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Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Early drafts and papers relating to Martha: The life and work of Martha Graham**

196?-1991

(S) \*MGZMD 80

Processed by Henley Haslam.

## Summary

**Creator:** De Mille, Agnes

**Title:** Early drafts and papers relating to Martha: The life and work of Martha Graham

**Date:** 196?-1991

**Size:** 7 document boxes 121 folders

**Source:** Purchase. Agnes de Mille. Received: January 1990, July 1991.

**Abstract:** After years of gathering material and working on the manuscript, Agnes de Mille published her book *Martha: The Life and Work of Martha Graham* :The Life and Work of in 1991. This collection, containing material related to the book, is divided into four series:

**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>

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**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Henley Haslam.

## Creator History

Agnes George de Mille, dancer, choreographer, writer and spokesperson for the arts, was born September 18, 1905 in New York. She was the daughter of playwright William Churchill de Mille (1879?-1955) and Anna George de Mille (1878-1947), who was in turn the daughter of writer and single-tax advocate, Henry George (1839-1897). Agnes' uncle was the film producer/director, Cecil B. de Mille (1881-1959). She had a younger sister, Margaret (1908-1978). In 1914, the de Milles moved to

Hollywood where William was joining forces with Cecil in the motion picture industry. Agnes attended the Hollywood School for Girls, graduating in 1922, and went on to graduate from University of California in 1926 with a degree in English. William and Anna separated that year, being divorced in 1927, and Agnes spent that summer after graduating traveling in western Europe with her mother and sister. William married Clara Beranger, a colleague in the movie industry, in 1928 and lived with her in California for the remainder of his life. Agnes' formal dance training did not begin until early adolescence in California with Theodore Kosloff. She did some performing in college shows although she did not train continuously during her college years. Soon after graduating, she began to give solo recitals and later with Warren Leonard in her own works. Her mother helped her produce these and accompanied her to concerts in various cities in the United States and in Europe. During this period, she settled once again in New York, at first living with her mother and sister, and then on her own. Agnes moved to England in 1932 where she continued her dance training in ballet with Marie Rambert. She performed in her own work and those of her peers such as Antony Tudor under the auspices of Rambert. Upon her permanent return to New York ca. 1939, she met Walter Prude (1909-) through Martha Graham who was under Prude's management. Agnes and Walter were married on June 14, 1943, in Hobbs, New Mexico during the time when Prude was in military service. The two were separated-except for infrequent visits-due to the war until 1945. Their son, Jonathan de Mille Prude, was born in 1946. It was in this time in the early 1940's that de Mille's work as a choreographer began to be recognized in the United States. Her ballet "Rodeo" in 1942, created for the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, brought her immediate acclaim and popularity as did her choreography for the Broadway show "Oklahoma!" the following year. She worked steadily for the next two decades both on Broadway and in the ballet, creating over a dozen works in each field. She had a long-enduring relationship with Ballet Theatre (American Ballet Theatre) and The Royal Winnipeg Ballet, for whom she created many of her ballets. In 1953 she formed the Agnes de Mille Dance Theatre (Heritage Dance Theatre), which functioned most actively in 1953-1954 and 1973-1975. She strove to represent in its repertoire indigenous American dance forms by native choreographers and composers as well as folk forms. On the eve of a major New York performance of her company in her lecture/performance of "Conversations About the Dance," she suffered a serious cerebral hemorrhage. From the day of the stroke, May 15, 1975, onward, she has remained partially paralyzed on the right side of her body although she recovered from some of the other initial losses of her faculties. On November 9, 1977, she went on stage to realize the performance of "Conversations About the Dance," and resumed an active, if limited, life in dance. Agnes de Mille has long been a dominant figure in dance and the arts-as a creator as well as a spokesperson and writer. Before and since her appointment as a founding member of the National Council for the Arts in 1965, she took the cause of dance and the arts to millions of readers and viewers, hundreds of organizations and political conventions. She continues to do so. In 1980, Agnes de Mille received the Kennedy Center Award - the highest nonmilitary award in the United States.

## **Scope and Content Note**

After years of gathering material and working on the manuscript, Agnes de Mille published her book *Martha: The Life and Work of Martha Graham* :*The Life and Work of* in 1991. This collection, containing material related to the book, is divided into four series:||||In the attached Folder List, AdM refers to Agnes de Mille.||||Headings in quotes (i.e "Prizes") are the exact headings used by de Mille.

**Arrangement:** I. Correspondence II. Interview notes III. Research materials IV. Early drafts and manuscript material

## **Key Terms**

### **Titles**

Agnes de Mille Collection

**Subjects**

Dancers -- United States -- 20th century  
Manuscripts (Books)

**Names**

De Mille, Agnes  
Graham, Martha  
Medina, Kate  
Rhodes, June Hamilton  
Shawn, Ted, 1891-1972  
Martha Graham Dance Company

## Container List

### I. Correspondence

Series I. [58 items] contains mainly letters from people with remembrances of Graham, Horst and St. Denis, and copies of some letters from Graham, herself. Of particular interest are letters from June Hamilton Rhodes Gordon relating to St. Denis and Shawn, sections of transcripts of audiotapes made by Ted Shawn for his memoirs, and two lengthy memos from de Mille's editor, Kate Medina, relating to the book.

[alphabetical by correspondent or subject]

- b. 1 f. 1 Bales, William 1961
- b. 1 f. 1 Bird, Dorothy
- b. 1 f. 2 Kooluris, Hortense re Maria-Theresa Duncan 1976
- b. 1 f. 3 Graham, Martha to Frances Wickes 1951
- b. 1 f. 3 Graham, Martha to AdM 1948, 75
- b. 1 f. 3 Graham, Martha to Craig Barton 1945-48
- b. 1 f. 4 Madden, Dorothy  
re Louis Horst, Robin Howard, 1981
- b. 1 f. 4 AdM to Robin Howard 1985
- b. 1 f. 5 Lang, Pearl n.d.
- b. 1 f. 5 Leatherman, Leroy "Lee" 1971-83
- b. 1 f. 6 McCraw, Charles B. 1973
- b. 1 f. 6 Medina, Kate 1973-83  
[includes memos as editor]
- b. 1 f. 6 Mumaw, Barton 1987
- b. 1 f. 6 Sherman, Jane re Barton Mumaw 1988
- b. 1 f. 7 Neighborhood Playhouse  
[contains notes on Irene & Alice Lewisohn, Edith Isaacs]  
Rhodes, June Hamilton
- b. 1 f. 8-10 [June Gordon] 1959-1976
- b. 1 f. 11 St. Denis, Ruth 1929?
- b. 1 f. 11 Sargeant, Winthrop 1972-84
- b. 1 f. 11 Shawn, Ted 1971
- b. 1 f. 11 Shurr, Gertrude 1984
- b. 1 f. 12 Taylor, Harold 1971-85
- b. 1 f. 12 Woodford, Charles 1988

### II. Interview notes

Series II. contains notes on interviews with 12 people about Graham.

- b. 1 f. 13 [UNK], Patricia
- b. 1 f. 14 Butler, John
- b. 1 f. 15 Fonaroff, Nina
- b. 1 f. 16 Graham, Martha
- b. 1 f. 17 Hawkins, Erick
- b. 1 f. 18 Lang, Pearl
- b. 1 f. 19 Leatherman, Leroy "Lee"

II. Interview notes (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 20 Macy, Gertrude
- b. 1 f. 20a Ross, Bertram
- b. 2 f. 20b Ross, Bertram, Hinkson, Mary and Winter Etel
- b. 2 f. 20c Rudko, Doris
- b. 2 f. 21 Ryder, Mark
- b. 2 f. 21a Sargeant, Winthrop
- b. 2 f. 21b Shawn, Ted and Jacob's Pillow
- b. 2 f. 22 Shurr, Gertrude
- b. 2 f. 23 Sokolow, Anna
- b. 2 f. 23a Swope, Martha
- b. 2 f. 23b Tetley, Glenn
- b. 2 f. 23c Warrington, Neely Ann
- b. 2 f. 23d Weidman, Charles
- b. 2 f. 23e Wilson, Salli
- b. 2 f. 24 Winter, Ethel
- b. 2 f. 25 Misc. [contains notes, selections, lists]

III. Research materials

Series III. contains material used by de Mille with respect to subjects in the manuscript. The files contain biographical information, obituaries, reviews, articles, programs and clippings.

Arrangement: alphabetical by subject; headings in quotes from original folders

- b. 2 f. 26 American Document
- b. 2 f. 26 Appalachian Spring
- b. 2 f. 26 Ashton, Frederick
- b. 2 f. 26 Austin, Mary
- b. 2 f. 27 Barton, Craig
- b. 2 f. 27 Belasco, David & Zaza
- b. 2 f. 27 Bernstein, Aline
- b. 2 f. 27 Bowles, Chester
- b. 2 f. 27 Brontë - Deaths Entrances
- b. 2 f. 28 Campbell, Joseph
- b. 2 f. 28 Cave of the Heart
- b. 2 f. 28 Cornell, Katherine
- b. 2 f. 28 Cornish School
- b. 2 f. 28 Crowley, Alice Lewisohn
- b. 2 f. 28 Cunningham, Merce
- b. 2 f. 29 Daly, John Augustin
- b. 2 f. 29 Dark Meadow
- b. 2 f. 29 De Reszke, Jean
- b. 2 f. 29 Deaths & Entrances
- b. 2 f. 29 Deep Song
- b. 2 f. 29 Dessoiff, Margarete

III. Research materials (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 30 Elliot, Laura
- b. 2 f. 30 Embattled Garden
- b. 2 f. 30 Enters, Angna
- b. 2 f. 30 Errand into the Maze
- b. 2 f. 31 Feld, Eliot
- b. 3 f. 31a Garber, Ben
- b. 3 f. 32 Graham, George
- b. 3 f. 32 Graham, Georgia
- b. 3 f. 33-34 Graham, Martha
- b. 3 f. 35 Hawkins, Erick
- b. 3 f. 35 Henri, Robert
- b. 3 f. 35 Heretic
- b. 3 f. 35 Herodiade
- b. 3 f. 36 Herter, Christian Archibald
- b. 3 f. 36 Horst, Louis
- b. 3 f. 37 Humphrey, Doris
- b. 3 f. 38 Isaacs, Edith
- b. 3 f. 38 Isaacs, Lewis Montefiore
- b. 3 f. 38 Johansson, Ronny
- b. 3 f. 38 Jones, Robert Edmond
- b. 3 f. 38 Junger, Esther
- b. 3 f. 39 Kriegsman, Alan
- b. 3 f. 40 Lang, Pearl
- b. 3 f. 40 Leatherman, Leroy "Lee"
- b. 3 f. 40 Letter to the World
- b. 3 f. 40 Lewisohn, Irene
- b. 3 f. 40 Limón, José
- b. 3 f. 41 Martha Graham Company, School, Foundation
- b. 3 f. 42 Meisner, Stanford
- b. 3 f. 42 Morgenthau, Rita
- b. 3 f. 43 National Endowment for the Arts & Graham
- b. 3 f. 44 Neighborhood Playhouse
- b. 3 f. 44 Noguchi, Isamu
- b. 3 f. 44 Notebooks of Martha Graham
- b. 3 f. 44 Nureyev, Rudolf
- b. 3 f. 45 Oukrainsky, Serge
- b. 3 f. 46 Pavley, Andreas
- b. 3 f. 46 Phaedra's Dream
- b. 3 f. 46 Primitive Mysteries
- b. 3 f. 46 "Prizes" [received by Graham]
- b. 3 f. 47 Radio City Music Hall

III. Research materials (cont.)

- b. 3 f. 47 *Rite of Spring (Graham)*
- b. 3 f. 47 Roerich, Nicholas
- b. 3 f. 47 Rothschild, Bethsabée de
- b. 3 f. 48 *Sacre de Printemps (Joffrey)*
- b. 3 f. 48 St. Denis, Ruth
- b. 3 f. 48 Seldes, Marian
- b. 3 f. 49 Shawn, Ted
- b. 3 f. 49 Sokoloff, Nicolai
- b. 3 f. 49 Stanislavsky, Konstantin
- b. 3 f. 49 Stokowski, Leopold
- b. 3 f. 49 Stravinsky, Igor
- b. 3 f. 50 Taylor, Paul
- b. 3 f. 50 Tobias, Tobi
- b. 3 f. 50 Tugal, Pierre
- b. 3 f. 51 Wald, Lillian
- b. 3 f. 51 Wallace, Lila Acheson
- b. 3 f. 51 Weidman, Charles
- b. 3 f. 51 White, Stanford
- b. 3 f. 51a Wickes, Frances
- b. 3 f. 52 Zemach, Benjamin
- b. 3 f. 52 Zweig, Stefan re Mary, Queen of Scots  
Misc.
- b. 3 f. 53 "to be checked" [interview excerpts]
- b. 3 f. 54 "cuts, deletions, remnants, unused"

IV. Early drafts and manuscript material

Series IV. contains sections of manuscript and various early drafts of the book.  
[arranged by final chapter numbers, except for several subject files at the end]

- b. 4 f. 55 Preface
- b. 4 f. 56 Ch.1
- b. 4 f. 57 Ch.2
- b. 4 f. 58 Ch.3
- b. 4 f. 59 Ch.4
- b. 4 f. 60 Ch.5
- b. 4 f. 61 Ch.3,4,5 ["Denishawn"]
- b. 4 f. 62 Ch.6
- b. 4 f. 63 Ch.7
- b. 4 f. 64 Ch.8
- b. 4 f. 65 Ch.9
- b. 4 f. 66 Ch.7,8,9
- b. 4 f. 67 Ch.10
- b. 4 f. 68 Ch.11
- b. 4 f. 69 Ch.12

IV. Early drafts and manuscript material (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 70 Ch.13
- b. 4 f. 71 Ch.12,13
- b. 4 f. 72 Ch.14,15
- b. 4 f. 73 Ch.15
- b. 4 f. 74 Ch.13,14,15
- b. 5 f. 75 Ch.16
- b. 5 f. 76 Ch.17
- b. 4 f. 77 Ch.18
- b. 4 f. 78 Ch.17,18
- b. 4 f. 79 Ch.19
- b. 4 f. 80 Ch.20
- b. 4 f. 81 Ch.19,20
- b. 4 f. 82-83 Ch.21
- b. 4 f. 84 Ch.21,22
- b. 4 f. 85-87 Ch.23
- b. 4 f. 88-89 Ch.24
- b. 5 f. 90 Ch.23,24
- b. 5 f. 91-92 Ch.25
- b. 5 f. 93-94 Ch.26
- b. 5 f. 95 Ch.27
- b. 5 f. 96 Ch.28
- b. 5 f. 97 Ch.29
- b. 5 f. 98 Ch.30
- b. 5 f. 99 Kundalini
- b. 5 f. 100 "Erick"
- b. 5 f. 101 "Graham"
- b. 5 f. 102 Graham technique [Ch.7,9,16]
- b. 5 f. 103 "Technique" [Ch.6,7,8,9]
- b. 5 f. 104 "Louis teaching"
- b. 5 f. 105 Horst, misc.
- b. 5 f. 106 Notebooks ((3 items))
- b. 5 f. 107 Misc. pages of ms.
- b. 5 f. 108 "Discards"
- b. 6 First draft full version
- b. 7 f. 109-112 Rough drafts of various chapters
- b. 7 f. 113-116 Notebooks and notes
- b. 7 f. 117 Permissions for the book
- b. 7 f. 118 Galley proofs
- b. 7 f. 119-121 Copy prints