

# **Guide to the Ernestine Stodelle Correspondence, 1945-1975**

**(S) \*MGZMD 166**

**Jerome Robbins Dance Division**

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

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## Descriptive Summary

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Ernestine Stodelle Correspondence, 1945-1975</b>
<b>Collection ID:</b>	<b>(S) *MGZMD 166</b>
<b>Creator:</b>	<b>Stodelle, Ernestine</b>
<b>Extent:</b>	<b>0.5 lf. (1 box)</b>
<b>Repository:</b>	<b>Jerome Robbins Dance Division. The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts</b>

**Abstract:** The Ernestine Stodelle Correspondence consists of letters to performer, dance researcher, and writer Ernestine Stodelle from several prominent people in the world of dance; Doris Humphrey, Jose Limon, Ted Shawn, Walter Terry, and Charles Weidman.

## 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

Ernestine Stodelle Correspondence, (S) \*MGZMD 166, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

### Custodial History

The Ernestine Stodelle Correspondence was donated to the Jerome Robbins Dance Division in 1983.

## Biographical Note

Ernestine Stodelle was born in Oakland, California, in 1912 and began her professional career as one of the original members of the Doris Humphrey – Charles Weidman Dance Company (1929-1935) and a partner to Jose Limon in the Little Group (1930-1935). For many years she directed her own studio, Ernestine Stodelle Studios of Dance, in New Haven, Darien, and Cheshire, Connecticut. A dance scholar and critic, Stodelle has published books on Doris Humphrey and Martha Graham, and has contributed feature stories and dance reviews for the *New Haven Register*. In 1999 she received the Congress on Research in Dance Award for Leadership in Dance Research.

Sources:

*Sacred Dance Guild, Festival 2005 Afternoon Workshops*

<http://www.sacredanceguild.org/resource/WebSite.cfm?websiteid=144&websitewebmenitemid=454&wt=Ho>

*Congress on Research in Dance Awards* <http://www.cordance.org/Awards.html>

## Scope and Content Note

The Ernestine Stodelle Correspondence includes letters from Doris Humphrey, Jose Limon, Walter Terry, Ted Shawn and Charles Weidman covering the years 1945 to 1975. Several of the letters are acknowledgments and thanks for articles or other publications that Stodelle had written about the subject. Others include information that may be of interest to the researcher for the personal observations and opinions on current performances. The letters from Doris Humphrey have primarily a personal tone, and reveal her close and friendly relationship with Stodelle. Some of Charles Weidman's letters include photocopied clippings about his performances at the time with his comments and other news. This small, very select, collection of letters sheds very little light on Ernestine Stodelle's personal or professional career.

Ernestine Stodelle Correspondence, 1945-1975, undated

**Box 1**

- F. 1 Humphrey, Doris, 1945-1958 and undated
- F. 2 Limon, Jose, 1967-1968
- F. 3 Shawn, Ted, 1971
- F. 4 Terry, Walter, undated
- F. 5 Weidman, Charles, 1962-1975