



# The New York Public Library Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

## **John Goldston photographs**

circa 1940-1959

\*MGZEB 22-0023

Processed by Heather Halliday in 2022.

### **Summary**

**Creator:** Goldston, John (photographer)

**Title:** John Goldston photographs

**Date:** circa 1940-1959

**Size:** 0.71 linear feet (1 box)

**Source:** The collection of photographs was a gift from Valerie Goldston, daughter of John Goldston, in 2022.

**Abstract:** John Goldston (died 1972) was an American photographer based in St. Louis. The John Goldston photographs date from approximately 1940 to 1959 and primarily document the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo and the Ballet Theatre (now the American Ballet Theatre). The collection consists entirely of ninety black-and-white 8x10-inch photographic prints.

**Other Finding Aid:** Prior to donating the collection to New York Public Library, Valerie Goldston enlisted the help of Joy Williams Brown, a dancer for the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo in the 1940s, and dance critics Alastair Macaulay and Robert Greskovic to compile a numbered inventory of the photographs. In the process of conferring to identify individuals and works in the images, Macaulay, Greskovic, and Brown continually reference the image numbers 1 to 90, which are found on in the lower left corner of the back of each print.

**Preferred citation:** John Goldston photographs, \*MGZEB 22-0023. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Heather Halliday in 2022.

### **Creator History**

John Goldston (died 1972) was a ballet enthusiast and American photographer based in St. Louis, Missouri. Goldston photographed live performances and rehearsals of the the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo and Ballet Theatre (now American Ballet Theatre).

## Scope and Content Note

The John Goldston collection consists entirely of ninety 8x10-inch black-and-white photographic prints shot by him. The photographs were taken between the 1940s and 1950s and depict dancers in rehearsals or live performances. Most photographs are of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo or Ballet Theatre (now American Ballet Theatre). Notable dancers featured in the collection include Mary Ellen Moylan, Nathalie Krassovska, Rosella Hightower, Nora Kaye, and Alicia Markova. *Capriccio Espagnol* by Leonide Massine, *Ballet Imperial* by George Balanchine, *Helen of Troy* by David Lichine, *Les Patineurs* by Frederick Ashton, and *Fancy Free* by Jerome Robbins are among the works depicted in the collection. Images of one of the few ballets choreographed by a woman in this era, Ruthanna Boris's *Cirque de Deux* and a previously unknown American production of Kurt Jooss's *The Green Table*, are also included in the collection.

**Arrangement:** The photographs are numbered one through ninety.

## Key Terms

### Subjects

Ballet -- United States -- History -- 20th century  
Ballet dancers

### Occupations

Photographers.

### Genre/Physical Characteristic

Photographic prints

### Names

Boris, Ruthanna  
Fontaine, Edwina  
Goldston, John (photographer)  
Hightower, Rosella  
Jooss, Kurt, 1901-1979  
Katcharoff, Michel  
Kaye, Nora, 1920-1987  
Krassovska, Nathalie, 1918-2005  
Moylan, Mary Ellen  
Robbins, Jerome  
Trapaga, Luis  
Tweedie, Valrene  
American Ballet Theatre  
Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo