Summary

Creator: Duncan, Irma

Title: Irma Duncan Collection of Isadora Duncan materials

Date: 1914-1934

Size: 300 items


Abstract:

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


Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by A.M.Wentink.

Creator History

Irma Duncan was born Irma Dorette Henriette Ehrich-Grimme on February 26, 1897, in Schleswig-Holstein near Hamburg. Becoming a pupil of Isadora Duncan in January 1905 at her Grunewald school near Berlin, her name was legally changed to Irma Duncan in 1917. Along with Isadora’s five other original pupils, she became an adopted daughter. In 1918 these six formed an independent group known as the Isadora Duncan Dancers. Irma’s debut as such occurred at Carnegie Hall on June 27 of that year. In 1921 she accompanied Isadora to Russia to found, at the government’s invitation, a school of dance. Irma served as a teacher in Moscow for seven years making her solo debut there on April 29, 1923. After Isadora’s death in 1927 until 1930, she directed the Moscow school. She toured with her
students to Europe and to the United States (the latter during the 1928-1929 and 1929-1930 seasons). When her group, known as the Isadora Duncan Dancers of Moscow, were forced to return to Russia, Irma chose to remain in the United States. Duncan became a U.S. citizen in 1935. She married Sherman S.Rogers, a New York attorney, on September 19, 1935. She authored several books on Isadora Duncan and her technique. Irma Duncan Rogers died on September 20, 1977.

Isadora Duncan - List of Events
Date Event  1878? May 27 Born in San Francisco
1896 To Chicago. Met Augustin Daly and was engaged to dance in A Midsummer Night's Dream in New York. Danced under Daly for two years in various shows.
1899-1900 To London. Danced in private homes and before Queen Victoria, and was admired by artists and intellectuals. Dance Idylls program.
1900-1901 To Paris. Gave Dance Idylls program in private salons and studios, again attracting artists, intellectuals, and the social [UNK].
1902 Travelled with the Loie Fuller troupe. Met Alexander [UNK], the impresario, after dancing for artists at the Kunster Haus in Vienna. Gross arranged her contract to dance 30 evenings in [UNK].
1905 Visited Russia again in February. Gave many concerts in Germany, Belgium, and Holland. Danced Gluck's [UNK].
1906 Toured Germany, Holland, Belgium, and Sweden with Craig and Martin Shaw. Spent summer at Villa [UNK] near Noordwijk, on the Dutch coast. Daughter, Deirdre, born in September. Translated conversations between Craig and Eleonora Duse in Florence, late November, where Craig was designing Rosmersholm. Performances in Warsaw, December-January.
1907 Ill with neuralgia January-March. Toured Germany, Holland, and Switzerland. To Russia in December. Friendship with Constantin Stanislavsky.
1910 Son, Patrick, born May 1.
1914 Opened school at Bellevue, near Paris.
1915 Improvised La Marseillaise at the Metropolitain Opera House in New York. Gave unsuccessful performances at the Century Theatre.
1918 Met Walter Morse Rummel. Tour of France.
1921 To Moscow in July to open school at the invitation of the Russian government.
1923-24 Performances throughout Russia. Last Russian performance given before the party leaders in September, 1924.

Scope and Content Note
Holographs, typescripts, clippings, and memorabilia. The materials in this collection are the personal effects of Isadora Duncan left with Irma Duncan. The collection is comprised of four major groups of materials: correspondence to and correspondence from Isadora Duncan (and others), manuscripts relating to, for the most part, the years Isadora Duncan spent in Russia, 1921-24, a group of clippings, and memorabilia. Letters to Isadora Duncan are from, among others: Gordon Craig, Fernand Divoire, Eleonora Duse, Sergei Esenin, Walter Morse Rummel, Ellen Terry, and Anatolii Lunacharskii. Letters from Isadora Duncan are primarily to Irma Duncan and Anatolii Lunacharskii. A large portion of the correspondence and manuscripts in this collection has been published in: *MGYB (Duncan) Duncan, Irma. Duncan Dancer, *MGYB (Duncan) Duncan, Irma and Macdougall. Isadora Duncan's Russian Days, and *MGYB (Duncan) Macdougall. Isadora. In English, French, and Russian.

Arrangement: I. Correspondence A. Isadora Duncan Letters B. Letters to Isadora Duncan II. Manuscripts A. Isadora Duncan Autobiographical Writings B. Isadora Duncan Writings C. Notebooks D. Program-related Materials E. Manuscripts - General III. Clippings IV. Memorabilia

Key Terms

Titles
Irma Duncan Collection
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Subjects
Manuscripts (Letters)
Manuscripts -- Collections

Names
Duncan, Irma
Duncan, Isadora, 1877-1927
Container List

I. Correspondence (121 folders)
   A. Isadora Duncan letters (34 folders)
      f. 1  ca. 1914
      f. 2  ca. 1920
      f. 3  1921
      f. 4  1921-24?
      f. 5  ca. 1922
      f. 6  1922?
      f. 7  1922?
      f. 8  1922-23?
      f. 9  1922-24?
      f. 10  ca. 1923
      f. 11  ca. 1923-24
      f. 12  1924 Jan. 15
      f. 13  1924 Jan. 20
      f. 14  1920 June 20
      f. 15  1924 June 24
      f. 16  1924 July?
      f. 17  1924 June [July] 10
      f. 18  1924 June [July] 16
      f. 19  1924 July 28
      f. 20  1924 Aug. 4
      f. 21  1924 Aug. 12
      f. 22  1924 Oct.
      f. 23  1924 Oct.
      f. 24  1924 Oct. [13
      f. 25  1924 Nov. 27
      f. 26  1924 Dec. 16
      f. 27  [1925] Feb. 1
      f. 28  1925 Mar. 12
      f. 29  1925 Mar. 30
      f. 30  [1926] Jan. 27
      f. 31  1926 Apr. 1
      f. 32  1926 June 15
      f. 33  n.d
      f. 34  n.d
   B. Letters to Isadora Duncan (86 folders)
      f. 35  Adams, Mrs Bridges
      f. 36  Astruc, Gabriel
I. Correspondence (cont.)
   B. Letters to Isadora Duncan (cont.)
   f. 37    Bloch, Ernest
   f. 38    Bourdelle, Emile Antoine
   f. 39    Constantine, King of Greece
   f. 40-41 Craig, Edward Gordon
   f. 42    Craig, Elena (Meo)
   f. 43-44 D’Annunzio, Gabriele
   f. 45-47 Debussy, Claude (to Walter Morse Rummel)
   f. 48-49 Denis, Georges A.
   f. 50    Dent, Hugh R.
   f. 51    Desprès, Suzanne
   f. 52-59 Divoire, Fernand
   f. 60-61 Duncan, Augustin
   f. 62    Duncan, Deirdre and Patrick
   f. 63    Duncan, Elizabeth
   f. 64    Duncan Patrick (birth certificate)
   f. 65    Duncan, Penelope
   f. 66-67 Dunoyer de Segonzac, André
   f. 68-86 Duse, Eleonora
   f. 87    Eastman, Max
   f. 88    Esenin, Sergei
   f. 89-90 Estourelles de Constant, Paul
   f. 91    de Fougières, André
   f. 92    Gemier, Firmin
   f. 93-94 Haeckel, Ernst
   f. 95    John Augustus
   f. 96    Lidig, Rita
   f. 97    Litvinov, Mrs. Ivy
   f. 98    Lugné-Poë, Aurelian Francois
   f. 99-104 Lunacharskii, Anatolii
   f. 105   Margueritte, Paul
   f. 106   Marx, Magdelaine
   f. 107   Pankhurst, Estelle Sylvia
   f. 108   Paul-Boncour, [UNK]
   f. 109-111 Powys, John Cowper
   f. 112    Rummel, Walter Morse
   f. 113-115 Sorel, Cecile
   f. 116    Tchaikovsky, Vera
   f. 117-120 Terry, Ellen
   f. 121    Van Dongen, Kees
 II. Manuscripts (47 folders)
    A. Duncan, Isadora. Autobiographical writings. (9 folders)
II. Manuscripts (cont.)
   A. Duncan, Isadora. Autobiographical writings. (cont.)
      f. 122  Letter to Anatolii Lunacharskii, (draft) 1921.
      f. 123  Telegrams between Isadora Duncan and Anatolii Lunacharskii, (transcriptions) 1921.
      f. 124  “Russian school.” Moscow. (essay) 1924.
      f. 125  Letter to Paul Kennaday, (autobiographical sketch) 1925.
      f. 126-130  “My Bolshevik days.” (autobiographical studies) 1921-24
   B. Isadora Duncan writings. (10 folders)
      f. 131  Lecture notes. New York. ca. 1914-15
      f. 132  [[UNK] to pianist Harold Bauer. San Francisco. 1917
      f. 133  “Art and culture. Art and the masses.” 1921.
      f. 135  “Movement is life”. Nice. 1925.
      f. 136  Essay on beauty. n.d.
      f. 137  Declaration. n.d.
      f. 138  Declaration. n.d.
      f. 139  Name list. n.d.
      f. 140  Laundry list. 1920.
   C. Notebooks. (3 folders)
      f. 141  Duncan, Isadora. Notebook ca. 1900-03
      f. 142  Duncan, Isadora. Notebook ca. 1905.
      f. 143  Rummel, Walter Morse. Notebook 1904-12
   D. Program-related materials [UNK] n.d. (16 folders)
      f. 144-147  Duncan, Augustin. Program materials 1915-22
   E. Manuscripts (general). (9 folders)
      f. 160  Adler, Jacob. Speech ca. 1910
      f. 165  Macdougall, Allan Ross. Transcriptions: [UNK] from letters of Isadora Duncan 1921-27
      f. 166  Mason, Redfern. Article. n.d.
      f. 167  Tanagra, Ange. Review. “La premiere de Miss Duncan... 29 novembre 1903”.
   III. Clippings (6 folders)
      f. 169-174  Clippings, re: Isadora Duncan and Duncan Dancers.
   IV. Memorabilia (9 folders)
      f. 175  Duncan, Isadora. Calling cards.
IV. Memorabilia (cont.)

f. 176  Duncan, Isadora. Fragment of red fringe...from the shawl she wore at the
time of her fatal accident 1927 Sept. 4.

f. 177-178  Duncan, Isadora. Portfolios.

f. 179  Duncan, Isadora. Stationery.

f. 180  Isadora Duncan Studio, Moscow. Stamp.


f. 182  Calling cards.

f. 183  Postcards.