



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Caird Leslie papers**

1915-1965

(S) \*MGZMD 106

Processed by Irina Klyagin.

## Summary

**Creator:** Leslie, Caird, 1899-1970

**Title:** Caird Leslie papers

**Date:** 1915-1965

**Size:** 63 legal size folders in 4 document boxes

**Source:** No information available.

**Abstract:** The papers of Caird Leslie include personal and business correspondence, autobiographical writing, and notes on ballet technique, particularly as taught by Adolf Bolm.

**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:** Leslie, Caird Papers, (S) \*MGZMD 106, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Irina Klyagin.

## Creator History

Ballet dancer and teacher, Caird Leslie was born in Des Moines, Iowa ca. 1900 and died in New York City February 8, 1970. He was raised in Seattle and returned there to teach at the Cornish School from 1935-1950. He had a longtime association with Adolf Bolm for whom he danced at the Metropolitan Opera Ballet in "Petrouchka." Caird Leslie founded the Ballet Center Studio in New York City.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Caird Leslie include personal and business correspondence, autobiographical writing,

and notes on ballet technique, particularly as taught by Adolf Bolm. Description: Correspondence, contracts, and writings in English, French and German.

**Arrangement:** I. Personal Papers II. Contracts III. Correspondence IV. Writings V. Drawings VI. Books VII. Music Scores VIII. Photographs

## **Key Terms**

### **Occupations**

Ballet dancers

### **Subjects**

Manuscripts -- Collections

### **Names**

Leslie, Caird, 1899-1970

Bolm, Adolf, 1894-1951

Cornish, Nellie Centennial, 1876-1956

Dunham, Katherine

Gide, Andre\_, 1869-1951

Wiesenthal, Grete

Metropolitan Opera (New York, N.Y.). Ballet

## Container List

### I. Personal Papers

#### A) DOCUMENTS

- b. 1 f. 1 Drivers license, [Paris, ] 1931 (1 Item)
- b. 1 f. 1 Car registration card 1963 (2 Items)

### II. Contracts

- b. 1 f. 2 Metropolitan Opera House 1910 [?], 1919 (2 Items)
- b. 1 f. 2 Chicago Opera Association 1919 (1 Item)
- b. 1 f. 2 His Majesty's Theatre Haymarket 1923 (4 Items)

### III. Correspondence

#### A) PERSONAL

- b. 1 f. 3 Bolm, Adolf and Berta 1923-50 (11 Items)
- b. 1 f. 4 Brown, Millie n.d. (1 Item)
- b. 1 f. 5 Cornish, Nellie 1920-32 (4 Items)
- b. 1 f. 6 Gide, Andre 1932-33 (4 Items)
- b. 1 f. 7 Haller, Chichio 1921; 34; 35 (3 Items)
- b. 1 f. 8 Handforth, Thomas 1920 (2 Items)
- b. 1 f. 9 Howard, Ruth 1930 (1 Item)
- b. 1 f. 10 Keiner, Rudolf K. 1930 (1 Item)
- b. 1 f. 11 Miscellaneous [first names, or initials only] 1915-62 (10 Items)
- b. 1 f. 12 Nostiz, Helene 1930 (1 Item)
- b. 1 f. 13 Page, Ruth 1920, n.d. (2 Items)
- b. 1 f. 14 Partridge, Roy 1917 (1 Item)
- b. 1 f. 15 Shollar, Ludmila 1930 (1 Item)
- b. 1 f. 16 Wells, Mary Ann 1962 (1 Item)

#### B) BUSINESS

- b. 1 f. 17 American Dancer Magazine, The 1932 (1 Item)
- b. 1 f. 18 Bache technical letter 1964 (2 Items)
- b. 1 f. 19 Ballet Russes de Monte-Carlo Magazine 1949 (1 Item)
- b. 1 f. 20 Barclay Studios of Dance 1955; 58 (42 Items)  
letters, programs, clippings
- b. 1 f. 21 Barton, Mr. 1965 (1 Item)
- b. 1 f. 22 Charles B. Cochran 1932 (1 Item)
- b. 1 f. 23 Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc 1949 (1 Item)
- b. 1 f. 24 Cornish School 1927; 54 (6 Items)
- b. 1 f. 25 Daily News 1950 (1 Item)
- b. 1 f. 26 Dance Magazine 1949; 62; 64 (11 Items)  
incl. Marlene Burns Harding
- b. 1 f. 27 Denham, Serge 1949 (1 Item)
- b. 1 f. 28 Dunham, Katherine 1944 (2 Items)
- b. 1 f. 29 Fokine Ballet School n.d. (1 Item)

III. Correspondence (cont.)

B) BUSINESS (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 30 Juilliard School of Music 1965 (2 Items)
- b. 1 f. 31 Konzert-direktion Hermann Wolff U. Jules Sachs 1932 (1 Item)
- b. 1 f. 32 La Maison D'Art 1933 (1 Item)
- b. 1 f. 33 Manhattan School of Music 1965 (1 Item)
- b. 1 f. 34 Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance, Inc. 1965 (2 Items)
- b. 1 f. 35 Novikoff, Ivan 1955 (1 Item)
- b. 1 f. 36 "Pfeffermühle" cabaret 1933 (5 Items)  
incl. Erika Mann
- b. 1 f. 37 Photo-Atelier Jacobi 1931 (1 Item)
- b. 1 f. 38 Schuster-Martin School of the Drama, The 1925 (1 Item)
- b. 1 f. 39 Schwarz, Otto 1931 (2 Items)
- b. 1 f. 40 Stern, Isaac 1964 (1 Item)
- b. 1 f. 41 War Department 1918 (1 Item)
- b. 1 f. 42 Wiesenthal, Grete 1934; 49 (12 Items)

IV. Writings

A) Notebooks

- b. 2 f. 43-45 Autobiography n.d. (3 Items)
- b. 2 f. 46 Diaries n.d. (2 Items)
- b. 3 f. 47 Notation of Adolf Bolm ballet routine [41 lessons, positions at the bar] (1 Item)
- b. 3 f. 48 Ballet technique (1 Item)
- b. 3 B) Loose notes and drafts
- b. 3 f. 49 Autobiography (4 Items)  
inc. Lovena Leslie's, CL mother
- b. 3 f. 50 [Ballet studio] (1 Item)
- b. 3 f. 51 [Ballet technique] (1 Item)
- b. 3 f. 52 [Dancing lessons] (1 Item)
- b. 3 f. 53 "Homers humor" ballet scenario [in German] (1 Item)

C) Biographical essays

- b. 4 f. 54 [Cechetti and Russian ballet teachers] (1 Item)
- b. 4 f. 55 [Evolution of Ballet Schools, The]
- b. 4 f. 56 [Homage to Adolf Bolm] (1 Item)
- b. 4 f. 57 [Nicolai Legat] (1 Item)

V. Drawings

- b. 4 f. 58 Sketches in ink and pencil (7 Items)

VI. Books

- b. 4 f. 59 "The Art of Terpsichore", by Luigi Albertieri, NY 1923 (1 Item)  
incl. var. handwritten notes on ballet technique by Caird Leslie
- b. 4 f. 60 "Nijinsky", edited by Paul Magriel, NY 1946 (1 Item)  
incl. Bronislava Nijinska bus. card, a card and a note from Ludmilla Schollar.

b. 4 VII. Music scores

- b. 4 f. 61 *Las Espuelas, dance arranged by Caird Leslie [photocopy]* n.d. (1 Item)
- b. 4 f. 62 *Mercur, by Stephan Kovacs, Berlin* 1931 (1 Item)

VIII. Photographs

- b. 4 f. 63 Family snapshots, performing photographs (46 Items)