



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Loie Fuller papers**

1892-1913

(S) \*MGZMC-Res. 5

Purchased with funds from the Committee for the Jerome Robbins Dance Division

## Summary

**Creator:** Fuller, Loie, 1862-1928

**Title:** Loie Fuller papers

**Date:** 1892-1913

**Source:** Paul Grinke, London. Purchased with assistance of a gift from the Committee for the Dance Collection. Material received on: March 26, 1971

**Abstract:** The bulk of this collection consists of the manuscript, in English, of the French translation of Loie Fuller's autobiography published by F. Juven in Paris in 1908. In stylistically different English from the manuscript, the French translation was published by H. Jenkins in London in 1913. The French edition was called *Quinze ans de ma vie*, and the English edition was called *Fifteen years of a dancer's life*. The manuscript is arranged according to the order of the English edition and is lacking only chapter 11 and sections of chapters 6 and 21. It covers a few childhood events but primarily the events of the years from 1892-1907, including experiences with Isadora Duncan (folder 20) who is not identified by name. The published English version of the autobiography loses some of the stylistic idiosyncrasies of the author's original manuscript. The published manuscript is followed by material, mostly anecdotal, and unpublished, meant for the autobiography; outline plans for a second volume and material which would have become a part of it; two essays, *America and Americans* and *The Boston blue-stocking*; a legal document releasing her from a contract with Charles A. Hoyt and Charles W. Thomas in 1892; programs, including a holograph paste-up of her first performance in Kiel, undated, and a flyer-program presenting Gertrud Von Axen to Boston (?), undated; 12 photographs of Loie Fuller; 30 photographs of friends, admirers and fellow dancers, including Gertrud Von Axen and Dick Fuller (possibly a niece); and a portfolio of 23 watercolors presented to her by students of the Beaux-Arts on the occasion of her 550th performance in Paris, March 24, 1895.

**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>

**Physical Location:** \*ZBD-112 (microfilm)

**Alternative Form Available:** Microfilm (1 reel ; 35mm.) of originals in Dance Collection, New York Public Library \*ZBD-112

**Preferred citation:** Loie Fuller Papers, Dance Collection, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations.

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Lacy H. McDearmon; machine readable finding aid created by Apex Data Services and revised by Chatham Ewing.

## Scope and Content Note

The bulk of this collection consists of the manuscript, in English, of the French translation of Loie Fuller's autobiography published by F. Juven in Paris in 1908. In stylistically different English from the manuscript, the French translation was published by H. Jenkins in London in 1913. The French edition was called *Quinze ans de ma vie*, and the English edition was called *Fifteen years of a dancer's life*. The manuscript is arranged according to the order of the English edition and is lacking only chapter 11 and sections of chapters 6 and 21. It covers a few childhood events but primarily the events of the years from 1892-1907, including experiences with Isadora Duncan (folder 20) who is not identified by name. The published English version of the autobiography loses some of the stylistic idiosyncrasies of the author's original manuscript. The published manuscript is followed by material, mostly anecdotal, and unpublished, meant for the autobiography; outline plans for a second volume and material which would have become a part of it; two essays, *America and Americans* and *The Boston blue-stocking*; a legal document releasing her from a contract with Charles A. Hoyt and Charles W. Thomas in 1892; programs, including a holograph paste-up of her first performance in Kiel, undated, and a flyer-program presenting Gertrud Von Axen to Boston (?), undated; 12 photographs of Loie Fuller; 30 photographs of friends, admirers and fellow dancers, including Gertrud Von Axen and Dick Fuller (possibly a niece); and a portfolio of 23 watercolors presented to her by students of the Beaux-Arts on the occasion of her 550th performance in Paris, March 24, 1895.

## Key Terms

### Titles

Dance Committee Purchase Fund

### Subjects

Dancers -- Correspondence, reminiscences, etc  
Manuscripts -- Collections

### Names

Fuller, Loie, 1862-1928  
Committee for the Jerome Robbins Dance Division

## Container List

### f. 1-2 Autobiography

Folders 1-24 contain the English draft of the autobiography, *Fifteen years of a dancer's life*, arranged according to the order of the London edition published by H. Jenkins in 1913 and lacking only chapter 11 and sections of chapters 6 and 13. Also contain material relating to the French edition, *Quinze ans de ma vie*, published by F. Juven in 1908. Ms. unless indicated otherwise.

### f. 1 Original wrappings

Original wrappings indicating an order which had been lost by the time the manuscript reached the Dance Collection; an early arrangement of the Table of contents, in English, for the Juven edition; editor's comments, in French, arranged chronologically by chapter; an arrangement of the Table of contents, in French, not following the published version.

### f. 2 Chapter 1.

In this, as in many of the following chapters, the manuscript title for each chapter is not necessarily the one used by the publishers.

### f. 3 Chapter 2. (Two copies of this chapter, part of one is a holograph.)

### f. 4 Chapter 3.

### f. 5 Chapter 4. (Holograph.)

### f. 6 Chapter 5.

### f. 7 Chapter 6.

Published in a more expanded version.

### f. 8 Chapter 7.

### f. 9 Chapter 8.

### f. 10 Chapter 9. (2 copies.)

### f. 11 Chapter 10

### f. 12 Chapter 12.

A gap in the manuscript occurs here where chapter 11, "A visit at Rodin's", is missing.

### f. 13 Chapter 13.

### f. 14 Chapter 14.

### f. 15 Chapter 15.

### f. 16 Chapter 16. (Two copies of this chapter, one a holograph.)

### f. 17 Chapter 17.

### f. 18 Chapter 18.

### f. 19 Chapter 19.

### f. 20 Chapter 20 (with a section which eventually became chapter 3)

This chapter is about Isadora Duncan, who is never identified by name. A part of it is duplicated in typescript.

### f. 21 Chapter 21.

Only the last short section on Mexico is available here.

### f. 22 Chapter 22. "Gab".

This chapter is about Loie Fuller's old friend and business manager, Gabrielle Bloch.

### f. 23 Chapter 23. (Page 23-7 is a holograph.)

Autobiography (cont.)

- f. 24 **Chapter 24.**  
Includes a letter from Felix Juven (24-13) requesting Fuller to suppress a passage in the manuscript (24-14), in French.
- f. 25-3 **Unpublished material**  
Folders 25-36 contain unpublished material by Loie Fuller.
- f. 25 **Unpublished version of Chapter 1 of Autobiography.** (Holograph.)  
The early French Table of contents (folder 1) lists this as chapter 1, but it was ultimately not published.
- f. 26 **Anecdotes**  
Anecdotes, only one of which, "My 600th night in Paris", was published (as part of chapter 14) and which has been removed from this section and put into its proper place in the ms. (folder 14).
- f. 27 **Anecdotes**  
Anecdotes, only one of which, "A dinner", was published (as part of chapter 10) and which has been removed from this section and put into its proper place in the ms. (folder 11).
- f. 28-31 **Anecdotes.** (Holograph:p. 30-8 to 30-9.)
- f. 32 **Outline plan for an unpublished second volume of memoirs.** (Holograph.)
- f. 33 **Ms. for what would have been chapter 1 of second volume of memoirs.** (Ms.)
- f. 34 **One page (numbered 63) from chapter 31 of second volume of memoirs.** (Holograph.)
- f. 35 ***Essay: America and Americans.*** (Typescript, with holograph signature.)
- f. 36 ***Essay: The Boston blue-stocking.*** (Typescript, with holograph signature.)

**Other Material**

- f. 37 **Pages from notebook of Gabrielle Bloch 1892.**
- f. 38 **Legal document: release from contract with Charles A Hoyt and Charles W. Thomas, New York June 28, 1892**
- f. 39 **Programs** undated, March 14, 1906, Nov. 30, 1909, Jan. 24 1910?  
Holograph paste-up of program from Loie Fuller's first Kiel concert (undated); program from Hamburg concert, March 14, 1906; program from concert at Metropolitan Opera House, New York, Nov. 30, 1909; flyer-program for concert by Gertrud Von Axen at Jordan Hall (Boston?) Jan. 24 (1910?); biographical sketch (7 1.) in unknown ms. of Loie Fuller's life through 1926.

**Photographs**

- f. 40 **Loie Fuller and others, including her mother and Gabrielle Bloch (personal).** (3 photographs)
- f. 41 **Loie Fuller in costume.**  
9 photographs
- f. 42 **Dick Fuller and Gertrud von Axen.**  
3 photographs
- f. 43 **Charles Beresford, Mina Beresford, Sarah Bernhardt, Fanny Brough.**  
6 photographs
- f. 44 **Mary Anderson de Navarro (one with Mrs. Sterling).**  
4 photographs
- f. 45 **Marchioness of Anglesey, Lady Eden, Linlithgow.**  
3 photographs
- f. 46 **unidentified women.**  
10 photographs
- f. 47 **unidentified men.**  
4 photographs

Unpublished material (cont.)

- o. Slipcase    Watercolors (23), in decorated silk portfolio.