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Guide to the

Patricia (Lehrman) Dunn papers

1950-1986 [bulk 1981-1984]

(S) *MGZMD 403

Compiled by Robyn Hjermsstad, 2014

Summary

Creator: Dunn, Patricia, -1990

Title: Patricia (Lehrman) Dunn papers

Date: 1950-1986 [bulk 1981-1984]

Size: 1.05 linear feet (3 boxes)

Source: Unknown.

Abstract: The Patricia (Lehrman) Dunn papers date from 1950 to 1986 and document her career as a dancer and her graduate research on modern dancers through correspondence, articles, notes, and programs. The collection consists primarily of photocopied research files and a small amount of material on her dance career.

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Preferred citation: Patricia (Lehrman) Dunn papers, (S) *MGZMD 403. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

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Creator History

Patricia (Lehrman) Dunn was an American dancer. She began dancing as a child in California and debuted with the San Francisco Ballet in 1948. She toured with the Jack Cole Dance Group in 1950, and later performed for Cole in the Broadway productions of *Kismet* (1953), *Jamaica* (1957), and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (1963). She also had a role in the film version of *Kismet* (1955). In 1958, Dunn performed in Jerome Robbins' *Ballets: USA*. She taught and assisted with dance-related projects in the 1970s, such as the *Entre-Six* company in Montreal and the *Quebec Été Danse*. In the early 1980s, Dunn pursued a graduate degree from New York University. Her research centered on modern dance pioneer Loie Fuller and the Denishawn era and its related dancers, specifically Ruth St. Denis and Jack Cole.

Patricia (Lehrman) Dunn died in 1990.

Scope and Content Note

The Patricia (Lehrman) Dunn papers date from 1950 to 1986 and document her career as a dancer and her graduate research on modern dancers through photocopied research files and a small amount of dance files.

Research files hold correspondence, notes and articles she used for her research on Jack Cole, Ruth St. Denis, Loie Fuller, and the Denishawn School of Dancing. Correspondence and notes are original and the articles are photocopies. The majority of the correspondence is from Denishawn dancer Anne Austin (Crane) and concerns a biography written by Austin on Jake Cole, which Dunn edited. The biography itself is present in multiple drafts. Also present is a letter from dancer Eleanor King to Austin regarding "The Early Years" festival at the State University of New York. The articles are sometimes annotated and include theses written by other scholars, journal articles, and newspaper clippings. Some of Dunn's essays are present and include "La Loie: American in Paris;" "The Natural Gifts of Isadora Duncan, Ruth St. Denis, and Katherine Dunham;" and an annotated bibliography entitled "Researching Jack Cole: The Adelphi Years."

Dunn's dancing career is documented through production files and a scrapbook that contains copies of articles, programs, contracts, correspondence, and an autobiography. The autobiography is located at the beginning of the scrapbook and references the remaining material through footnotes. Production files hold articles and program copies and some original performance photographs for *Of All Things*, *On the Riviera*, and *Kismet*.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged into Research Files and Dance Files.

Key Terms

Subjects

Dance -- United States -- History
Modern dance

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Research (document genres)

Names

Cole, Jack, 1911-1974
Fuller, Loie, 1862-1928
Denishawn Dancers

Container List

Research Files -- Denishawn and Jack Cole

- b. 1 f. 1-13 Denishawn and Jack Cole 1979-1984
- b. 2 f. 1-5 Denishawn and Jack Cole 1982-1985
- b. 2 f. 6-14 Fuller, Loie 1982-1986
- b. 3 f. 1-9 Dance Files 1950-1980s