



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Lucia Chase papers

circa 1899-1982

(S) *MGZMD 51

Processed by Amy Taylor Alpers.

Summary

Creator: Chase, Lucia, 1897-1986

Title: Lucia Chase papers

Date: circa 1899-1982

Size: 7 document boxes 285 folders

Source: Gift. Estate of Lucia Chase. Received: 1986.

Abstract: The Lucia Chase papers span the years ca. 1899 to 1982 and are divided into two main series: personal correspondence, diaries, financial records, and miscellany; and business correspondence, company and financial records, and miscellany.

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: Lucia Chase Papers, (S)*MGZMD 51, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Amy Taylor Alpers.

Creator History

Lucia Hosmer Chase Ewing was born March 24, 1897 in Waterbury, Connecticut to Irving Hall Chase, President of Waterbury Clock Company, and Elizabeth Hosmer Kellogg Chase. Lucia was the middle child of five sisters: Marjorie, Eleanor (Mrs. Charles P. Taft), Elizabeth I. (Mrs. John Griffith Davies), and Dorothy (Mrs. Edward Carmody). Lucia was educated at St. Margaret's School and Bryn Mawr College. She then moved to New York City to study theatre at the Theatre Guild School, and ballet with Mikhail Mordkin. On December 28, 1926 she married Thomas Ewing, Jr., heir to the Alexander Smith & Sons

Carpet Company fortune. They had two sons: Thomas III, and Alexander Cochran. Thomas, Jr. died of pneumonia in 1933; Thomas III died in a boating accident near Block Island, Rhode Island in 1963. After her husband's death Lucia resumed her studies with Mordkin, making her dancing debut with his company in 1937. She rose to the rank of principal dancer and remained as such when the company became the Ballet Theatre in 1940. Along with Oliver Smith, Lucia Chase was named co-director of Ballet Theatre (renamed American Ballet Theatre in 1957) in 1945, a position she held until 1980. She continued to perform well into the 1970s and was also one of the company's major financial supporters from its beginning as the Mordkin Ballet until her death on January 9, 1986.

Scope and Content Note

The Lucia Chase papers span the years ca. 1899 to 1982 and are divided into two main series: personal correspondence, diaries, financial records, and miscellany; and business correspondence, company and financial records, and miscellany.

Arrangement: I. Personal A. Correspondence B. Diaries C. Financial D. Miscellany II. Business A. Correspondence B. Correspondence not written to or from Lucia Chase C. Ballet Theatre Foundation D. Financial E. Proposal, Plans, and Reports F. Promotion G. Contracts H. Misc. Artists' Information I. General Company Information J. Production III. Miscellany

Key Terms

Titles

Gift of Estate of Lucia Chase

Subjects

Manuscripts -- Collections

Names

Chase, Lucia, 1897-1986

American Ballet Theatre (New York, N.Y.)

Ballet Theatre (New York, N.Y.)

Container List

I. Personal

The personal correspondence series comprises 359 items and consists mainly of letters between Lucia and members of her immediate family. The largest number of these include Lucia's letters to her mother, Elizabeth Hosmer Kellogg Chase, and letters to Lucia from her father, Irving Hall Chase, two of her sisters, Dorothy "Dee" Carmody, and Elizabeth "E. I." or "Lizette" Davies, and both of her sons, Thomas III and Alexander "Sandy." This series also contains eleven diaries written by Lucia between the years 1914 and 1968. Six of these are of a personal nature, and the other five are journals kept while on various tours with the Ballet Theatre. There are an additional eighty letters requesting personal favors or extending invitations to various benefits, parties, etc.

A. Correspondence, 1939-1982 (35 folders, 359 items)

- b. 1 f. 1 Carmody, Dorothy and Edward 1943-1980 (11 items)
- b. 1 f. 2-7 Chase, Elizabeth Hosmer Kellogg 1899-1944 (78 Items)
- b. 1 f. 8 Chase, Irving Hall 1942-1948 (23 Items)
- b. 1 f. 9 Chase, Elizabeth and Irving 1921-1937 (8 Items)
- b. 1 f. 10-14 Davies, Elizabeth I. 1945-1952 (35 Items)
- b. 1 f. 15-16 Ewing, Alexander C. 1931-1948 (16 Items)
(see also under Business)
- b. 1 f. 17-18 Ewing, Thomas III ca. 1932-1948 (18 Items)
- b. 1 f. 19 Kellogg, Mrs. S. W. ca. 1901-1903 (3 Items)
- b. 1 f. 20-21 O'Leary, Pat 1947-1948 (23 Items)
- b. 1 f. 22 Santa Claus n.d. (1 item)
- b. 1 f. 23 Taft, Eleanor and Charles 1943-1950 (13 Items)
- b. 1 f. 24-28 Misc. family and friends ca. 1900-1980 (77 Items)
- b. 1 f. 29-31 Misc. letters requesting personal favors 1942-1977 n.d. (44 Items)
- b. 1 f. 32 Wedding Invitation - Lucia Chase 1926 (1 item)
- b. 1 f. 33 Wedding Announcement - Eugene Berman 1950 (1 item)
- b. 1 f. 34-35 Misc. Invitations (34 Items)

B. Diaries, 1914-1968 (11 envelopes, 11 items)

- b. 2 o. 36 1914 Jan. - 1918 Dec (1 item)
- b. 2 o. 37 1919 Jan. - 1923 Dec (1 (plus 20 1.) Items)
- b. 2 o. 38 1924 Jan. - 1925 Dec (1 item)
- b. 2 o. 39 1932 Jan. - 1933 Oct (1 item)
- b. 2 o. 40 1944 Mar. - 1948 Dec (1 item)
- b. 2 o. 41 1949 Jan. - 1950 Dec (1 item)
- b. 3 o. 42 1955 July - Oct (1 item)
(South American Tour)
- b. 3 o. 43 1956 Aug.- 1957 Feb (1 item)
(Europe Tour)
- b. 3 o. 44 1958 Apr. - Aug (1 item)
(Europe Tour)
- b. 3 o. 45 1960 Sept. - Oct (1 item)
(USSR Tour)

I. Personal (cont.)

B. Diaries, 1914-1968 (cont.)

- b. 3 o. 46 1968 Sept. - Oct (1 item)
(Japan Tour)

C. Financial, 1937-1973 (10 folders)

- b. 3 f. 47-52 Correspondence 1937-1972, n.d. (77 Items)
- b. 3 f. 53-55 Records 1937-1973 (40 Items)
- b. 3 f. 56 Bills and Receipts (46 Items)

D. Miscellany (3 folders)

- b. 3 f. 57 Personal papers (17 Items)
- b. 3 f. 58 Legal Document re: Estate of Lucia H. Kellogg and Elizabeth H. Chase (4 Items)
- b. 3 f. 59 Legal Document re: Estate of Thomas Ewing, Jr. (1 item)

II. Business

Lucia Chase's personal financial papers contain detailed information on her many investments as well as more minor household bills and receipts. The business correspondence constitutes the largest subseries (ca. 600 items). It is arranged alphabetically and includes letters to Lucia from Irina Baronova, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Agnes de Mille, Anton Dolin, Cynthia Gregory, Doris Humphrey, Michael Kidd, Lincoln Kirstein, Hugh Laing, José Limón, Oliver Smith, Antony Tudor, and E. Virginia Williams among others. The correspondence from Charles Payne, a member of the company's Board of Directors, and Peter Lawrence, an executive manager of the company during the 1940s, is quite extensive. In addition, this series includes ninety items of business correspondence not written by or to Lucia Chase, as well as documents relating to various aspects of the operation of the Ballet Theatre Foundation, miscellaneous promotional and production information, scenarios, itineraries, and financial records. The latter document both Lucia Chase's part in supporting the company, as well as more general company payrolls, proposals, budgets, and statements.

A. Correspondence, 1939-1982 (147 folders, ca. 600 items)

- b. 4 f. 60 Alford, Walter ca. 1946-1951 (11 items)
- b. 4 f. 61 Allan, Christopher 1949 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 62 Alonso, Alicia and Fernando n.d. (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 63 Amberg, George 1947 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 64 Aponte, Christopher n.d. (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 65 Appelby, Les 1949-1950 (4 Items)
- b. 4 f. 66 Arpels, Claude 1947 (2 Items)
- b. 4 f. 67 Balmain, Pierre 1950 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 68 Baronova, Irina 1943-1979 (8 Items)
- b. 4 f. 69 Baryshnikov, Mikhail 1981-1982 (5 Items)
- b. 4 f. 70 Behymer, Mrs. L. E. 1950 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 71 Black, J. Bennett 1947 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 72 Bywater, Ellen 1945-1946 (4 Items)
- b. 4 f. 73 Carter, Jack 1977 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 74 Carter, Jimmy 1980 (2 Items)
- b. 4 f. 75 Cassidy, Claudia n.d. (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 76 Chujoy, Anatole n.d. (2 Items)
- b. 4 f. 77 Clark, Faye 1947 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 78 Clifford, Henry 1945?-1947 (4 Items)
- b. 4 f. 79 Crosby, Fred J. 1948 (3 Items)

II. Business (cont.)

A. Correspondence, 1939-1982 (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 80 De Cuevas, George 1944? (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 81 De Mille, Agnes 1943-1950 (6 Items)
- b. 4 f. 82 De Ribere, Lisa 1980 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 83 De Valois, Ninette 1950 (2 Items)
- b. 4 f. 84 Delbridge, Thomas J. 1943 (2 Items)
- b. 4 f. 85 Denham, Sergei I. 1941 (3 Items)
- b. 4 f. 86 Dodson, Daryl 1970-1974 (4 Items)
- b. 4 f. 87 Dolin, Anton 1943-1981 (9 Items)
- b. 4 f. 88 Dorati, Antal 1945 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 89 Dzhermolinska, Helen 1950 (2 Items)
- b. 4 f. 90 Edwards, Leslie 1950? (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 91 Endo, Akira 1978 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 92 Ewing, Alexander 1957 (3 Items)
(see also under Personal)
- b. 4 f. 93 Fields, William 1947-1950 (8 Items)
- b. 4 f. 94-95 Fisher, Thomas Hart 1946-1947 (14 Items)
- b. 4 f. 96 Fleischmann, Julius 1941 (2 Items)
- b. 4 f. 97 Ford, Mrs. Edsel B. 1974 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 98 Frankenstein, Alfred V. 1946 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 99 Fuerst, Eugene 1941-1946 (3 Items)
- b. 4 f. 100 Gansert, Jack 1943 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 101 Gibson, Ian? 1948 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 102 Goldman, Sherwin M. 1973-1974 (5 Items)
- b. 4 f. 103 Gollner, Nana n.d. (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 104 Goode, Gerald 1942 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 105 Goth, Trudy 1950 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 106 Grasso, Ella 1980 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 107 Gregory, Cynthia 1975-1979 (2 Items)
- b. 4 f. 108 Groo, Lawrence 1974 (2 Items)
- b. 4 f. 109 Haggin, B. H. 1947 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 110 Hämmerli, Aurea 1979 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 111 Hansen, Paul 1950 (3 Items)
- b. 4 f. 112 Hawkes, Ralph 1946 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 113 Hennessy, Josselyn 1946 (4 Items)
- b. 4 f. 114 Humphrey, Doris 1947 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 115 Hurok, Sol 1945-1952 (6 Items)
- b. 4 f. 116 Jessen, Victor 1943 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 117 Kamin, Sally 1945 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 118 Keane, Fiorella 1976 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 119 Kellman, Asher 1944 (2 Items)
- b. 4 f. 120 Kidd, Michael 1947 (1 item)

II. Business (cont.)

A. Correspondence, 1939-1982 (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 121 Kirstein, Lincoln 1941-1948 (2 Items)
- b. 4 f. 122 Klavins, Ilse 1976 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 123 Knox, Seymour 1980 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 124 Laing, Hugh 1945-1946 (3 Items)
- b. 4 f. 125-132 Lawrence, Peter 1944-1947, n.d. (56 Items)
- b. 4 f. 133 Levine, Joseph 1980 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 134 Libidins, David 1946-1951 (4 Items)
- b. 4 f. 135 Lifar, Serge 1977 (2 Items)
- b. 4 f. 136 Limón, José 1948 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 137 Lindgren, Robert 1981 (3 Items)
- b. 4 f. 138 Lland, Michael 1974 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 139 Loring, Eugene 1950 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 140 Lyon, Robert Louis 1974 (2 Items)
- b. 4 f. 141 Makarova, Natalia 1973-1980 (6 Items)
- b. 4 f. 142 Markova, Alicia 1950 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 143 Marmein, Miriam 1943 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 144 Marshall, Margo 1973 (3 Items)
- b. 4 f. 145 Martin, John 1947? (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 146 Massine, Leonide 1978 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 147 Maule, Michael 1978 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 148 Maule, Sara n.d. (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 149 Mendelssohn, Gordon 1943 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 150 Meyer, Aubrey 1982 (8 Items)
- b. 4 f. 151 Meyer, William 1947 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 152 Mielziner, Jo 1947 (1 item)
- b. 4 f. 153 Migel, Parmenia 1941 (2 Items)
- b. 5 f. 154 New York State Council on the Arts 1974 (1 item)
- b. 5 f. 155 Nijinska, Bronislava 1943 (1 item)
- b. 5 f. 156 Nillo, David? 1943 (1 item)
- b. 5 f. 157 Olrich, April 1948 (2 Items)
- b. 5 f. 158 Onysko, John 1947 (3 Items)
- b. 5 f. 159 Orthwine, Rudolf 1947 (1 item)
- b. 5 f. 160-163 Payne, Charles 1941-ca. 1976 (35 Items)
- b. 5 f. 164 Permut, Morris 1941 (3 Items)
- b. 5 f. 165 Petit, Roland 1969 (1 item)
- b. 5 f. 166 Pleasant, Richard 1943-1950 (5 Items)
- b. 5 f. 167 Richardson, Philip 1946 (1 item)
- b. 5 f. 168 Robbins, Jerome 1970-1974 (6 Items)
- b. 5 f. 169 Russell, Rosalind n.d. (1 item)
- b. 5 f. 170 Saddler, Donald 1945 (2 Items)
- b. 5 f. 171 Sainsbury, Anya 1974 (1 item)

II. Business (cont.)

A. Correspondence, 1939-1982 (cont.)

- b. 5 f. 172 Sevastianov, German 1940-1943 (9 Items)
- b. 5 f. 173 Smith, Oliver 1945-1952 (3 Items)
- b. 5 f. 174 Smuin, Michael 1975-1978 (2 Items)
- b. 5 f. 175 Sorel, Felicia 1945 (1 item)
- b. 5 f. 176 Soudeikine, Serge n.d. (1 item)
- b. 5 f. 177 Stander, Patricia 1980 (1 item)
- b. 5 f. 178 Stone, Ralph 1944 (3 Items)
- b. 5 f. 179 Stroganova, Nina 1978 (1 item)
- b. 5 f. 180 Swanson, George Alan n.d. (1 item)
- b. 5 f. 181 Talbot, J. Alden 1943-1945 (10 Items)
- b. 5 f. 182 Tcherkassky, Alexis ca. 1945 (1 item)
- b. 5 f. 183 Tennant, Veronica 1970 (1 item)
- b. 5 f. 184 Terry, Walter 1979 (1 item)
- b. 5 f. 185 Tudor, Antony 1945-1980 (6 Items)
- b. 5 f. 186 Vesak, Norbert 1974 (1 item)
- b. 5 f. 187 Vzorov, Yuli 1975 (1 item)
- b. 5 f. 188 Wade, Ruthella 1946 (1 item)
- b. 5 f. 189 Wharton, John 1946-1968 (6 Items)
- b. 5 f. 190 Williams, E. Virginia 1974 (1 item)
- b. 5 f. 191 Wiman, Dwight Deere 1939 (2 Items)
- b. 5 f. 192 Wright, Gilbert 1979 (2 Items)
- b. 5 f. 193 Zarina, Xenia 1957 (2 Items)
- b. 5 f. 194-195 Zuckert, Harry 1939-1947 (21 items)
- b. 5 f. 196-199 Misc. 1940-1974, n.d. (43 Items)
- b. 5 f. 200-202 Audience members (56 Items)
 - b. 5 f. 203 Telegrams 1946 Sept. 30 (21 items)
 - b. 5 f. 204 Telegrams 1947 Apr. 28 (6 Items)
 - b. 5 f. 205 Telegrams 1950 Aug. 28 (9 Items)
 - b. 5 f. 206 Telegrams and correspondence 1980 Apr. 19 (55 Items)
- B. Correspondence Not Written By Or To Lucia Chase, 1941-1980 (25 folder, ca. 90 items)
 - b. 5 f. 207 Boesky, Ivan 1979 (2 Items)
 - b. 5 f. 208 Bolm, Adolph 1943 (1 item)
 - b. 5 f. 209 Clifford, Henry 1944-1947 (2 Items)
 - b. 5 f. 210 De Mille, Agnes 1947 (1 item)
 - b. 5 f. 211 Denard, Michael 1973 (1 item)
 - b. 5 f. 212 Dodson, Daryl 1973-1975 (4 Items)
 - b. 5 f. 213 Georgiadis, Nicholas 1974 (1 item)
 - b. 5 f. 214 Goberman, Max 1947 (2 Items)
 - b. 5 f. 215 Goldman, Sherwin M. 1970-1974 (11 items)
 - b. 5 f. 216 Groo, Lawrence 1974 (2 Items)
 - b. 5 f. 217 Haskell, Arnold 1946 (2 Items)

II. Business (cont.)

B. Correspondence Not Written By Or To Lucia Chase, 1941-1980 (cont.)

- b. 5 f. 218 Hurok, Sol 1941-1945 (3 Items)
 - b. 5 f. 219 Hymes, Virginia 1974-1975 (14 Items)
 - b. 5 f. 220 Kendall, Donald 1978-1979 (3 Items)
 - b. 5 f. 221 Lawrence, Peter 1945-1947 (11 items)
 - b. 5 f. 222 Lowry, W. McNeil 1957 (3 Items)
 - b. 5 f. 223 Martinez, Enrique 1974 (1 item)
 - b. 5 f. 224 Neumeier, John 1979 (1 item)
 - b. 5 f. 225 Orthwine, Rudolf 1941 (1 item)
 - b. 5 f. 226 Robbins, Jerome 1947 (1 item)
 - b. 5 f. 227 Sibley, Antoinette 1976 (2 Items)
 - b. 5 f. 228 Siegel, Marcia 1970 (2 Items)
 - b. 5 f. 229 Smith, Oliver 1974-1975 (4 Items)
 - b. 5 f. 230-231 Misc. 1941-1980 (15 Items)
- C. Ballet Theatre Foundation, 1948-1982 (8 folders)
- b. 6 f. 232-233 Minutes and Agendas 1972-1982
 - b. 6 f. 234 Board Meeting Handout 1982 Dec. 6
 - b. 6 f. 235 Board Members 1978-1980
 - b. 6 f. 236 By-Laws 1978-1980
 - b. 6 f. 237 Development Committee 1979-1980
 - b. 6 f. 238 Fundraising 1948-1980
 - b. 6 f. 239 Contributions 1972-1982
- D. Financial, 1940-1980 (7 folders)
- b. 6 f. 240 Correspondence with Lucia Chase
 - b. 6 f. 241-243 Records and Statements 1940-1980
 - b. 6 f. 244 Budgets 1944-1945, 1972-1980
 - b. 6 f. 245 Payroll ca. 1944-1953
 - b. 6 f. 246 Misc. 1946-1949, 1973
- E. Proposals, Plans and Reports, 1944-1980 (3 folders)
- b. 6 f. 247 Ballet Institute Proposal 1947
 - b. 6 f. 248 Training Program Proposal 1978
 - b. 6 f. 249 Plans and Reports 1944-1980
- F. Promotion, 1940-1982
- b. 6 f. 250 Dancers' Biographies 1972
 - b. 6 f. 251 Lucia Chase's Biography ca. 1947 n.d.
 - b. 6 f. 252 Lucia Chase: Appearances and Awards 1940-1982
 - b. 6 f. 253 Lucia Chase: Radio Interview? 1946
 - b. 6 f. 254 Lucia Chase: Dance Magazine article 1950 Apr.
 - b. 6 f. 255 Misc. 1952-1980
- G. Contracts, 1941-1982 (6 folders)
- b. 7 f. 256 Negotiations 1979, 1982
 - b. 7 f. 257 Special Clauses 1946

II. Business (cont.)

G. Contracts, 1941-1982 (cont.)

- b. 7 f. 258 Ailey, Alvin 1970
- b. 7 f. 259 Bujones, Fernando 1979
- b. 7 f. 260 Chase, Lucia 1941, 1972
- b. 7 f. 261 Markova / Dolin n.d.

H. Misc. Artists' Information, 1945-1975 (3 folders)

- b. 7 f. 262 Danto, Joanne 1975
- b. 7 f. 263 Sümen, Meric 1973
- b. 7 f. 264 Zeller, Robert 1945

I. General Company Information (6 folders)

- b. 7 f. 265 American Ballet Theatre National Council n.d.
- b. 7 f. 266 Organizational Structure ca. 1944
- b. 7 f. 267 Rules and Regulations 1944-1945
- b. 7 f. 268 Company Rosters 1945-1980
- b. 7 f. 269 Itineraries ca. 1946-1980
- b. 7 f. 270 Office Floor Plan 1969

J. Production, 1942-1970 (8 folders)

- b. 7 f. 271 Firebird (Bolm) 1945
- b. 7 f. 272 Giselle 1946?, 1970
- b. 7 f. 273 Peter and the Wolf (Bolm) 1942, n.d.
- b. 7 f. 274 Petrushka 1970
- b. 7 f. 275 The River (Scenario written by Duke Ellington n.d.)
- b. 7 f. 276 Scenarios
- b. 7 f. 277 Music (Can-Can from La Boutique Fantasque)
- b. 7 f. 278 Misc. Casts, Programs, and Program Copy

III. Miscellany (7 folders)

The papers also contain two ledger/address books from the Mordkin Ballet School (1934-1936) and a 1936 program autographed by Mikhail Mordkin.

- b. 7 f. 279 Program Autographed by Mikhail Mordkin 1936
- b. 7 f. 280-281 Mordkin School Ledger and Address Books 1934-1936
- b. 7 f. 282 Business Cards and Lists of Names
- b. 7 f. 283 Notes Written by Lucia Chase
- b. 7 f. 284 Unidentified
- b. 7 f. 285 Book Made for Chase by Viola Essen: "Famous People in the Middle Ages"