



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Edward Gordon Craig papers relating to Isadora Duncan

1905-ca. 1952

(S) *MGZMD 92

Processed by Henley Haslam.

Summary

Creator: Craig, Edward Gordon, 1872-1966

Title: Edward Gordon Craig papers relating to Isadora Duncan

Date: 1905-ca. 1952

Size: 1 document box 9 items in 8 folders

Source: Purchased from Tom Craig. Received, July 1992.

Abstract: This collection contains a small group of manuscript items of Edward Gordon Craig[EGC]-Isadora Duncan[ID] interest. The materials came from the archives of Edward ("Teddy") Craig, son of Edward Gordon Craig and grandfather of Tom Craig, from whom the Dance Collection obtained this collection. All of the items pertain to Isadora Duncan.

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: Edward Gordon Craig Papers Related to Isadora Duncan, (S) *MGZMD 92, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Henley Haslam.

Creator History

Edward Gordon Craig was a theatrical producer, stage designer and author of many publications on the theater. He was the son of the actress, Ellen Terry, and an architect who turned to theater design, Edward William Godwin. Craig met the American dancer Isadora Duncan (1878-1927) in Berlin in 1904. Their love affair resulted in a daughter, Deidre, who was Duncan's first child and who was drowned accidentally in Paris in 1913. The affair was over by 1907 but they continued to correspond. Craig kept

“notes” on Duncan (whom he occasionally called “Topsy”) to which he continued to add all of his life. Martin Fallas Shaw (1875-1958) was an English composer and director of music. He founded, with Craig, and conducted the Purcell Operatic Society in 1899. He toured as music director for Duncan in Germany, Holland, Denmark and Sweden in 1906-1908.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains a small group of manuscript items of Edward Gordon Craig[EGC]-Isadora Duncan[ID] interest. The materials came from the archives of Edward (“Teddy”) Craig, son of Edward Gordon Craig and grandfather of Tom Craig, from whom the Dance Collection obtained this collection. All of the items pertain to Isadora Duncan. There are several small booklets or notebooks made by EGC with notes about ID, one containing two manuscript poems with notes by EGC to ID. There is a pen and ink drawing with notes entitled “Our first pic-nic alone, 1905.” In addition, there is a 1905 photograph of EGC taken by ID and signed by EGC in the “Biddecombe Bay” booklet, and a photograph of Deidre, daughter of ID and EGC, taken in Egypt in 1912 with notes on the back by EGC. The collection also contains two draft letters by EGC to Martin Shaw concerning ID.

Key Terms

Subjects

Manuscripts -- Collections

Names

Craig, Edward Gordon, 1872-1966

Duncan, Deirdre

Duncan, Isadora, 1877-1927

Container List

- f. 1 Drawing by EGC, "Our first pic-nic," 1905
- f. 2 Draft of 2 letters to Martin Shaw 1905-07
- f. 3 Photograph of Deidre 1912
- f. 4 Booklet "Odd Bits - Verse and I.D.," 1941-48
- f. 5 Booklet "Biddecombe Bay," 1942-52
includes small booklet "Sea Air" and 1905 photograph of EGC
- f. 6 Booklet "Notes on ID, 1944"
- f. 7 Booklet "There is nothing unnatural..." n.d.
- f. 8 Vellum album which held the above materials