



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Maud Madison papers

1884-circa 1945

(S) *MGZMD 91

Processed by Henley Haslam.

Summary

Creator: Madison, Maud

Title: Maud Madison papers

Date: 1884-circa 1945

Abstract: The papers of Maud Madison consist mainly of 87 letters (and fragments of letters), most of which were written by Madison to her mother, her daughter, and to someone she called Lee, Bee and Bon (possibly the father of her daughter). The letters discuss her life on tour in the United States; ideas for costumes and lighting for her dances; living and trying to work in Paris in 1900, her debut in Paris, her opinions of Loie Fuller for whom she auditioned; and her child.

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: [Identification of item], Maud Madison Papers, Collection number: (S) *MGZMD 91, Dance Collection. The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Processing note: Processed by Henley Haslam; machine-readable finding aid created by Catherine Johnson.

Creator History

Maud Madison was born in San Francisco. She studied at the Boucicault School of Acting in 1889. She performed with Richard Mansfield in *Richard the Third* (1890?) and toured in acting and dancing troupes. She was influenced by seeing Loie Fuller perform, and went to Paris in 1900 to attempt to get performing engagements during the Exposition. She gave programs of what she called "fancy costume dances" in Paris and then on tour in the United States. She later taught social ballroom dancing in New York City around the time of World War II. Madison had a daughter, Beatrice [Bonnie?] Maude, who, as a child, occasionally performed with her and later became an actress. She survived her mother, who died in California on October 4, 1953.

Custodial History

Purchased from Golden Legends, Inc. and received in April 1993.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Maud Madison consist mainly of 87 letters (and fragments of letters), most of which were written by Madison to her mother, her daughter, and to someone she called Lee, Bee and Bon (possibly the father of her daughter). The letters discuss her life on tour in the United States; ideas for costumes and lighting for her dances; living and trying to work in Paris in 1900, her debut in Paris, her opinions of Loie Fuller for whom she auditioned; and her child. Some letters of interest include the following:

11/19/1891 letter to her mother mentions MM's 21st birthday

4/14/1893 letter to her mother discusses the lighting technique and costume for a "diamond dance"

1900's - many letters from Paris mention Loie Fuller

3/6/1901 letter to her daughter mentions MM's first appearance on the stage.

The collection also contains drafts of some autobiographical material and two short stories written by Madison, as well as a few programs and some promotional material pertaining to MM's career.

Key Terms

Subjects

Manuscripts -- Collections

Names

Madison, Maud

Fuller, Loie, 1862-1928

Container List

Series I. Correspondence

A. From Maud Madison

- f. 1 1885 (2 items)
 - St. Louis, "Dear Mamma" 3/23/1885
 - St. Louis, "Dear Mamma [missing last page] 3/24/1885
- f. 2 1889 (4)
 - Boston, "Dear Mamma" 10/14/1889
 - Boston, "Dear Mamma" 10/26/1889
 - Boston, "Dear Mamma" 10?/1889
 - Washington, "Dear Mamma" 1889
- f. 3 1890 (2 items)
 - Guyard, NY, "Dear Mamma" 7/14/1890
 - Great Falls, N.H., "Dear Mamma 10/3/1890
- f. 4-5 1891 (7 items)
 - Leetonia, Ohio, "Dear Mamma" 2/17/1891
 - Versailles, Kentucky, "Dear Mamma" [missing end] 3/9/1891
 - Muncie, Indiana, "Dear Mamma" 3/17/1891
 - Goshen, Indiana, "Dear Mamma" 3/25/1891
 - New Orleans, La., "Dear Mamma" 11/17/1891
 - New Orleans, La., "Dear Mamma" 11/19/1891
 - "Dear Mamma" 1891?
- f. 6-7 1893 (7 items)
 - Rochester, "Dear Mamma" 4/9/1893
 - Rochester, "Dear Mamma" 4?/12/1893
 - Rochester, "Dear Mamma" 4/14/1893
 - Buffalo, "Dear Mamma" 4/17/1893
 - Congers, Rockland Lake, "Dear Mamma" [missing end] 5/21/1893
 - "Dear Mamma" 1893
 - "Dear Mamma" 1893
- f. 8 1897 (1 item)
 - "Dear Baby" 5/2/1897
- f. 9-10 1898 (10 items)
 - Norwalk or Athol, Mass. 2/5/[1898?
 - Athol, Mass. 2/7/1898
 - Athol, Mass. "My dear little Baby" 2/11/1898
 - Concord, N.H., "Dear Bonnie Maud" 2/18/1898
 - Nashua, N.H., "My dear little Baby" 2/22/1898
 - St. John, N.B., Canada, "My dear little Baby" 4/12/1898
 - "My dear little Baby" [end of another letter on reverse] Easter/1898

Series I. Correspondence (cont.)

A. From Maud Madison (cont.)

1898 (cont.)

St. John, N.B., Canada, "My dear little Baby" [end of another letter on reverse] 4/13/1898

Halifax, N.S., Canada, "My dear little Baby" [end of another letter on reverse] 4/26/1898

Montepelier, Vt., "Dear Mamma" [missing end] 10/11/18[98?

f. 11-15

1900 (10 items)

mid-ocean, U.S.M.S. St. Paul 5/22/1900

Paris 5/24/1900

Paris, "Dear [Bonnie?]" 5/29/1900

Paris, "My Dear Sweet Baby" 5/29/1900

Paris, "Dear [Bon?]" 6/1/1900

Paris, "My Dear Baby" 6/7/1900

Paris, "My Dear Lovely Baby" 6/12/1900

Paris 6/12/1900

Paris, "Bon" or "Bee" 6/14/1900

Paris, "Ma bonne Bebe" 6/16/1900

"Chere ["Bon?]" 7/1/1900

Charentin, France "Mon chere [Boni?]" 7/4/1900

Charentin, France "Ma chere Bebe" 7/13/1900

Charentin, France 7/13/1900

Charentin, France Charentin, France, "My darling little baby" 7/22/1900

Charentin, France 7/22/1900

Paris, "My own dear Baby" 7/29/1900

"Ma Chere Bebe" 8/4/1900

Paris 8/4/1900

Paris 8/16/1900

London, "My Sweet Baby" 8/16/[1900?

London 8/16/[1900?

f. 16

1901 (5 items)

Savannah, Ga., "Dear Baby" 2/17/1901

Savannah, Ga., "My sweet Baby" 2/24/1901

St. Augustine, Fla. 3/5/1901

St. Augustine, Fla., "My Sweet Baby" 3/6/1901

Jacksonville, Fla., "Dear Baby" [plus end of another letter on back] 3/6/1901

f. 17

1903 -1907 (2 items)

Savannah, Ga., "Dear Baby" 5/15/1903

form letter re Actors' Fund Fair 4/4/1907

f. 18

n.d (4 items)

misc. fragments

B. to MM from family

f. 19

1884-1909 (3 items)

Series I. Correspondence (cont.)

B. to MM from family (cont.)

1884-1909 (cont.)

form letter re Actors' Fund Fair 4/4/1907

"Dear Maud" from "Mamma" 12/26/1890

"My Dear Maud" from "R.F. Smitten" 12/28/1909

C. to MM from Bee, Bon?

[the first two letters, from "Lee," appear to be from the same person who later signs himself Bee or Bon]

f. 20 before 5/1900?, 1903 (3 items)

Brooklyn, to "Bee my dear" from "Lee" n.d.

Brooklyn, to "Honey Bee" from "Lee" n.d.

Cleveland, "Dear Maud" 7/29/1903

f. 21-22 1936 (13 items)

"Dear Maud" 2/17/1936

"Dear Maud" 2/21/1936

Toledo [missing beginning] 3/26/1936

"Dear Maud" 3/30/1936

"Dear Maud" 5/5/1936

[missing beginning] n.d. [1936?

[missing beginning] 5/7/193[6?

"Dear Maud" [missing end] 5/23/1936

"Dear Maud" [missing beginning] 7/21/[1936?

"Dear Maud" 9/30/1936

"Dear Maud" [missing most] 10/7/1936

"Dear Maud" 10/10/1936

"Dear Maud" 10/12/1936

f. 22 n.d (1 item)

California, "Dear Maud" 5/20/?

Series II. Biographical/Personal Material

f. 23 A. Fragments of a "memoire" (2 items)

manuscript 1901

typescript

f. 24 B. Typescript of article (1 item)

"Secrets of a New York Dance Studio"

Series III. Stories by MM

f. 25 A. "The Paisley Shawl" [manuscript] (1 item)

f. 25 B. "The Jasmine Flower" [typescript] (1 item)

Series IV. Programs/promotion (13 items)

f. 26 Promotional materials and programs

Series V. Misc. (3 items)

f. 27 Book of quotations made by MM, inscribed "To Bonnie: with best wishes Maud" 4/13/1891

f. 27 B. Calling card of MM

f. 27 C. Drawing