



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Anita Zahn professional and personal papers**

1920-1991

(S) \*MGZMD 120

Processed by Irina Klyagin.

## Summary

**Creator:** Zahn, Anita

**Title:** Anita Zahn professional and personal papers

**Date:** 1920-1991

**Size:** 134 legal size folders in 6 boxes

**Source:** Purchase.

**Abstract:** Correspondence, teaching notes, music scores, programs, clippings and personal documents related to Anita Zahn's professional career as a dancer, teacher and director of schools.

**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:** In English and German English

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

## Creator History

Anita Zahn (born in Germany in 1904) was among the nine students of the Isadora and Elizabeth Duncan School who were brought by Elizabeth Duncan to America at the outbreak of World War I in August of 1914. They performed in America until 1920 when they went back to Switzerland for the summer. Anita Zahn remained in Europe for two years, and in 1922 she returned to the United States. She taught at Carnegie Hall and gave performances with her group of young Duncan dancers. In the late twenties she became the director of the New York branch of the Elizabeth Duncan School, and later established her own, Anita Zahn School of Duncan Dancing, in New York. The school also had

branches in Summit, NJ, Nantucket (Siasconset), and Summer schools in New Jersey and East Hampton, Long Island. She also served as the faculty at The Spence School in New York for more than 20 years. From the late 1920s through mid 1960s, Anita Zahn arranged annual spring recitals of her school in New York as well as numerous performances in various theaters and halls. Among the most distinguished productions were "The Children's Christmas Story" (1953) with Leopold Stokowski as the director and conductor and Robert Edmond Jones as the designer; and "Arouse and Beware," a trilogy based on Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* (1936). She died in 1995.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Anita Zahn cover more than seventy years of her career as a dancer and school director and a member of the "Isadorables" circle. The collection consists mainly of clippings, programs and press material. Correspondence is fragmentary and does not give a full picture of Anita Zahn's professional or personal life. Of particular interest are materials related to Elizabeth Duncan School of Dance: correspondence with Elizabeth Duncan, diary notes on the 1920 season in Switzerland, clippings from European newspapers of the early 1910s and 1920s, and original programs of Isadora Duncan and Duncan school performances. The order within series is alphabetical.

**Arrangement:** I. Correspondence A. General B. School C. Personal II. Professional papers A. Teaching material B. Programs C. Clippings, publicity D. Scrapbooks III. Personal papers IV. Music scores

### **Key Terms**

#### **Occupations**

Dancers

#### **Names**

Zahn, Anita

Duncan, Anna, 1894-1980

Duncan, Augustin, 1873-1954

Duncan, Elizabeth, 1871-1948

Duncan, Margherita Sargent

Duncan, Raymond, 1874-1966

Kooluris, Hortense Dolan

Stokowski, Leopold, 1882-1977

Elizabeth Duncan-Schule

Isadora Duncan Dancers

## Container List

### I. Correspondence

#### A. General

- b. 1 f. 1 Bacon, Whipple 1985
- b. 1 f. 2 Barker, Dora 1927-28; 73-89
- b. 1 f. 3 Barrere, Georges 1935 n.d.
- b. 1 f. 4 Barzin, Leon Eugene 1949-50
- b. 1 f. 5 Bay Colony Financial Management, Inc. 1980
- b. 1 f. 6 Bennet, Vivienne 1953-71
- b. 1 f. 7 Bernt, Erick 1925-31, n.d
- b. 1 f. 8 Bogade, Eugene 1927-28
- b. 1 f. 9 Carnegie Hall 1987
- b. 1 f. 10 CBS News 1960-62
- b. 1 f. 11 Columbia University School of Architecture 1933
- b. 1 f. 12 Committee for the Isadora Duncan Centenary 1975-78
- b. 1 f. 13 Concert Management Arthur Judson 1932
- b. 1 f. 14 Croton Council on the Arts Inc. 1978
- b. 1 f. 15 Dance International 1937
- b. 1 f. 16 Daniel, Oliver 1976-82  
see also Stokowski, Leopold
- b. 1 f. 17 Duncan, Anna 1963
- b. 1 f. 18 Duncan, Augustin 1925
- b. 1 f. 19-21 Duncan, Elizabeth 1925-49
- b. 1 f. 22 Duncan, Margareta 1923-39
- b. 1 f. 23 Duncan, Raymond n.d.
- b. 1 f. 24 Genthe, Anold 1939; 41, n.d
- b. 1 f. 25 Guggenheimer & Untermyer 1938
- b. 1 f. 26 Guild Hall, East Hampton, NY 1978-81
- b. 1 f. 27 Howe, Fred n.d.
- b. 1 f. 28 The Isadora Duncan Foundation for Contemporary Dance, Inc. 1986
- b. 1 f. 29-30 Jones, Robert Edmond 1923-52, n.d
- b. 1 f. 31 The Juilliard School, [damaged] 1975
- b. 1 f. 32 Kane, Barbara 1991
- b. 1 f. 33 King, Joseph 1977
- b. 1 f. 34 King-Coit, Association 1950
- b. 1 f. 35 Kooluris, Hortense 1984-88, n.d  
include clippings, photos, programs
- b. 1 f. 36 Marshall, Jean E. 1937
- b. 1 f. 37 Martin, George 1981
- b. 1 f. 38 Metropolitan Museum of Art 1974-76
- b. 1 f. 39 Moskowitz, Edward A. 1934

I. Correspondence (cont.)

A. General (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 40 The New York Public Library 1937
- b. 1 f. 41 Osborne Trust Company 1948-49
- b. 1 f. 42 Pierce, Edna 1937
- b. 1 f. 43 Richter, Stanley, Mrs.  
Includes letter from Romola Nijinsky re film *Isadora*, 1969
- b. 1 f. 44 Sheridan, Frank 1935-49
- b. 1 f. 45 The Spence School 1930-92
- b. 1 f. 46 Stokowski, Leopold 1932; 54

B. School

Dance lessons requests and solicitation

- b. 1 f. 47 Annie Russell Theatre 1937
- b. 1 f. 47 Arcadian School 1978
- b. 1 f. 47 Bennett Junior College 1937; 56
- b. 1 f. 47 Board of Education, New Jersey 1940-41
- b. 1 f. 47 Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences 1937
- b. 1 f. 47 Childrens University School 1937
- b. 1 f. 47 Fredericks, Stacey n.d.
- b. 1 f. 47 Howes, Miss [carbon copy of AZ reply] 1940
- b. 1 f. 47 Morgan, Junius Spencer, Mrs. 1930; 35
- b. 1 f. 47 New Jersey Committee on the Cause and Cure of War 1938
- b. 1 f. 47 Patrician, Kotimsky & Tuchman 1969
- b. 1 f. 47 Riverdale Neighborhood and Library Association 1944
- b. 1 f. 47 Savoy Hilton, NY 1963
- b. 1 f. 47 Stagnes Guild of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church 1937
- b. 1 f. 47 State Education Department, Albany, NY 1937
- b. 1 f. 47 State Teachers College, New Jersey 1939
- b. 1 f. 47 Stope, Mary M. 1938
- b. 1 f. 47 Vassar Collrgr, Poughkeepsie, NY n.d.
- b. 1 f. 47 Williamson, Dorothy n.d.

Ticket requests, school patronage

- b. 1 f. 48 Bamman, Catharine A. 1933
- b. 1 f. 48 Cowan, Jack n.d.
- b. 1 f. 48 Colgate, Henry A. 1932
- b. 1 f. 48 Erbsloh, R., Mrs., [reply note written on AZ's letter to Mrs. Erbsloh]] 1932
- b. 1 f. 48 Erdmann, Annete W. 1932
- b. 1 f. 48 Evergood, Julia V. n.d.
- b. 1 f. 48 Hadley, B. n.d.
- b. 1 f. 48 Hollensteimer, Baldrige, Letitia 1972
- b. 1 f. 48 Hugston, M. n.d.
- b. 1 f. 48 Leis, Alice. 1932
- b. 1 f. 48 Lindeberg, H.T. 1932

I. Correspondence (cont.)

B. School (cont.)

Ticket requests, school patronage (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 48 Muschenheim, Frederick A., Mrs. 1932
- b. 1 f. 48 Miles, Billy 1932
- b. 1 f. 48 Miller, Helen C. 1932
- b. 1 f. 48 Morgenthau, Rita Wallach 1932
- b. 1 f. 48 Sayler, Oliver M. 1932
- b. 1 f. 48 Slesinger, Stephen 1932
- b. 1 f. 48 Sommaripa, Alexis, Mrs. n.d.
- b. 1 f. 48 Spra[gne?], Alice n.d.
- b. 1 f. 48 Vanderlip, Mrs. n.d.
- b. 1 f. 48 Wickser, Philip J. 1932
- b. 1 f. 48 Yurka, Blanche. [reply note written on AZ's letter to Miss Yurka] 1932
- b. 1 f. 48 Unintelligible 1932-33, n.d.

Thank-you letters

- b. 1 f. 49 Assarsson, Per. G., Mrs. 1961
- b. 1 f. 49 Barber, Walter 1928
- b. 1 f. 49 Bator, Peter A., Mrs. 1976
- b. 1 f. 49 Dance Teachers Advisory Committee 1948
- b. 1 f. 49 Goddar, Elsie 1938
- b. 1 f. 49 Junior Leage of the City of New York, Inc. 1965
- b. 1 f. 49 Kennedy, Caroline n.d.
- b. 1 f. 49 Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church 1948
- b. 1 f. 49 Nightingale-Bamford School n.d.
- b. 1 f. 49 Odell, Clarence P. 1933
- b. 1 f. 49 Romaines, The [family] n.d.
- b. 1 f. 49 Sauter, William 1943
- b. 1 f. 49 Dorothy n.d.
- b. 1 f. 49 Harold C[?] 1937
- b. 1 f. 49 Witt 1954

C. Personal correspondence

Family

- b. 1 f. 50 Mother 1922-26
- b. 1 f. 51 Father 1922-30
- b. 1 f. 52 Baumann, Raymond (husband) n.d.
- b. 1 f. 53 Baumann, Robert Edmond (son) 1927, 48, 64

Friends

- b. 1 f. 54-55 Aherne, Brian and Eleanor 1961
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Beenk, Rosemary 1982
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Bennett, Jessie n.d.
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Bliven, Bruce and Rose 1968
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Black Campbell E., Mrs. 1985
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Cassini, M. 1956

I. Correspondence (cont.)  
C. Personal correspondence (cont.)  
Friends (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 54-55 Coit, Elizabeth n.d.
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Costantini, Aggie 1977; 80
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Curnin, Thomas F. 1981
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Curtis, Helen Perry 1939; 73
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Curtis, Polly Eldridge 1939
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Eden, Beatrice 1947
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Field, Betty 1969
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Fox, Helen n.d.
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Gill, Frances & Leslie n.d.
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Goucher, Elizabeth 1979
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Hallbach, Connie 1937-39
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Hartman, Fran 1925-28
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Hinni, Kathleen n.d.
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Jessup, Philip C., Mrs. n.d.
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Lane, Erna n.d.
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Larsen, Jack Lenor 1963
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Leroi, Hanna 1977
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Liagre de, Alfred, Mr. & Mrs. 1932-84
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Lowenthal, Lillian 1984-87
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Mörrri, D. 1927-28
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Osborne, Harold S., Mrs 1978
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Petschek, Walter J. and Pamela 1977-78
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Puthmann, Helen n.d.
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Rattray, Arnold E., Mrs. 1969; 77
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Raymond, Catherine M. n.d.
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Raymond, Dana Merriam n.d.
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Reiner, Fritz 1935
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Sue, Pamela n.d.
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Smith Eiser, Peggy 1979
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Stantley, Ralph 1954
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Vicarg, Alma 1973
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Wade, Betsy 1977
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Whilliams, John F., Mr. & Mrs. 1960
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Whitesell, Susie 1960
- b. 1 f. 54-55 Whyte, W.L., Mrs. 1974

First name only:

- b. 1 f. 56 Carol n.d.
- b. 1 f. 56 Dorothy 1987
- b. 1 f. 56 Drew 1969
- b. 1 f. 56 Echo 1985-86
- b. 1 f. 56 Gene 1987

I. Correspondence (cont.)  
C. Personal correspondence (cont.)  
First name only: (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 56 Gertrude 1949
- b. 1 f. 56 Hally 1927
- b. 1 f. 56 Jane N. n. d.
- b. 1 f. 56 Jeanne n. d.
- b. 1 f. 56 Katharine n. d.
- b. 1 f. 56 Lucinde n. d.
- b. 1 f. 56 M. n.d.
- b. 1 f. 56 Marian 1927
- b. 1 f. 56 Margherita 1939
- b. 1 f. 56 Mary 1927
- b. 1 f. 56 Mary C.H. n. d.
- b. 1 f. 56 Monica n. d.
- b. 1 f. 56 Polly 1970
- b. 1 f. 56 Roh n.d.
- b. 1 f. 56 Susie n. d.
- b. 1 f. 56 Scherli 1937-38
- b. 1 f. 56 Triscran 1932
- b. 1 f. 57 Unidentified 1930-32, 76; 1948-55
- b. 1 f. 58 In German

II. Professional papers

A. Teaching material:

- b. 2 f. 59 Poetry for dance
- Notations of dances
- b. 2 f. 60 Bach's The Little Fugue in G Minor by
- b. 2 f. 60 Children Going to the Fair
- b. 2 f. 60 Haydn [intelligible]
- b. 2 f. 60 Mozart's Theme and variations in A Major
- b. 2 f. 60 Pavane
- b. 2 f. 60 Pizzicato Polka
- b. 2 f. 60 Shepherd's Dance
- b. 2 f. 60 Smetana's Polka
- b. 2 f. 60 Summit
- b. 2 f. 60 Unidentified
- Program notes for various productions
- b. 2 f. 61-62 Arouse and Beware
- b. 2 f. 61-62 The Creation
- b. 2 f. 61-62 The Christmas Story
- b. 2 f. 61-62 Dance of Waters
- b. 2 f. 61-62 Genesis
- b. 2 f. 61-62 Midsummer Night's Dream
- b. 2 f. 61-62 Nativity Play

II. Professional papers (cont.)

A. Teaching material: (cont.)

Program notes for various productions (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 61-62 Sparrow
- b. 2 f. 63-64 Books of verses used for performances
- b. 2 f. 65 Syllabi for Spence School classes
- b. 2 f. 66 Class rosters

B. Programs and clippings

Annual recitals: programs, press-releases, lists of patrons, correspondence, bills

- b. 2 f. 67-84 May 1926, 1932, 1934, 1939-42, 1944, 1946-60, 1962-65

- b. 2 f. 85 Individual performances: Isadora Duncan 1913-1928

School programs and announcements:

- b. 2 f. 86 Elizabeth Duncan School 1925-1960

Anita Zahn Schools:

- b. 2 f. 87-90 Anita Zahn and Duncan Dancers
- b. 2 f. 87-90 Anita Zahn School of the Duncan Dance
- b. 2 f. 87-90 Anita Zahn School of the Arts
- b. 2 f. 87-90 The Duncan Summer School of the Arts
- b. 2 f. 87-90 Anita Zahn Summer School of the Arts 1930-80s

C. Clippings, publicity material:

- b. 2 f. 91 Duncan, Isadora
- b. 2 f. 92 Duncan, Elizabeth
- b. 2 f. 93 "Isadorables"
- b. 2 f. 94 Zahn, Anita

D. Scrapbooks:

- b. 3 f. 95-98 Clippings and programs c.1929-1937
- b. 3 f. 99-114 Summer School scrapbooks, [currently at Grace's- IK] 1928, 1933, 1934, 1936-37, 1943-44, 1946, 1952, n.d

III. Personal papers

Certificates

- b. 3 f. 115 Certificate of Citizenship 1930
- b. 3 f. 115 American National Red Cross certificate 1943

Legal papers

- b. 3 f. 116 Marriage certificate 1926
- b. 3 f. 116 Divorce papers 1954
- b. 3 f. 117 Autobiography notes, interviews
- b. 3 f. 118 Leases 1932-36
- b. 3 f. 119 Travel itinerary 1975
- b. 3 f. 120 Appointment book 1948-72
- b. 3 f. 121-22 Diaries 1920-25, 31
- b. 4 f. 123-134 Agendas 1935, 1945-84

- b. 5 Postcards

IV. Music scores:

- b. 6 Compositions commissioned for AZ school:



IV. Music scores: (cont.)

Compositions commissioned for AZ school: (cont.)

- b. 6 Bauman, Raymond
- b. 6 Architectural
- b. 6 Machinal
- b. 6 Mood
- b. 6 Waltz in E Flat
- b. 6 Pitot, Genevieve (Sullivan)
- b. 6 Mazurka
- b. 6 Polka
- b. 6 Minuet
- b. 6 Waltz
- b. 6 Music to poems by James Joyce:
  - b. 6 I Hear An Army
  - b. 6 My Love Is In A Light Attire
  - b. 6 Oh, It Was Out by Donnycarney
  - b. 6 Rain Has Fallen All the Day
  - b. 6 Sleep Now, O Sleep Now
- b. 6 Shambaugh, Mary Effie
  - b. 6 Age and Wisdom
  - b. 6 Bird's Funeral
  - b. 6 Childhood
  - b. 6 Christmas Story
  - b. 6 Come into the Yellow Sands
  - b. 6 Country Life
  - b. 6 Cradle Song
  - b. 6 Cry over the Battlefield
  - b. 6 Demoniac
  - b. 6 Destiny
  - b. 6 Disillusion
  - b. 6 Jog On
  - b. 6 Ländler
  - b. 6 Primitive Chant
  - b. 6 Search
  - b. 6 Sketch For A Heroic March
  - b. 6 Some Summer Themes
  - b. 6 Spring Is Here
  - b. 6 Study
  - b. 6 Summer Rainbow
- b. 6 Albums:
  - b. 6 Bach, Iohann Sebastian
    - b. 6 Arioso
    - b. 6 Bach Album

IV. Music scores: (cont.)

Compositions commissioned for AZ school: (cont.)

Albums: (cont.)

Bach, Iohann Sebastian (cont.)

- b. 6 English Suites
- b. 6 Organ Fugue in G Minor
- b. 6 Organ Works
- b. 6 Piano Solos and Ensemble
- b. 6 The Well-Tempered Clavicord
- b. 6 Beethoven, Liudwig van
- b. 6 Symphonie No 9
- b. 6 Berlin, Irving
- b. 6 Easter Parade
- b. 6 Brahms, Johannes
- b. 6 Hungarian Dances vol. I-II
- b. 6 Piano-Album
- b. 6 Chopin, Frederic
- b. 6 Mazurkas
- b. 6 Polonaises
- b. 6 Preludes
- b. 6 Waltzes
- b. 6 Frank, Cesar
- b. 6 Prelude, Chorale and Fugue
- b. 6 Gluck, Christoph Willibald, Ritter von
- b. 6 Air Gai for small orchestra
- b. 6 Dance of Amazons from Iphigenia on Tauris
- b. 6 Grieg, Edvard
- b. 6 Norwegian Dances
- b. 6 Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus
- b. 6 Eine Kleine Nachtmusik
- b. 6 First Mass in C Major
- b. 6 Les petit Riens
- b. 6 The Magic Flute
- b. 6 Minuetto
- b. 6 Mendellsohn-Bartholdy, Felix
- b. 6 Midsummer Night's Dream
- b. 6 Sommernachtstraum
- b. 6 Mussorgsky, Modest Petrovich
- b. 6 Pictures at an Exhibition
- b. 6 Prokofiev, Sergey
- b. 6 Piano solos
- b. 6 Reger, Max
- b. 6 10 Kleine Vortragsstücke
- b. 6 Scarlatti, Domenico
- b. 6 Klavierwerke

IV. Music scores: (cont.)

Compositions commissioned for AZ school: (cont.)

Albums: (cont.)

- b. 6 Schubert, Franz
- b. 6 Ausgewählte Lieder
- b. 6 Fünf unbekannte Ecosaisen
- b. 6 Klavierwerke
- b. 6 Rosamunde
- b. 6 Summlung Beliebter Stücke
- b. 6 Schumann, Robert
- b. 6 Album for the Young and Scenes from Childhood
- b. 6 The Two Grenadiers
- b. 6 Strauss, Johann
- b. 6 Album for Piano v. I, III
- b. 6 Favorite pieces for the piano
- b. 6 Tchaikowsky, Peter Ilich
- b. 6 The Nutcracker Suite
- b. 6 Wagner, Richard
- b. 6 Der Fliegende Holländer
- b. 6 Klavier-Album
- b. 6 Miscellaneous albums
- b. 6 Alte Meister
- b. 6 American Country Dances
- b. 6 Christmas Carols
- b. 6 Classwork music collection
- b. 6 Folk dances from Old Homelands
- b. 6 Meister fur die Jugend
- b. 6 Minuett Album
- b. 6 Original Landler
- b. 6 Piano solos