

**The New York Public Library
New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center
Jerome Robbins Dance Division**

Guide to the

Richard Stuart papers

1923-1981

(S)*MGZMD 305

Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, March 2013

Summary

Creator: Stuart, Richard

Title: Richard Stuart papers, 1923-1981

Size: .84 linear foot (2 boxes)

Source: Donated by the estate of Richard and Flora Stuart, Marion Horosko, 1990 and 1993

Abstract: The collection documents adagio and ballroom dancers from the 1920s to the 1970s. This small collection is mostly comprised of diaries and photographs. There are two diaries of Richard Stuart's early career as an adagio dancer in New York City during the 1920s. The photographs are adagio and ballroom dancers with some minor related ephemera. This collection was to be a foundation for a book on dancing couples, never completed, by Richard Stuart and writer/dancer Marian Horosko.

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

Copyright information: For permission to publish, contact the curator, Jerome Robbins Dance Division.

Preferred citation: Richard Stuart papers, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

Creator history

Richard Stuart was born Richard Stuart Mackall in Fairmont, West Virginia in 1901. Stuart, an adagio dancer, danced professionally from the 1920s to the late 1950s. A couple's dancer, he first partnered with Claire Lea, his first wife, from 1927 to the mid 1930s. They were professionally known as "Stuart and Lea." His second partner, Flora Ossana, also worked professionally under the name "Stuart and Lea" because of the public name recognition. After their marriage in 1944, the couple changed the name to "Richard and Flora Stuart."

Scope and content note

The collection documents the adagio dancer and the ballroom dancer from the 1920s through the 1970s mostly with diaries and photographs. Richard Stuart's two diaries, 1925 to 1929, were daily entries of his training as an adagio dancer in New York City, his local performances, and social activities.

The photographs of dancing couples that were created for publicity, depict couples performing adagio and ballroom dancing. Some of these black and white photographs were autographed as gifts to Stuart. These photographs include Stuart dancing the famous "Cape Dance" with Claire Lea, and with his second wife Flora Ossana Stuart. The dancing couples depicted also include several photographs of Irene Castle dancing with William Reardon (1923). This collection was to be used for a completed book tentatively titled "Dancing Couples" by Richard Stuart and Marian Horosko. The files also have a rare issue of "Shadowland," the dance magazine (1923).

Arrangement

The collection is arranged by format.

Key terms

Subjects

Adagio dancing

Dancers

Dancers -- 20th century

Dancers -- United States

Exhibition ballroom dancing -- 1900-1924

Exhibition ballroom dancing -- 1925-1950

Exhibition ballroom dancing -- 195

Occupations

Dancers

Places

New York (N.Y.)

Names

Stuart, Flora, d.1993

Stuart, Richard

Special formats

Diaries

Ephemera

Photographs

Container list

- b.1 f.1-2 Diaries, 1925-1929
- b.1 f.3-5 Correspondence/Notes, 1945, 1980-1981
- b.1 f.6-18 Photographs of Dancing Couples, 1923-1970s
The photographs are alphabetically arranged
 - b.2 f.1 Photograph of Dancing Couple, undated
This is an oversize photograph of the Dinaros
 - b.2 f.2 *Shadowland Magazine*, 1923