



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Letters to Margaret Gage

1947-1973

(S) *MGZMC-Res. 16

Processed by Nancy M. Shawcross.

Summary

Creator: Wigman, Mary, 1886-1973

Title: Letters to Margaret Gage

Date: 1947-1973

Size: 544 items in 82 s

Source: Gift. Margaret Gage. Received: 1976.

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 personal letters written by Mary Wigman, great German modern dance pioneer, to Margaret Gage, American dance teacher, performer, and choreographer. Also included are 24 letters from H. Binswanger, professor and friend of Mary Wigman, to Margaret Gage; 2 typescripts of essays by Miss Wigman; and 2 s of holograph notes on the Wigman technique from 1932-1933.

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, 1886-1973. Letters to Margaret Gage, (S) *MGZMC-Res. 16, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Nancy M. Shawcross.

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 personal letters written by Mary Wigman, great German modern dance pioneer, to Margaret Gage, American dance teacher, performer, and choreographer. Also included are 24 letters from H. Binswanger, professor and friend of Mary Wigman, to Margaret Gage; 2 typescripts of essays by Miss Wigman; and 2 s of holograph notes on the Wigman technique from 1932-1933.

Arrangement: Letters from Mary Wigman to Margaret Gage Letters from H. Binswanger to Margaret Gage Typescripts Notebooks

Key Terms

Titles

Gift of Margaret Gage

Subjects

Manuscripts (Letters)

Modern dance -- Technique -- Wigman

Names

Wigman, Mary, 1886-1973

Gage, Margaret

Container List

- f. 1 1947 (3 Items)
 - f. 2-3 1948 (13 Items)
 - f. 4-5 1949 (16 Items)
 - f. 6-7 1950 (19 Items)
 - f. 8-9 1951 (15 Items)
 - f. 10-11 1952 (14 Items)
 - f. 12-13 1953 (16 Items)
 - f. 14-15 1954 (14 Items)
 - f. 16-18 1955 (14 Items)
 - f. 19-21 1956 (16 Items)
 - f. 22-24 1957 (17 Items)
 - f. 25-30 1958 (33 Items)
 - f. 31-34 1959 (23 Items)
 - f. 35-38 1960 (24 Items)
 - f. 39-43 1961 (31 Items)
 - f. 44-46 1962 (25 Items)
 - f. 47-50 1963 (20 Items)
 - f. 51-54 1964 (31 Items)
 - f. 55-58 1965 (26 Items)
 - f. 59-62 1966 (23 Items)
 - f. 63-65 1967 (19 Items)
 - f. 66-67 1968 (17 Items)
 - f. 68-70 1969 (25 Items)
 - f. 71-72 1970 (23 Items)
 - f. 73-74 1971 (17 Items)
 - f. 75 1972 (11 Items)
 - f. 76 1973-1974, n.d. (11 Items)
- Letters from H. Binswanger to Margaret Gage
- f. 77-78 1969-1973 (24 Items)
- Typescripts
- f. 79 "Der Tanz in seinen verschiedenen Ausdrucks- und Darstellungsformen" von Mary Wigman
 - f. 80 "Mary Wigman on Composition"
- Notebooks
- f. 81-82 Notes on Wigman Technique 1932-1933