



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Agnes De Mille transcripts for Martha Graham biography

1972-1989

(S) *MGZMD 550

Processed by Heather Lember in 2021.

Summary

Creator: De Mille, Agnes

Title: Agnes De Mille transcripts for Martha Graham biography

Date: 1972-1989

Size: 1.25 linear feet (3 boxes)

Source: Purchased from Agnes De Mille.

Abstract: Agnes De Mille was a dancer, choreographer, and author who wrote a 1993 biography of Martha Graham entitled *Martha: The Life and Work of Martha Graham*. The Agnes De Mille transcripts for Martha Graham biography dates from 1972 to 1989, and contains transcripts of the interviews De Mille conducted while writing and researching the book.

Preferred citation: Agnes De Mille transcripts for Martha Graham biography, (S) *MGZMD 550. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Heather Lember in 2021.

Related Materials:

Early drafts and papers relating to *Martha: The life and work of Martha Graham*, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library (S) *MGZMD 80, contain correspondence, interview notes, research materials, drafts, and manuscripts from De Mille's work on *Martha: The Life and Work of Martha Graham*.

Creator History

Agnes George de Mille (1905-1993) was an American dancer, choreographer, writer, and author of the Martha Graham biography *Martha: The Life and Work of Martha Graham*. A lifelong friend of Graham's, De Mille researched the book for over thirty years, and conducted numerous interviews with dancers,

performers, writers, and friends who knew and collaborated with Graham. The biography was published in 1992, and chronicles the entire life and career of Graham. De Mille is also the author of *And Promenade Home* (1958), *To A Young Dancer* (1962), *The Book of Dance* (1963), *Lizzie Borden: A Dance of Death* (1968), *Speak To Me, Dance With Me* (1973), and *Portrait Gallery* (1990). De Mille also wrote her own memoir *Dance to the Piper* (1952), an autobiography entitled *And Promenade Home: An Autobiography* (1980), and a second memoir, *Reprieve: A Memoir* (1993), about her experience having a stroke in 1975. De Mille died from a stroke in New York City in 1993.

Scope and Content Note

The Agnes De Mille transcripts for Martha Graham biography date from 1975 to 1989, and contain typed interview transcripts, as well as some manuscript drafts, notes, and clippings from De Mille's work researching and writing the Martha Graham biography *Martha: The Life and Work of Martha Graham*. The interview transcripts are arranged alphabetically by interviewee name, and often include the texts of multiple interviews from different years. Many of the interview transcripts are interfiled with manuscript drafts, clippings, and notes, some of which are annotated.

Key Terms

Occupations

Biographers.
Dancers.

Subjects

Biography -- 20th century -- Interviews
Dancers -- Biography
Modern dance -- History -- 20th century
Women choreographers -- United States

Names

De Mille, Agnes
Graham, Martha

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-6 1980s
Contains an assortment of drafts and clippings.
- b. 1 f. 7 Bernstein, Harry 1985
- b. 1 f. 8-10 Birch, Patricia 1972
- b. 1 f. 11-13 Bird, Dorothy 1982-1984
- b. 1 f. 14-17 Butler, John 1972-1986
- b. 1 f. 18-20 Campbell, Joseph 1982-1985
- b. 2 f. 1-5 Carter, William 1975-1983
- b. 2 f. 6 Copland, Aaron 1979
- b. 2 f. 7 Dudley, Jane 1987
- b. 2 f. 8-9 Fisher, Nelle 1973
- b. 2 f. 10 Foote, Horton 1983
- b. 2 f. 11-12 Hawkins, Erick 1982-1984
- b. 2 f. 13-15 Hill, Martha 1983
- b. 3 f. 1 Hinkson, Mary 1974
- b. 3 f. 2-4 Hodes, Stuart 1972
- b. 3 f. 5-6 Houseman, John 1983
- b. 3 f. 7 Howard, Robin 1986
- b. 3 f. 8-10 Kroll, Nathan 1985
- b. 3 f. 11-13 Lang, Pearl 1982-1988
- b. 3 f. 14 Leatherman, Lee 1986
- b. 3 f. 14 Libban, Lillian 1977
- b. 3 f. 15 Macy, Gert 1983
- b. 3 f. 16-17 Maslow, Sophie 1978
- b. 3 f. 18 McCraw, Charles
- b. 3 f. 19 Ross, Bertram 1983