

**Guide to the Selma Jeanne Cohen *International Encyclopedia of Dance*
Records, 1964-1995**

(S) *MGZMD 151

Jerome Robbins Dance Division

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

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Descriptive Summary

Title:	Selma Jeanne Cohen International Encyclopedia of Dance Records
Collection ID:	(S) *MGZMD 151
Creator:	Cohen, Selma Jeanne
Extent:	3.5 linear feet (7 boxes)
Repository:	Jerome Robbins Dance Division. The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts
Abstract:	The International Encyclopedia of Dance Records document the development of the <i>International Encyclopedia of Dance</i>, a grant funded project of the Dance Perspectives Foundation, Inc. The collection includes professional correspondence, meeting minutes and conference materials.

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 Robbins Dance Division.

Preferred Citation

International Encyclopedia of Dance Records, (S) *MGZMD 151, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Custodial History

International Encyclopedia of Dance Records were donated to the Jerome Robbins Dance Division by Selma Jeanne Cohen in 1994

Processing Information

The collection was processed and cataloged in 2005

Historical Note

Selma Jeanne Cohen was born in Chicago, IL in 1920. She received an A.A. degree from Stephens College and an A.B., M.A., and Ph.D. (in English) from the University of Chicago. In the late 1940s, after earning her doctorate in English Literature, and took her first teaching assignment at University of California at Los Angeles. She remained a teacher and lecturer throughout the 1950s and began publishing articles on the history of dance and theater in scholarly journals. Cohen co-founded the *Dance Perspectives* quarterly journal in 1959. One of the first journals dedicated to international dance history, *Dance Perspectives* became a respected publication with Cohen as its editor from 1966-1976. Cohen spent much of the 1960s teaching at the Connecticut College Dance Department, eventually becoming Founder-Director of the Connecticut College American Dance Festival Critics' Conferences in 1970-1972. Cohen held positions at Smith College and lectured for the Five College, Incorporated. In the 1970's, Cohen held graduate seminars at Sarah Lawrence College and University of Chicago on dance history. She was Founder-Director of the University of Chicago Seminars in Dance History (1974-1976), a three-week course which was the first intensive seminar on dance history.

The *International Encyclopedia of Dance* (IED) began as a project of the Dance Critics Association intended to address the need for a comprehensive scholarly encyclopedia for the field of dance. The first National Endowment of the Arts (NEH) grant in support of the encyclopedia was awarded to the Dance Perspectives Foundation, Inc. in 1976 to help fund a planning conference of leading dance scholars. The scholars in attendance at this meeting would help set up the structure and content of the proposed encyclopedia. The IED was planned to be a multivolume work with an international scope covering all forms of dance in all countries of the world. After being awarded a second grant, the Dance Perspectives Foundation undertook full sponsorship of the IED in 1977 and formed an editorial board that could help realize the publication.

As the project grew, the editorial board found it necessary to expand the number of commissioned articles to adequately meet its objective of worldwide coverage. Due to difficulties of communication between the editorial board and international consultants, the encyclopedia's publication date was delayed over the course of the 1980s. The project passed from Charles Scribner's Sons to Macmillan Publishing and was delayed by publication cost issues, and the lack of editorial knowledge on behalf of the publishers' copy editors. Since much of the material written for the IED was original, it proved difficult for the publishers to fact check the articles, some of which were not written in English. Sadly, parts of the IED manuscript and editorial correspondence were lost during the physical transition from Scribner's to Macmillan. The University of California Press agreed to take on the project in 1988, a relationship that would last until 1993 when budget cuts in the California university system forced the publisher to abandon the project. Ultimately, the IED achieved realization when the Oxford University Press agreed to edit, restore and expand the manuscript in 1994. Manuscripts were retyped, dance scholars were allowed to act as editorial consultants, and to develop a rigorous style scheme and format. Two thousand illustrations and three hundred new articles were commissioned. The IED was published as a six volume large format set in 1998.

Scope and Content Note

The *International Encyclopedia of Dance* Records document the encyclopedia from its inception as a project of the Dance Perspective Foundation, Inc. until 1994 when it was taken over by the Oxford University Press. The collection contains meeting minutes, correspondence and financial records detailing the history of the intellectual efforts behind the creation of the encyclopedia. Much of the correspondence is to and from Selma Jeanne Cohen and the editorial boards of the IED and her Dance Perspectives Foundation, Inc. There is a large amount of material from the International Theater Institute conference in 1988, at which the IED was discussed.

Related Materials

The related materials can be found in the Jerome Robbins Dance Division.

Selma Jeanne Cohen Papers, 1942-1993, (S)*MGZMD 145

Selma Jeanne Cohen Papers Relating to Dance Perspectives, 1959-1976, (S) *MGZMD 56,

Selma Jeanne Cohen Papers Relating to Teaching and Critical Writing Projects, 1965-1973, (S) *MGZMD 62

Organization

The collection is organized into 3 series and 4 sub-series. They are:

Series I: Dance Perspectives Foundation, 1964-1995

Sub-series 1 – Board of Directors Materials, 1968-1995, and undated

Sub-series 2 – Correspondence, 1964-1993, and undated

Series II: International Encyclopedia of Dance Files, 1974-1991

Sub-series 1 – Correspondence, 1974-1991

Sub-series 2 – General Files, 1976-1985, and undated

Series III: International Theater Institute Conference, Essen Germany, 1986-1989

Series Descriptions

Series I: Dance Perspectives Foundation, 1964-1995

2 boxes

Arrangement: Alphabetical

The Dance Perspective Foundation (DPF) series contains executive board minutes and correspondence. DPF was involved in beginning work on the IED, and developing its intellectual scope and editorial style.

Sub-series 1: – Board of Directors Materials, 1968-1995

1 box

Arrangement: Chronological

This sub-series contains minutes, agendas and memos related to meetings of the Board of Directors of the Dance Perspective Foundation, Inc.

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Sub-series 2: – Correspondence, 1964-1993 **1 box**

Arrangement: Alphabetical

The correspondence in this sub-series is between Selma Jeanne Cohen and other scholars and professionals interested in and affiliated with the Dance Perspectives Foundation, Inc. There is also correspondence between other members of DPF, including the president Curtis L. Carter.

Series II: International Encyclopedia of Dance Files, 1974-1991 **2.5 boxes**

Arrangement: Alphabetical

The *International Encyclopedia of Dance* files contains files related to the creation of the encyclopedia, including correspondence, board minutes and grant applications.

Sub-series 1 – Correspondence, 1974-1991 **2 boxes**

Arrangement: Alphabetical

The correspondence is mostly between Selma Jeanne Cohen, and scholars, authors and editors involved with the creation of the IED. This sub-series also includes correspondence with the various publishing companies who were affiliated with the encyclopedia.

Sub-series 2 – General Files, 1976-1985, and undated **.5 box**

Arrangement: Alphabetical

The general files sub-series contains files from editorial board of the IED, including meeting minutes and grant application information. Style guidelines for submissions to the encyclopedia are also contained in this series.

Series III: International Theater Institute Conference, 1987-1989 **2 boxes**

Arrangement: Alphabetical

The International Theater Institute Conference materials are from a World Congress of the ITI held in Essen, Germany in 1988. The series includes correspondence with some of the scholars who assisted in the creation of the IED. The series also includes presentations and event programs from the conference.

Selma Jeanne Cohen International Encyclopedia of Dance Records

Box/Folder Description

Series I: Dance Perspectives Foundation, 1968-1994

Sub-Series 1: Board of Directors Materials, 1968-1995, and undated Board minutes, 1968-1995

Box 1

- F. 1 1968-1972
 - F. 2 1973-1976
 - F. 3 1981-1988
 - F. 4 1989-1990
 - F. 5 1991
 - F. 6 1992
 - F. 7 1993
 - F. 8 1994
 - F. 9 1995
 - F. 10 By-laws, fund raising and fiscal reports, 1990-1995
 - F. 11 Files and agendas, undated
 - F. 12 Letters to contributors, 1971
 - F. 13 List of contributors, 1971
 - F. 14 Tax information, 1967-1972 (State and US government tax files.)
- Sub-series 2: Correspondence, 1964-1993, and undated
- F. 15 A-B, 1968-1983
 - F. 16 Black, Sheppard, 1964-1965
 - F. 17 Bueno, Mary, 1991-1993
 - F. 18 C-D, 1969-1993
 - Carter, Curtis L.

Box 2

- F. 1 1987-1988
- F. 2 1991-1992
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- F. 4 E-I, 1970-1993
- F. 5 Gilman, Howard, 1971
- F. 6 Herron, Carloline Rand, 1969-1971
- F. 7 J-P, 1967-1993
- F. 8 Johnson Reprint Corporation, 1971-1978
- F. 9 Kirstein, Lincoln, 1968-1970
- F. 10 Kong, Gail, 1971-1974
- F. 11 Kretschmer, Doris, 1993
- F. 12 Liebert, Mary Ann, 1975-1976 (Marcel Dekker Inc.)
- F. 13 MacGregor, Robert, 1968-1974
- F. 14 McGinley, Michael, 1984-1986
- F. 15 New York State Council on the Arts, 1968-1970
- Nichols, Madeleine N., 1986-1993
- F. 16 1986-1987
- F. 17 1991-1993
- F. 18 Perdigao, Maria Madalena Azerado, 1969
- F. 19 Pischl, Al, 1962-1967
- F. 20 R-S, 1968-1986
- F. 21 Reynolds, Nancy, 1991-1993
- F. 22 Sommers, Ben, 1968-1977 (Capezio Foundation, Inc.)
- F. 23 Stenau, Leslie, 1977-1979
- F. 24 T-Z, 1969-1987
- F. 25 Torre Bueno, J. R. de la, 1966-1974
- F. 26 Woodard, Robin, L., 1976-1987

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Box/Folder	Description
F. 27	Woodford, Charles, 1968-1979
F. 28	Unidentified Correspondence
F. 29	1969-1979
	1987-1991
<u>Series II: International Encyclopedia of Dance Files, 1974-1990</u>	
Sub-series I: Correspondence, 1974-1991	
Box 3	
F. 1	A-C, 1976-1990
F. 2	Aguera, Helen C., 1986
F. 3	Albert, Allan, 1983-1984
F. 4	Aschengreen, Erik, 1977
F. 5	Beck, Kirsten, 1976-1977
F. 6	Bram, Leon, 1976-1977
F. 7	Brinson, Peter, 1976-1980
F. 8	Brockett, Oscar G., 1978
F. 9	Brownstone, Patricia, 1978
F. 10	Carter, Curtis L, 1988-1991
F. 11	Christout, Marie-Francoise, 1976
F. 12	D-G, 1975-1984
F. 13	DeBaets, Timothy, 1981-1985
F. 14	De Bruhl, Marshall, 1977-1978
F. 15	De Mille Prude, Agnes, 1980
F. 16	Epstein, Paul, 1976
F. 17	Farr, George, 1978-1981
F. 18	Goldener, Nancy, 1977
F. 19	Goodman, William B., 1977
F. 20	H-N, 1976-1981
F. 21	Javitz, Jacob, 1977
F. 22	Jowitt, Deborah, 1980
F. 23	Kirstein, Lincoln, 1976-1983
F. 24	Lloyd, Norman, 1976-1977
F. 25	Marcuse, Richard, 1983
F. 26	Marks, Marcia, 1974-1980
F. 27	Mason, John, 1974-1976
F. 28	McGinley, Michael, 1985-1986
F. 29	Nichols, Madeleine N., 1989-1990
F. 30	O-R, 1976-1985
F. 31	Ormston, Ruth White, 1977
	Publishers, 1977-1979
F. 32	Cambridge University Press, 1986-1987
F. 33	Grolier, 1977
F. 34	MacMillan, 1979
F. 35	McGraw, 1977
F. 36	Schirmer, 1979
F. 37	Scribner's, 1977-1985
F. 38	Wesleyan University Press, 1977
F. 39	Wiley, 1977
F. 40	Reynolds, Nancy, 1977-1988
F. 41	Rockefeller Foundation, 1977-1985
F. 42	Royce, Anya Peterson, 1976-1980
F. 43	Rushton, Brian, 1985
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F. 1	S-X, 1975-1985
F. 2	Sader, Marian, 1978
F. 3	Sandrock, Jillian Steiner, 1985-1986
F. 4	Thompson, Marcia T., 1983
F. 5	Wallace, David J. 1985
F. 6	Wartenberger, Dorothy, 1984-1985
F. 7	Woodward, Robin, 1982-1985
F. 8	Unidentified correspondence, 1976-1990 Sub-series 2: General Files, 1976-1985, and undated Clippings, 1976-1977
F. 9	1976-77
F. 10	1978 Editorial board papers, 1976-1977 Agendas, memoranda and proposals, 1976-1990, and undated
F. 11	1976
F. 12-14	1977
F. 15	1980
F. 16	1986-1987
F. 17	1989-1990
F. 18	Undated
F. 19	Dance Encyclopedia Conference, 1976 (Transcription of tape recording.)
F. 20	Fundraising, 1980-1981 (Includes forms and notes by SJC)
F. 21	Planning conference, 1976 (Information on IED planning.) Grant applications, 1975-1985
Box 5	
F. 1	1975-1976
F. 2	1977
F. 3	1978-1980
F. 4	1981-1985
F. 5	Letters of endorsement, 1980-1981 (Letters acknowledging receipt of grants.)
F. 6	Photos, 1976 Style and formatting, 1985-1987, and undated
F. 7	IED Style Manual, 1985-1987
F. 8	Sample article and draft guidelines, undated
<u>Series III: International Theater Institute Conference, Essen, Germany, 1986-1989</u>	
Correspondence, 1986-1988	
F. 9	A-C, 1987-1988
F. 10	Arthurs, Alberta, 1987 (Rockefeller Foundation.)
F. 11	Blacking, John, 1987-1988
F. 12	D-G, 1987-1988
F. 13	Grelinger, Els, 1987
F. 14	Grau, Andre, 1988
F. 15	Hunt, Marilyn, 1987
F. 16	K, 1987-1988
F. 17	Knutsen, Sheila, 1988-1989
F. 18	L, 1987-1988
F. 19	Levkoeva, Natalia, 1988 Linke, Manfred, 1985-1990
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F. 1	1985-1986
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F. 3	1988
F. 4	1989
F. 5	1990
F. 6	M-N, 1987-1988
F. 7	Melatic, Vera, 1987-1988
F. 8	Manning, Susan, 1987-1988
F. 9	O-P, 1987-1989
F. 10	Obafemi, Ulu, 1988
F. 11	Odom, Selma, 1986-1987
F. 12	Ohlau, Dr. Jurgen Uwe, 1987-1988 (Goethe Institute.)
F. 13	Partsch-Bergsohn, Isa, 1988 (University of Arizona.)
F. 14	Philip, Richard, 1987-1988
F. 15	Preston-Dunlop, Valerie, 1987
F. 16	R, 1987-1988
F. 17	S, 1987-1988
F. 18	Samuelson, Ralph, 1987-1988 (Asia Cultural Council.)
F. 19	Sussman, Leila, 1987
F. 20	T-X, 1987-1988
F. 21	Thomas, Emma Lewis, 1988
F. 22	Vatsayan, Kapila, 1987-1988
F. 23	Unidentified correspondence, 1988 and undated Conference materials, 1987-1988
F. 24	Clippings, 1987-1988
Box 7	
F. 1-6	General conference materials, 1988
F. 7	Photo negatives, 1988
F. 8	Programs, 1988