



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Susan Bindig collection on Wendy Hilton

1937-2003

(S) *MGZMD 441

Compiled by Heather Lember, 2016.

Summary

Creator: Bindig, Susan

Title: Susan Bindig collection on Wendy Hilton

Date: 1937-2003

Size: 1.68 linear feet (4 boxes)

Source: Donated by Susan F. Bindig, 2012.

Abstract: Wendy Hilton was a choreographer, dancer, instructor, researcher, and author specializing in Baroque dance. Her papers contain files related to her dance performance and teaching career; her early life in England; and her research files and plans from her unpublished book, *A Celebration of Lully*. Hilton's papers were compiled by her biographer, Susan Bindig, who authored the book, *Wendy Hilton: A Life in Baroque Dance and Music*.

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>

Conditions Governing Use: The author/creator retains the copyright of materials. For information on obtaining permission to publish, contact the Dance Division at dance@nypl.org.

Preferred citation: Susan Bindig collection on Wendy Hilton, (S) *MGZMD 441. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Heather Lember, 2016.

Creator History

Wendy Hilton (1931-2002) was born in England, and began studying dance at age nine. At fourteen, she enrolled in the Rambert School of Ballet, where she developed her lifelong interest in historical dance. Hilton began her ballet career in film and television in 1952, landing roles in various BBC

television productions, and films such as *Never Let Me Go*, *Knights of the Round Table*, *Beau Brummel*, and *Tunes of Glory*.

Hilton started teaching dance in 1960 as a historical dance instructor in London. One of her students introduced her to Rosalyn Tureck, who invited Hilton to New York City in 1968 to direct the Dance Collegium of Tureck's International Bach Society. After relocating to New York, Hilton was hired at Juilliard in 1972, where she taught courses in historical dance until 1994. She was also an instructor and guest lecturer at City College in New York, the Manhattan School of Music, Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies; Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand, University of California at Riverside; Rutgers University – Douglass College; Montclair State University, and SUNY Purchase.

In addition to teaching and performing, Hilton was also the author of the book *Dance of Court & Theater: The French Noble Style, 1690-1725*, which was published in 1981. She authored a number of articles in various dance publications throughout her career, and collaborated with the conductor, music director, scholar, and fellow Juilliard instructor, Baird Hastings on an unpublished book, *A Celebration of Lully*, about the French baroque composer, instrumentalist, and dancer, Jean-Baptiste Lully.

Scope and Content Note

The collection dates from 1931 to 2003 and contains items chronicling the life and career of Wendy Hilton. The bulk of the files consist of materials compiled by Hilton's biographer, Susan Bindig, which she consulted in writing the book, *Wendy Hilton: A Life in Baroque Dance and Music* (2010).

Files recounting Hilton's dance performance career contain clippings of articles and reviews, fliers, photographs, and programs. These files also hold a selection of awards and honors, Hilton's United States immigration paperwork, and a 1974 Certificate of Business for the Wendy Hilton Dance Company.

The Teaching and Choreography files are mostly comprised of materials from Hilton's time at Juilliard and Stanford, which are all found in box 2. There are also files from her instruction and workshops at Douglas College, University of California, Victoria University of Wellington, and Montclair State University.

Hilton's Writing and Research contains articles written by Hilton, and a selection of files with information and plans for the unpublished book, *A Celebration of Lully*. These folders hold correspondence with publishers, drafts, notes, sheet music, and research files.

The Personal files consist of Hilton's correspondence, photographs from her youth in England, and items related to her memorial service.

Arrangement: Files are arranged chronologically by topic.

Key Terms

Occupations

Ballerinas
Choreographers

Dance teachers
Dancers

Subjects

Choreography
Dance -- 17th century
Dance -- 18th century
Dance -- Study and teaching

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Clippings
Correspondence
Photographs
Research

Geographic Names

Great Britain
New York (N.Y.)

Names

Hastings, Baird
Hilton, Wendy
Lully, Jean-Baptiste, 1632-1687
Juilliard School of Music

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-24 Dance Performance Career 1951-2001
Teaching and Choreography
- b. 2 f. 1-11 1972-2001
- b. 3 f. 1-10 1972-1994
Writing and Research
- b. 3 f. 11-16 1979-1985
- b. 4 f. 1-8 1979-1988
- b. 4 f. 9-14 Personal 1937-2003