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Guide to the

Ray Cook papers

1951-1986

(S) *MGZMD 66

Processed by Larry Lavender.

Summary

Creator: Cook, Ray, 1934-

Title: Ray Cook papers

Date: 1951-1986

Size: 85 items 7 folders

Source: Gift. Ray Cook. Material Received: 10/28/88.

Abstract: The materials contained in this register are primarily correspondence, contracts and certificates covering the range of Cook's professional activities.

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: Ray Cook Papers, (S) *MGZMD 66, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Larry Lavender.

Creator History

Ray Cook is an Australian-born ballet and modern dancer and expert on reconstruction through Labanotation. He attended the Juilliard School where he studied with Jose Limon and Anna Sokolow, and performed in each choreographer's works. Cook has divided his time between teaching, choreographing, performing and directing in Australia and the U.S. He has created dances for companies at Dartmouth, where he teaches, and for the North Queensland Ballet. He has reconstructed works by Doris Humphrey, Charles Weidman, Limon and Sokolow for companies around the world. He has supervised the training of reconstructors and notators.

Scope and Content Note

The materials contained in this register are primarily correspondence, contracts and certificates covering the range of Cook's professional activities. The collection consists primarily of professional contracts and related correspondence. Documentation and correspondence related to Cook's tenure teaching at Vassar (1981-1985) and Brooklyn College (1976-?) is included but appears incomplete. There are copies of grant requests, memos, letters of recommendation, and school transcripts. These also give no indication of being complete, given the time span covered. Also included are original certificates of completion of various levels of training in Labanotation and related studies at the Dance Notation Bureau, and miscellaneous correspondence with the DNB. The collection contains no personal correspondence.

Arrangement: Folder 1: Resumes and Contracts Folder 2: Correspondence and Documents of Professional Activity Folder 3: Correspondence - Vassar College Folder 4: Vassar College Documentation of Yearly Activity Folder 5: Brooklyn College Correspondence Folder 6: Transcripts and Certificates Folder 7: Research Paper

Key Terms

Subjects

Choreography -- Reconstruction
Manuscripts -- Collections

Titles

Gift of Ray Cook

Names

Cook, Ray, 1934-

Container List

Resumes and Contracts 1966 Mar. - 1985 Nov (19 Items)

Materials: Resume, Contracts for: performance, reconstruction, teaching, publication, dance notation, choreography.

- f. 1 Typed resume. No date
- f. 1 Quotes of critics about Cook. No date
- f. 1 Contract with Ballet Guild to perform "Voyageur." 1/13/58
- f. 1 Contract to perform in "Passacaglia." National Educational Television. 3/31/65
- f. 1 Contract to perform in "Rooms." National Educational Television. 3/2/66
- f. 1 Contract to perform LOOK UP AND LIVE "The Celebrations" Part 1. CBS News. 12/30/66
- f. 1 Contract to perform LOOK UP AND LIVE "The Celebrations" Parts 2 and 3. CBS News. 12/30/66
- f. 1 Contract with Dance Notation Bureau, Inc. to reconstruct "Shakers" for DTH. 6/24/71
- f. 1 Contract to assist setting "Deserts." The Pennsylvania Ballet. 11/16/71
- f. 1 Contract with Dance Notation Bureau, Inc. to reconstruct "Pas de Trois" for Pennsylvania Ballet. 12/13/71
- f. 1 Contract with Dance Notation Bureau for publication of "Labanotation Quiz Book." 4/2/74
- f. 1 Contract for position as lecturer in dance. Marygrove College. Detroit, MI. 1/19/78
- f. 1 Contract with Dance Notation Bureau to teach courses in "Reconstruction/Direction." 7/1/82
- f. 1 Contract with Vassar College: Assistant Professor. 1 year contract. 4/14/83
- f. 1 Request to contribute 500 word article on "Reconstruction from Notation" for the International Encyclopedia of Dance. 5/9/83
- f. 1 Contract for Encyclopedia of Dance article. 5/24/83
(see previous listing)
- f. 1 Letter of Agreement to teach at SUNY/Brockport 5/83
- f. 1 Contract to teach 4 classes at Northeast Regional Ballet Festival at Vassar. 5/83
- f. 1 Contract for notation of "Raymunda Variations." 9/13/83
- f. 1 Contract with Dance Notation Bureau, Inc. to teach "Reconstruction/Direction." 3/1/84
- f. 1 Contract to choreograph for Poughkeepsie Ballet Theatre, Inc. 6/20/85
- f. 1 Letter confirming acceptance of paper. International Conference on Dance Research. 11/5/85

Correspondence/Documents of Professional Activity 1968 Dec. - 1985 Oct (24 Items)

Materials: Letters and memos regarding teaching, reconstructions, conferences, consulting, meetings, etc.

- f. 2 Partial reconstruction notes for "Shakers." No date
- f. 2 Letter of praise for teaching from Rod Alexander. Dartmouth College. 12/19/68

Correspondence/Documents of Professional Activity (cont.)

- f. 2 Letter of recommendation from Beth C. Lessard (A.S.U.). 12/7/79
- f. 2 Letter of recommendation from Martha Hill (Juilliard). 12/18/79
- f. 2 Letter from Muriel Topaz recommending Cook as Notator and teacher. 1/16/81
- f. 2 Letter from Vera Maletic inviting Cook re: International Laban Conference. 8/19/81
- f. 2 Memo from Muriel Topaz re: meetings at Dance Notation Bureau. 9/10/81
- f. 2 Memo regarding reconstruction of "Variation and Conclusions from New Dance" for Joyce Kerr Dance Company. 9/18/81
- f. 2 Request from Dance Notation Bureau to teach at 1982 Teacher Certification Course. 12/8/81
- f. 2 Letter of recommendation from Florence [UNK] (City College, N.Y.). 2/10/82
- f. 2 Letter from Florence [UNK] re: letter of recommendation. 2/10/82
- f. 2 Letter from David Roche offering Cook a position teaching at South Australian College of Advanced Education. 8/6/82
- f. 2 Letter of thanks from Jill Beck (DNB) for consulting on "Ritmo Jondo" for Rondo Dance Co. 12/1/82
- f. 2 Letter from Martha Hill inviting Cook to set "Deserts" at Juilliard. 1/3/83
- f. 2 Letter of thanks from Martha Hill. 3/22/83
- f. 2 Letter from Dawn Lille Horwitz confirming Cook as a reader for the International Conference on Movement Notation. 5/26/83
- f. 2 Memo from Muriel Topaz re: Israel UNESCO Conference. 11/22/83
- f. 2 Letter from Dawn Lille Horwitz re: UNESCO Conference. 1/10/84
- f. 2 Letter from Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts inviting Cook to teach Modern repertory and Labanotation. 2/28/84
- f. 2 Memo from Muriel Topaz re: faculty meeting. 5/3/84
- f. 2 Memo from Adele Chavarria (DNB) re: draft of notation score. 9/19/84
- f. 2 Letter of thanks from University of Hawaii, Manoa. 9/19/85
- f. 2 Letter from Mary Jane Corry thanking Cook for allowing her to audit his course at Vassar. 10/28/85
- f. 2 Letter from Charles H. Woodford of Princeton Book Co. No date

Correspondence: Vassar College 1982 Dec. - 1986 April (15 Items)

Materials: University-issued forms summarizing professional activity and fulfillment of duties.

- f. 3 Letter from Virginia B. Smith re: reappointment and promotion at Vassar. 12/1/82
- f. 3 Carbon copy of Cook's grant request for notation project. 2/24/83
- f. 3 Carbon copy of letter to H. Patrick Sullivan re: travel grant to UNESCO conference. 1/24/84
- f. 3 Letter from Sullivan to Roman Czula re: UNESCO grant request. 2/14/84
- f. 3 Letter of recommendation for Cook re: salary. From Roman Czula. 2/15/84
- f. 3 Memo from Roman Czula re: salary. 2/27/84
- f. 3 Memo from Cook to Roman Czula re: Sunday classes at Poughkeepsie Ballet School. 3/21/84
- f. 3 Letter from Virginia B. Smith re: UNESCO grant. 5/9/84
- f. 3 Letter from Sullivan re: NEH summer stipend. 9/21/84

Correspondence: Vassar College (cont.)

- f. 3 Grant request by Cook to complete notation of "The Three Ivans" for publication. 10/30/84
- f. 3 Letter from Cook summarizing 1984-85 activities at Vassar. No date
- f. 3 Statement for Cook from Jean M. Appenzeller and Roman Czula (Vassar) 2/1/85
- f. 3 Letter from Carl Ostrow confirming Cook as master teacher for Powerhouse Theatre. 6/17/85
- f. 3 Statement for Cook from Jean M. Appenzeller and Roman Czula. 2/3/86
- f. 3 Letter from Virginia B. Smith re: salary increase. 4/3/86

Vassar College: Documentation of yearly activity 1981-1985 (4 Items)

Materials: University-issued forms summarizing professional activity and fulfillment of duties.

- f. 4 Documentation summarizing 1981-82 activities.
- f. 4 Documentation summarizing 1982-83 activities.
- f. 4 Documentation summarizing 1983-84 activities.
- f. 4 Documentation summarizing 1984-85 activities.

Brooklyn College correspondence 1976 July - 1982 Feb (6 Items)

Materials: Letters regarding teaching appointment.

- f. 5 Letter from Robert Hickok re: appointment of Cook as adjunct assistant professor at Brooklyn College. 7/12/76
- f. 5 Letter from Irving M. Brown re: appointment of Cook as adjunct assistant professor. 3/13/79
- f. 5 Letter from Irving M. Brown re: appointment of Cook as adjunct assistant professor. 10/12/79
- f. 5 Letter from Irving M. Brown re: appointment of Cook as adjunct assistant professor. 11/27/79
- f. 5 Letter from Betsy M. Carden. 2/8/82
- f. 5 Letter of thanks from Carol Anievas. 7/14/82

Transcripts and Certificates 1951-1983 (16 Items)

Materials: School transcripts and certificates of completion from Dance Notation Bureau.

- f. 6 Documentation of Cook's exams at University of Queensland. 1951-1953
- f. 6 Certification in Elementary Labanotation. 10/61
- f. 6 Certification in Intermediate Labanotation. 1/62
- f. 6 Certificate of Completion: Connecticut College School of Dance. 8/19/62
- f. 6 Copies of transcript from Juilliard School of Music. 1962-63
- f. 6 Teacher Certification in Labanotation. 9/11/62
- f. 6 Teaching Certification in Elementary-Intermediate Labanotation. 10/62
- f. 6 Certification in Advanced Labanotation. 10/64
- f. 6 Certification as Professional Labanotator. 1967
- f. 6 Notation Certificate in Labanotation. Fall 1967
- f. 6 Notation Certificate in Labanotation. Fall 1967
- f. 6 Letter from Jill Beck certifying Cook as a Professional Reconstructor. 11/3/80
- f. 6 Letter from Joan Arnold certifying Cook completed Bartenieff Fundamentals at Laban/Bartenieff Institute. 1981

Transcripts and Certificates (cont.)

- f. 6 Letter from Dr. P.B. Botsman documenting Cook's completion of course for certification in teaching (1954) at Kelvin Grove College of Advanced Education. 3/9/81
- f. 6 Certificate of completion: Queensland Teacher's College. 3/9/81
- f. 6 Transcript of grades: Vassar College. 1982-83

Research Paper no date (1 item)

Materials: Typed research paper.

- f. 7 Paper written by Cook: "A Description of the Collaborative Process Between a Movement Analyst and a Former Limon Dancer in Reconstructing a 1958 Dance from an Archival Silent Film." No date