

Guide to the Myra Kinch Papers, 1920-1970

(S) *MGZMD 205

Jerome Roberts Dance Division

**The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
New York, New York**

Contact Information

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Descriptive Summary

Title:	Myra Kinch Papers
Collection ID:	(S)*MGZMD 205
Creator:	Kinch, Myra
Extent:	2 linear feet (4 boxes)
Repository:	Jerome Roberts Dance Division. The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Abstract:

The Myra Kinch papers contain handwritten choreographic notes, photographs, and scores relating to the career of noted choreographer and dancer, Myra Kinch.

Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open to the public. Library policy on photocopying will apply. Advance notice may be required.

Publication Rights

For permission to publish, contact the Curator, Jerome Roberts Dance Division.

Preferred Citation

Myra Kinch Papers, (S)*MGZMD 205, Jerome Roberts Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Custodial History

The Myra Kinch Papers were donated to the library as a gift from the Myra Kinch estate.

Processing Information

The collection was processed and cataloged in 2007.

Biographical Note

Myra Kinch was born in 1904. A graduate of UCLA, she trained as a dancer with Muriel Stuart, Eugenia Eduardova, and Vincenzo Celli. She also studied abroad in Germany in the 1920s. In the 1930s, Kinch returned to the United States to become director and choreographer of the West Coast Dance Project of the Federal Theater Project, a program created under the New Deal. In 1948 Kinch was named head of the modern dance department at the Jacob's Pillow dance school and summer festival, where she remained for twenty five years. Kinch's dance repertoire was composed of satires. She lampooned diverse subjects like a weary circus dancer, a family of acrobats, and stereotypes of classic ballet. Myra Kinch died in Bonita Springs, Florida in 1981 at the age of 77.

Scope and Content Note

The Myra Kinch Papers primarily consist of handwritten choreography notes for many of Kinch's dance compositions. The collection also includes photographs of her works being performed, as well as photographs of Kinch herself. Handwritten scores created to accompany Kinch's dance compositions are also represented in the collection.

Organization

The collection is divided into three series. They are:

Series I: Choreographic Notes, 1940-1970

Series II: Photographs, 1920-1970

Series III: Scores, 1940-1970

Series Descriptions

Series I: Choreographic Notes, undated

2 boxes

Arrangement: Alphabetical

This series contains handwritten notation describing in detail many of Kinch's dance compositions. These are often drafts in pencil, bound in notebook form. Though undated, most of these materials range from 1940-1970.

Series II: Photographs, 1920-1930, undated

1 box

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Photographs primarily consist of documentation of individual dances being performed, both by Kinch and by members of her dance ensembles. There are also some personal photographs of Kinch included in this series.

Series III: Scores, 1956, undated

1 box

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Scores include handwritten sheet music used to accompany several of Kinch's dance compositions. Most are pencil drafts, and the scores are uncredited to any one composer.

Container Listing**Series I: Choreographic Notes, 1940-1970**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
1	1	<i>Bajour</i>
	2	<i>Concerto Groseo</i>
	3	<i>Drum and Cymbal Dance</i>
	4	<i>Electra</i>
	5	<i>Giselle's Revenge</i>
	6	<i>Magnolia for Three</i>
	7	<i>Of Dreadful Magic</i>
	8	<i>Plans for Class</i>
	9	Revolt of the Workers

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
2	1	<i>Ring a Peg</i>
	2	<i>Robosa</i>
	3	<i>Sappro Syncopto</i>
	4	<i>Shakespeare Haiku</i>
	5	<i>Sound of Darkness</i>
	6	<i>Synkopto</i>
	7	<i>To Unfurl the Fan</i>
	8	<i>Tomb for Two</i>
	9	<i>Veni Creator</i>
	10	<i>Waltz is a Waltz</i>
	11	Where Ever the Land Is

Series II: Photographs, 1920-1930, undated

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
3	1	<i>The Angels of Puno</i> , undated
	2	Company pictures, undated
	3	<i>Giselle's Revenge</i> , undated
	4	<i>Greek Trilogy</i> , undated
	5	Myra Kinch, 1920-1930
	6	<i>Sound of Darkness</i> , undated
	7	<i>To Unfurl the Fan</i> , undated
	8	<i>Tomb for Two</i> , undated

Series III: Scores, 1956, undated

<u>Box</u>	<u>Fol</u>	
4	1	<i>Angels of Puno</i> , undated
	2	<i>Angels Song and Dance</i> , undated
	3	<i>Bajour</i> , 1956
	4	<i>Frontiers of Faith</i> , undated
	5	<i>Giselle's Revenge</i> , undated
	6	<i>Sappho Synkopto</i> , undated
	7	<i>Sound of Darkness</i> , undated
	8	<i>Three Classic Gestures</i> , undated
	9	<i>Tomb for Two</i> , undated
	10	<i>Tower of Rage</i> , undated
	11	<i>A Troubled Mind</i> , undated