successful performances encouraged her to open her own school in Dresden, where among her first students were Yvonne Georgi, Gert Palucca, and Harald Kreutzberg. By 1925, her students included Ruth Abrahamowitsch, Hanya Holm, and Tilly Losch. Her students performed as a company, touring Western Europe throughout the 1930's. Wigman performed at the Berlin Olympics of 1936, but the National Socialists closed her school, and she became a teacher at the Leipzig Music Academy. After World War II, she returned to Berlin, re-opening her school in 1948, which became the center for the German modern dance movement. She choreographed over one hundred dances for herself and her dancers but also worked in various German opera houses, staging productions of Gluck in Leipzig and Mannheim and a famous joint performance of Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* and *Catulli Carminain* 1955. She died in Berlin September 18, 1973.

### **Scope and Content Note**

A collection of letters written by [UNK] Wigman to Margaret Erlanger, Supervisor of the Dance Division at the University of Illinois. Also included are two letters to a Mr. Potter in 1932 and a number of letters to Margaret Erlanger from other correspondents concerning events honoring Mary Wigman, ca. 1956-66. Language: In English.

### **Key Terms**

#### **Subjects**

Manuscripts (Letters)

Manuscripts -- Collections

#### **Names**

Wigman, Mary, 1886-1973

Erlanger, Margaret, 1908-1975

## Container List

- f. 1 Mary Wigman to Mr. Potter 1932
- f. 2 Mary Wigman to Margaret Erlanger 1950-55
- f. 3(2A) Mary Wigman to Margaret Erlanger 1956
- f. 4(3) Mary Wigman to Margaret Erlanger 1957
- f. 5(4) Mary Wigman to Margaret Erlanger 1958
- f. 6(4A) Mary Wigman to Margaret Erlanger 1959
- f. 7(5) Mary Wigman to Margaret Erlanger 1960-63
- f. 8(5A) Mary Wigman to Margaret Erlanger 1964-65
- f. 9(6) Mary Wigman to Margaret Erlanger 1966
- f. 10(7) Mary Wigman to Margaret Erlanger 1967
- f. 11(8) Mary Wigman to Margaret Erlanger 1968-69 & n.d
- f. 12(9) Correspondence to Margaret Erlanger and miscellaneous 1956-66