



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Irving Deakin correspondence

1934-1955

(S) *MGZMC-Res. 21

Processed by Lacy H. McDearmon.

Summary

Creator: Deakin, Irving

Title: Irving Deakin correspondence

Date: 1934-1955

Size: 107 folders 1010 items plus 41 duplicate items

Source: Gift. Natasha (Mrs. Irving) Deakin. Received: 1962-1969.

Abstract: The major part of this collection consists of correspondence to and from Irving Deakin primarily in relation to his association with Hurok Attractions and as General Manager of the San Francisco Civic Ballet in 1947-48 and in relation to his personal and professional associations with Adolf Bolm, Anton Dolin, and Antal Dorati. The collection falls into a natural chronological arrangement that gives a broad view of Deakin's associations with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, the Original Ballet Russe, the beginnings of Ballet Theatre, the WQXR Music and balletradio program, the San Francisco Civic Ballet, and the first American tour of the Sadler's Wells Ballet.

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: Irving Deakin, (S) *MGZMC-Res. 21, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Lacy H. McDearmon.

Creator History

Irving Deakin (1894-1958) was an English-born American writer on music and dance, and a novelist, lecturer, publicity man, and radio commentator. He was educated at Eastbourne College and the Royal

College of Music. He was an editor and music critic for the *British-American*, London (1925-1927) and European music and theater correspondent for the International Feature Syndicate (1926-1930). He worked for a number of years, during the 1930's, 1940's and 1950's, in the press department of Hurok Attractions, Inc. He originated the radio program, *Music and Ballet*, on Station WQXR, New York, which ran from 1937-1943. From 1947-1948, he was general manager of the San Francisco Civic Ballet Association, and during 1957-1958 he was company manager of Ruth Page's Chicago Opera Ballet. His books on ballet are *To the Ballet* (1935), *Ballet Profile* (1936) and *At the Ballet* (1956). He also wrote several novels. Irving Deakin died December 26, 1958, in New Milford, Conn., of pneumonia, following a heart attack.

Scope and Content Note

The major part of this collection consists of correspondence to and from Irving Deakin primarily in relation to his association with Hurok Attractions and as General Manager of the San Francisco Civic Ballet in 1947-48 and in relation to his personal and professional associations with Adolf Bolm, Anton Dolin, and Antal Dorati. The collection falls into a natural chronological arrangement that gives a broad view of Deakin's associations with the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, the Original Ballet Russe, the beginnings of Ballet Theatre, the WQXR *Music and ballet* radio program, the San Francisco Civic Ballet, and the first American tour of the Sadler's Wells Ballet. Correspondents include Sol Hurok, Antal Dorati, Tamara Toumanova, Ruth Page, John Taras, Adolf Bolm, Anton Dolin, Alicia Markova, Agnes De Mille, and Dame Marie Rambert. A small section of miscellaneous materials includes ballet scenarios, programs, Hurok notes on various aspects of the dance world, and brochures for art shows and concerts.

Arrangement: I. Personal Correspondence (MISC/ID;ID/MISC) II. Miscellaneous Manuscripts, Typescripts, and Items

Key Terms

Subjects

Ballet -- United States -- 1933-1944
Ballet -- United States -- 1945-1954
Dance -- Production and direction
Manuscripts (Letters)
Manuscripts -- Collections

Titles

Irving Deakin Collection
Music and ballet (Radio program)
nuc

Names

Deakin, Irving
Bolm, Adolf, 1894-1951
De Mille, Agnes
Dolin, Anton, 1904-1983
Dorati, Antal
Hurok, Sol, 1888-1974
Page, Ruth, 1899-1991
Rambert, Marie
Taras, John
Toumanova, Tamara, 1919-1996
Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo

Ballet Theatre (New York, N.Y.)
Original Ballet Russe
Sadler's Wells Ballet
San Francisco Ballet

Container List

I. Personal Correspondence

- f. 1 1934 (6 Items)
- f. 2 1935 (7 Items)
- f. 3-7 1936 (40 Items)
- f. 8-11 1937 (26 Items)
- f. 12 1938 (10 Items)
- f. 13-19 1939 (72 Items)
- f. 20-25 1940 (44 Items)
- f. 26 1941 (11 Items)
- f. 27 1942-43 (12 Items)
- f. 28 1944 (10 Items)
- f. 29-36 1945 (80 Items)
- f. 37-41 1946 (40 Items)
- f. 42-67 1947 (303 Items)
- f. 68-85 1948 (183 Items)
- f. 86-89 1949 (40 Items)
- f. 90-91 1950-51 (9 Items)
- f. 92-94 1952 (27 Items)
- f. 95 1953 (5 Items)
- f. 96 1954 (7 Items)
- f. 97-98 1955 (14 Items)
- f. 99 1955-56 (7 Items)
- f. 100 1957 (10 Items)
- f. 101 Undated (8 Items)

II. Miscellaneous Manuscripts, Typescripts and Items

- f. 102 Undated (5 Items)
- f. 103 (notes for Hurok autobiography) Undated (1 Items)
- f. 104 (Igor Schwezoff material) Undated (2 Items)
- f. 105 (scenarios) Undated (3 Items)
- f. 106 Various dates (announcements, programs, clippings) (27 Items)
- f. 107 Various dates (duplicate material) (41 Items)