



The New York Public Library
Music Division

Guide to the

George Copeland papers

ca. 1910-1967

JPB 91-135

Summary

Creator: Copeland, George, 1882-1971

Title: George Copeland papers

Date: ca. 1910-1967

Size: .6 cubic ft.

Source: Gift, McCall, Monica, 05/10/79

Abstract: An American pianist, George Copeland introduced the works of Debussy to the United States and also specialized in the works of Spanish composers. His many friends and associates included John Singer Sargent, Mary Garden, Isadora Duncan, Mrs. Fiske, Sarah Bernhardt, Melba, Calvé, Lina Cavaliere, Maggie Teyte, Mrs. Jack Gardner, Debussy, De Falla, Laurette Taylor, and Marie Dressler. Shortly after World War I, Copeland stayed in Kronberg with the family of Margarethe of Hesse, Princess of Prussia, sister of Kaiser Wilhelm. Biographical and autobiographical writings, letters, photoprints and drawings, 3 musical scores, and other items relating to the career of George Copeland. The collection includes drafts of a biographical essay about Copeland by Frederic Bradlee; drafts of Copeland's autobiography; Copeland's essay "Debussy, the Man I Knew" from *The Atlantic Monthly*, Jan. 1955; 14 letters from Margarethe of Hesse, Princess of Prussia (signed "Margaret") and 7 letters from other members of her family, 1922-30, 1952-54; 2 letters from Mary Garden; 1 letter from Manuel de Falla; 41 photographs and 3 other portraits of Copeland, 26 photographs of Copeland with others of whom 15 are unidentified; 6 photographs of Copeland's mother; 17 photographs of Copeland's friends and colleagues of whom 9 are unidentified; a reproduction of a pencil drawing of Debussy by B. Solofareff; and a manuscript score of the song *A Doctor's Advice* by Copeland.

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>

Physical Location: *ZB-4371 [Microfilm]

Alternative Form Available: Music my life, drafts of George Copeland's autobiography. Available also

in microfilm as part of the George Copeland papers collection (JPB 91-135 : Box 2, f. 19); service copy classmark: *ZB-4371

Preferred citation: George Copeland papers, Music Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: Chiefly in English ; the letter from De Falla is in French

Creator History

An American pianist, George Copeland introduced the works of Debussy to the United States and also specialized in the works of Spanish composers. His many friends and associates included John Singer Sargent, Mary Garden, Isadora Duncan, Mrs. Fiske, Sarah Bernhardt, Melba, Calvé, Lina Cavaliere, Maggie Teyte, Mrs. Jack Gardner, Debussy, De Falla, Laurette Taylor, and Marie Dressler. Shortly after World War I, Copeland stayed in Kronberg with the family of Margarethe of Hesse, Princess of Prussia, sister of Kaiser Wilhelm.

Scope and Content Note

Biographical and autobiographical writings, letters, photoprints and drawings, 3 musical scores, and other items relating to the career of George Copeland. The collection includes drafts of a biographical essay about Copeland by Frederic Bradlee; drafts of Copeland's autobiography; Copeland's essay "Debussy, the Man I Knew" from *The Atlantic Monthly*, Jan. 1955; 14 letters from Margarethe of Hesse, Princess of Prussia (signed "Margaret") and 7 letters from other members of her family, 1922-30, 1952-54; 2 letters from Mary Garden; 1 letter from Manuel de Falla; 41 photographs and 3 other portraits of Copeland, 26 photographs of Copeland with others of whom 15 are unidentified; 6 photographs of Copeland's mother; 17 photographs of Copeland's friends and colleagues of whom 9 are unidentified; a reproduction of a pencil drawing of Debussy by B. Solofareff; and a manuscript score of the song *A Doctor's Advice* by Copeland.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Articles
Autobiographies (literary works)
Biographies
Drafts (preliminary versions)
Letters
Musical scores
Photoprints
Portraits

Occupations

Pianists

Names

Copeland, George, 1882-1971
Debussy, Claude, 1862-1918
Margarethe of Hesse, Princess of Prussia
American Music Collection