



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Felia Doubrovska papers

ca. 1919-1981

(S) *MGZMD 93

Processed by Irina Klyagin.

Summary

Creator: Doubrovska, Felia, 1896-1981

Title: Felia Doubrovska papers

Date: ca. 1919-1981

Size: 2 document boxes (379 items in 51 folders)

Source: Gift of John Taras, May 1982

Abstract: The papers of Felia Doubrovska cover the period from c.1919 to the year of her death, 1981, and pertain to both her family and personal life and her professional career. The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence: approximately 43 letters and notes from Doubrovska, and 266 letters, cards, notes, telegrams to Doubrovska, with a small part of the correspondence to her mother (Valentina Dlouzhnevskaya) and to Vladimiroff. Of interest are 42 letters or notes from Mathilde Kshessinska and her husband the Grand Duke André, and 12 letters from Iurii (Yuri) Bakhrushin.

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: Felia Doubrovska papers, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library

Processing note: Processed by Irina Klyagin; machine-readable finding aid created by Catherine Johnson.

Related Materials:

12 letters from Yuri Bakhrushin, from Moscow to New York, 1948-1972. Yuri Alekseevich Bakhrushin (1.27.1896 - 8.4.1973), Russian scholar, author of several books on history of Russian ballet; teacher of ballet history at the Bolshoi Theater School and Moiseev Folk Ensemble. He was a son of Aleksei Aleksandrovich Bakhrushin, founder of Moscow Theater Museum. Their friendship with Doubrovska dates back to 1910. In his letters Bakhrushin writes a lot about his private life, his sorrows and good

days, but he also writes about Moscow ballet news, his pupils, new productions at the Bolshoi and Maryinski, books he was working on, and other ballet matters.

From Yuri Bakhrushin. February 8, 1948. Moscow. About Doubrovskaja's mother death.

From Yuri Bakhrushin. May 9, 1961. Moscow. About Marina Zest death.

From Yuri Bakhrushin. June 27, 1961. Vitenevo near Moscow.

From Yuri Bakhrushin. November 23, 1964. Moscow.

From Yuri Bakhrushin. June 7, 1965. Moscow. Bakhrushin's wife has gone on June 6, 1965.

From Yuri Bakhrushin. September 23, 1965. Moscow.

From Yuri Bakhrushin. March 13, 1966. Moscow. About Pierre Vladimiroff as an artist; Bakhrushin's 70th jubilee; about Mathilda Kshessinska's book and a letter from Kshessinska, who was 94 that year, etc.

From Yuri Bakhrushin. April 12, 1967. Moscow. About a letter from Olga Spessivtseva; letters from Mathilda Kshessinska in which she was answering Bakhrushin questions about Petipa, Johansson etc; about Doubrovskaja and Vladimiroff teaching in America.

From Yuri Bakhrushin. March 31, 1968. Moscow. About Grigorovich mounting Spartak; Lifar's visit to Moscow and Leningrad; Chujoy's encyclopedia.

From Yuri Bakhrushin. April 10, 1969. Moscow.

From Yuri Bakhrushin. March 15, 1969. Moscow.

From Yuri Bakhrushin. January 3, 1972. Moscow. New Year Greetings. About Kshessinska's death.

Creator History

Felia Doubrovskaja (Felizata Dlouzhnevskaja, Dluzhnevskaja), 1896-1981, was born in Russia and was trained at the Imperial Ballet School in St. Petersburg, graduating in 1913. She then joined the Maryinsky Ballet. In 1920 she left for Europe and danced with Diaghilev's Ballets Russes, where George Balanchine created roles for her including Polyhymnia in *Apollo* (1928) and the Siren in *Prodigal Son* (1929). Doubrovskaja married an acclaimed Russian dancer, Pierre Vladimiroff (Petr Nikolaev), in 1921, and they moved to the United States in 1934 when Vladimiroff was invited by Balanchine to teach at the School of American Ballet. Doubrovskaja was guest ballerina with de Basil's Ballets Russes in 1937 and the Metropolitan Opera Ballet in 1938-1939, but then retired from her performing career. In 1949 she joined the staff of the School of American Ballet, teaching the advanced girls' classes, and she remained on its staff until a year before her death.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Felia Doubrovskaja cover the period from c.1919 to the year of her death, 1981, and pertain to both her family and personal life and her professional career. The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence: approximately 43 letters and notes from Doubrovskaja, and 266 letters, cards, notes, telegrams to Doubrovskaja, with a small part of the correspondence to her mother (Valentina Dlouzhnevskaja) and to Vladimiroff. Of interest are 42 letters or notes from Mathilde Kshessinska and her husband the Grand Duke André, and 12 letters from Iurii (Yuri) Bakhrushin. The correspondence is divided into two groups: from Doubrovskaja, her husband and family; and from others, arranged alphabetically by correspondent and then chronologically under each name. (The spelling for the Russian names in the Folder List is that established at the Dance Collection.) The collection also contains 36 of Doubrovskaja's small diaries and address books and 1 belonging to her mother; notes for an autobiography of Vladimiroff (a small notebook written by Vladimiroff and some pages dictated to Doubrovskaja.); 7 contracts; and papers of Doubrovskaja's mother (Valentina Dlouzhnevskaja) including letters, diaries, stories, plays and poems. Included with this Register are 14 pages of background material, notes and some brief translations of items in this collection done by Irina Klyagin.

Arrangement: I. Correspondence; II. Papers of Valentina Dlouzhnevskaja; III. Notes for Vladimiroff autobiography; IV. Contracts for Doubrovskaja and Vladimiroff; V. Diaries, engagement calendars, and

address books

Key Terms

Subjects

Ballet dancers

Manuscripts -- Collections

Titles

Gift of John Taras

Names

Doubrovska, Felia, 1896-1981

Andrei_ Vladimirovich, Grand Duke, grandson of Alexander II, Emperor of Russia, 1879-

Bakhrushin, I_U_. A. (I_U_rii_ Alekseevich)

Cuevas, Georges, marquis de, 1885-1961

Kshesinskai_a_, Matil_da Feliksovna, 1872-1971

Lifar, Serge, 1905-1986

Pavlova, Anna, 1881-1931

Vladimiroff, Pierre, 1893-1970

Zeest, Marina

Container List

- I. Correspondence
 - Family
 - f. 1 f. 1 Doubrovska, Felja 1933-1938 (7)
 - f. 2 f. 1 19??-1951 (6)
 - Other
 - f. 14 f. 1 Adam, Helen n.d (1)
 - f. 15 Bakhrushin, Yuri 1948-1972 (12)
 - b. 1
 - f. 16 Blum, René 1936 (2)
 - b. 1
 - f. 16 Bonacci 1930 (1)
 - b. 1
 - Bourmeyster [see Dloujnevsky]
 - f. 16 Briffault, Herma, 1961 (1)
 - b. 1
 - f. 17 Cuevas, George, marquis de, 1944-1960 (12)
 - b. 1
 - f. 18 Dloujnevsky, M. & V., 1938-1947 (5)
 - b. 1 [includes Bourmeyster, 1947]
 - f. 191 Dolin, Anton, 1978-1979 (3)
 - f. 20 Egorova, Lubov, 1947 (1)
 - b. 1
 - f. 20 Ekstrom, Parmenia Migel, 1979 (1)
 - b. 1
- 2 f. 44-46 II. Papers of Valentina Dlouzhnevskaja (24 items)
- 2 f. 47 III. Notes for Vladimiroff autobiography (2 items)
- 2 f. 48 IV. Contracts for Doubrovska and Vladimiroff (7 items)
 - 1921-1922 with Diaghilev
 - 1930 with "Diaghileff Russian Ballet" (E. Ray Goetz)
 - 1931 with "La Troupe des Ballets-Russes" (E. Ray Goetz)
 - 1938 with Metropolitan Opera Association
 - 1962 with International Summer Dance Academy, Cologne