



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Rosamond Pierce papers**

1927-1943

(S) \*MGZMD 392

Compiled by Lea Jordan, 2014

## Summary

**Creator:** Pierce, Rosamond

**Title:** Rosamond Pierce papers

**Date:** 1927-1943

**Size:** 1.09 linear feet (3 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by Rosamond Pierce, 1990.

**Abstract:** Rosamond Pierce was a dancer and dance teacher working in Massachusetts in the 1930s. The Rosamond Pierce papers (1927-1943) hold choreographic notes, class notes, technique files, scores, and programs documenting Pierce's career as a teacher, performer, and student.

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**Preferred citation:** Rosamond Pierce papers, (S) \*MGZMD 392. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled by Lea Jordan, 2014

## Creator History

Rosamond Pierce was a dancer and dance teacher working in the Boston area in the 1930s. She studied dance at the Braggiotti School from 1927 to 1936, where she assisted Francesca Braggiotti. She also studied with Ted Shawn (1928), Miriam Marmein (1933-1936), and Doris Humphrey (1934). She appeared with the San Carlos Opera Company in Boston in the ballet chorus, and was also a soloist in *Marina* (1932). She offered courses in dance for children in the Boston area and taught in the summers in Duxbury, Plymouth, and Hingham Massachusetts. She also taught children for four years in Newport, Rhode Island while being sponsored by Maud Howe Elliot. Pierce retired from teaching in 1943 after her marriage to Randolph H. Braxton.

## Scope and Content Note

The Rosamond Pierce papers (1927-1943) hold choreographic notes, class notes, technique files, scores, and programs documenting Pierce's career as a teacher, performer, and student. Choreographic notes consist of detailed descriptions of recital and class dances for children. The notes sometimes indicate which music should be used. There are also choreographic notes within the scores. Scores hold both published commercial sheet music and Pierce's original compositions and arrangements. All scores are annotated and some have full detailed choreographic notes attached.

Class notes consist of lists of barre, strengthening, and stretching exercises for students of various ages and abilities. Programs and flyers consist of advertising mailers for Pierce's dance classes as well as student and professional dance programs.

Pierce's technique files hold notes and handouts from Pierce's study with Miriam Marmein, Doris Humphrey, and Ted Shawn. Not all notes are identified as to teacher. The bulk of this material is from Marmein's summer courses, where Pierce spent five weeks studying and performing in Manomet, Massachusetts. The technique files also contain handouts from the 1941 convention of the Dancing Teacher's Club of Boston.

**Arrangement:** Alphabetical by file type.

## Key Terms

### Subjects

Dance -- Study and teaching  
Dance -- United States -- 20th century  
Dance for children  
Dance schools -- United States

## **Container List**

- b. 1 f. 1-3 Choreographic Notes 1930s
- b. 1 f. 4-7 Class Notes 1930s
  - b. 2 f. 1 Class Notes 1930s
  - b. 2 f. 2 Programs and Flyers 1927-1943
- Scores
- b. 3 f. 1-3 Original Compositions 1930s
  - b. 2 f. 3 Published and Annotated 1930s
- b. 3 f. 4-5 Published and Annotated 1930s
- b. 2 f. 4-11 Technique Notes 1930-1941