



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Royes Fernandez papers

1945-1980

(S) *MGZMD 45

Processed by Diane Coburn Brüning.

Summary

Creator: Fernandez, Royes, 1945-1980

Title: Royes Fernandez papers

Date: 1945-1980

Size: 1155 items in 134 folders

Source: Gift of Jeanne Bruno. Jeanne Bruno. Received: September 1980.

Abstract: For the most part the Royes Fernandez Papers (ca. 1945-1980) comprise correspondence. This series (784 items), dating from 1945 until shortly before his death in 1980, is predominantly letters written to Fernandez from personal and professional friends and audience members. They include birthday and holiday greeting cards.

Preferred citation: Fernandez, Royes, 1929-1980. Papers, (S) *MGZMD 45, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Diane Coburn Brüning.

Separated Materials:

The following material was received with the original gift but has been separated from the manuscript collection. The current location of the material (as of July 1986) is indicated. All the materials remain in the possession of the Dance Collection.

Book of dance poems and drawings entitled "Despite the Still Sadness" handmade by Sandra

Armstrong - Location: 3-D cabinet

Clippings - Location: to *MGZR files

Plaques ul>

Louisiana Council for Music and Performing Arts; 1968 and 1974 (two plaques)- Location: 3-D cabinet

Personalities of the South Award; 1975-1976 - Location: 3-D cabinet

Photographs - Location: to *MGZEA files
Programs - Location: to *MGZB files/ul>

Creator History

Royes Emanuel Fernandez was born July 15, 1929, in New Orleans, Louisiana. His parents, Manuel Paul Fernandez (a jeweler) and Francoise Blanchine Fernandez, were of Spanish and French descent respectively. He had an older sister, Jeanne.

Fernandez began his ballet training at age eight with Lelia Haller in New Orleans. He performed with the New Orleans Opera Ballet in 1944. During the summer of 1945 he was in New York studying at the School of American Ballet.

After graduating from high school in June 1946, Fernandez went to New York to live, and there he studied with Vincenzo Celli, joining the Original Ballet Russe (de Basil) in September of that year. The following year he joined the Markova-Dolin Ballet as a soloist. His primary affiliation from 1950 to 1973 was American Ballet Theatre, first as a soloist and then as a principal dancer from 1957 onward. However, Fernandez continued to perform with other companies as a guest artist or as a member for brief periods of time. These companies included Ballet Alicia Alonso, Borovansky Ballet, London Festival Ballet, San Francisco Ballet, Margot Fonteyn 1963 World Tour (as her partner), and the New York City Ballet (Spring 1959-Spring 1960).

Fernandez was considered by many the greatest American *danseur noble* to date. He was particularly noted for the male principal roles in *Giselle*, *Swan Lake*, and *La Sylphide* but danced contemporary works as well. He partnered the foremost ballerinas of his time including Fonteyn, Lupe Serrano, and Toni Lander. Fernandez was active as a teacher and guest performer with both major and small companies throughout the United States, eventually leaving active performing to join the faculty first of the University of South Florida (1973-1974) and then the State University of New York at Purchase from 1974 until his death.

Royes Fernandez died of cancer on March 3, 1980, in New York.

Custodial History

Gift of Jeanne Bruno, 1980.

Scope and Content Note

For the most part the Royes Fernandez Papers (ca. 1945-1980) comprise correspondence. This series (784 items), dating from 1945 until shortly before his death in 1980, is predominantly letters written to Fernandez from personal and professional friends and audience members. They include birthday and holiday greeting cards. The second largest series is Legal and Financial Papers (236 items). These papers are concerned with Workman's Compensation, unemployment records, AGMA records, automobile insurance and repairs and also include Fernandez' leases, passports, visas, licenses, identification cards, airline tickets, and various personal bills and receipts. The Companies and Universities series (151 items) pertains to Fernandez' association with various institutions as a dancer and teacher. It includes correspondences, schedules, tour itineraries, and course records and grades. The companies are American Ballet Theatre, The Eliot Feld Ballet, The San Francisco Ballet, and The

Royal Swedish Ballet. The schools are The University of South Florida and The State University of New York at Purchase. The remaining series are: Contracts, 1952-1979 (94 items), of Fernandez' performing engagements, and Miscellaneous (90 items), including calendars, diaries, and mementos from a 1966 Russian tour. Certain non-manuscript materials received with the original purchase have been removed from the Royes Fernandez Papers. All newspaper and magazine articles, programs, photographs, scrapbooks, films, and videotapes have been dispersed throughout the Dance Collection. A separation list, located at the end of the folder list, indicates the nature and disposition of these items. Material is written in English with some Spanish

Arrangement: I. Correspondence II. Contracts III. Companies and Universities IV. Legal and Financial Papers V. Miscellaneous, including Russian tour mementos, calendars, addresses

Key Terms

Subjects

Manuscripts -- Collections
New York (State). State University College, Purchase
University of South Florida

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Personal records

Names

Fernandez, Royes, 1945-1980
American Ballet Theatre

Container List

I. Correspondence 1945-1979. (784 items)

For the most part the Royes Fernandez Papers (ca. 1945-1980) comprise correspondence. This series (784 items), dating from 1945 until shortly before his death in 1980, is predominantly letters written to Fernandez from personal and professional friends and audience members. They include birthday and holiday greeting cards.

b. 1 f. 1	1945 (2 Items)
b. 1 f. 2	1955 (1 Item)
b. 1 f. 3	1957 (7 Items)
b. 1 f. 4	1958 (3 Items)
b. 1 f. 5	1959 (6 Items)
b. 1 f. 6-7	1960 (25 Items)
b. 1 f. 8	1961 (15 Items)
b. 1 f. 9	1962 (11 Items)
b. 1 f. 10-11	1963 (30 Items)
b. 1 f. 12-13	1964 (21 Items)
b. 1 f. 14-15	1965 (25 Items)
b. 1 f. 16	1966 (18 Items)
b. 1 f. 17	holiday cards (19 Items)
b. 1 f. 18-19	1967 (25 Items)
b. 1 f. 20-21	holiday cards (27 Items)
b. 2 f. 22	1968 (15 Items)
b. 2 f. 23-26	holiday cards (50 Items)
b. 2 f. 27-28	1969 (21 Items)
b. 2 f. 29-31	condolences for R.F.'s mother's death (44 Items)
b. 2 f. 32-34	1970 (22 Items)
b. 3 f. 35-36	1971 (18 Items)
b. 3 f. 37	1972 (14 Items)
b. 3 f. 38-39	1973 (25 Items)
b. 3 f. 40-42	holiday cards (26 Items)
b. 3 f. 43-45	1974 (33 Items)
b. 3 f. 46-48	1975 (23 Items)
b. 3 f. 49	holiday cards (6 Items)
b. 4 f. 50-52	1976 (29 Items)
b. 4 f. 53-54	1977 (10 Items)
b. 4 f. 55	1978 (8 Items)
b. 4 f. 56	holiday cards (11 Items)
b. 4 f. 57-60	1979 (30 Items)
b. 4 f. 61-62	holiday cards (20 Items)
b. 5 f. 63	1980 (6 Items)
b. 5 f. 64-66	Condolences, (to his sister) 1980 (30 Items)
b. 5 f. 67-70	alphabetized by correspondent undated (45 Items)

I. Correspondence (cont.)

- b. 5 f. 71 birthday cards n.d. (7 Items)
- b. 5 f. 72-75 holiday cards n.d. (56 Items)

II. Contracts 1952-1979. (94 items)

- b. 6 f. 76 1951 (1 Item)
- b. 6 f. 76 1952 (6 Items)
- b. 6 f. 77 (with check receipts) 1957 (10 Items)
- b. 6 f. 78 1958 (3 Items)
- b. 6 f. 78 1959 (7 Items)
- b. 6 f. 79 1960 (5 Items)
- b. 6 f. 80 1961 (5 Items)
- b. 6 f. 80 1962 (8 Items)
- b. 6 f. 81 1963 (2 Items)
- b. 6 f. 81 1964 (4 Items)
- b. 6 f. 82 1965 (1 Item)
- b. 6 f. 82 1966 (2 Items)
- b. 6 f. 82 1967 (3 Items)
- b. 6 f. 83 1968 (2 Items)
- b. 6 f. 83 1969 (7 Items)
- b. 6 f. 84 1970 (4 Items)
- b. 6 f. 84 1971 (5 Items)
- b. 6 f. 85 1972 (9 Items)
- b. 6 f. 86 1973 (4 Items)
- b. 6 f. 86 1974 (1 Item)
- b. 6 f. 86 1976 (3 Items)
- b. 6 f. 86 1979 (1 Item)
- b. 6 f. 86 n.d. (1 Item)

III. Companies and Universities (151 Item)

The Companies and Universities series (151 items) pertains to Fernandez' association with various institutions as a dancer and teacher. It includes correspondences, schedules, tour itineraries, and course records and grades. The companies are American Ballet Theatre, The Eliot Feld Ballet, The San Francisco Ballet, and The Royal Swedish Ballet. The schools are The University of South Florida and The State University of New York at Purchase.

American Ballet Theatre

- b. 6 f. 87 Rules and regulations (2 Items)
- Itineraries:
 - b. 6 f. 88 1964-1967 (7 Items)
 - b. 6 f. 89 1969-1971 (4 Items)
 - b. 6 f. 90 1973, n.d. (5 Items)
- b. 6 f. 91 San Francisco Ballet Itinerary 1959 (1 Item)
- b. 6 f. 92 Eliot Feld Ballet Itinerary, schedule 1976 (6 Items)
- b. 6 f. 93 Royal Swedish Ballet 1972 guest teaching (4 Items)
- University of South Florida
 - b. 6 f. 94 Correspondence (14 Items)

III. Companies and Universities (cont.)
University of South Florida (cont.)

- b. 6 f. 95 Grade records (15 Items)
- b. 6 f. 96 Course records (2 Items)
- b. 6 f. 97 miscellaneous (14 Items)

State University of New York at Purchase

- b. 6 f. 98-99 Correspondence (17 Items)
- b. 6 f. 100-104 Job applications (46 Items)
- b. 6 f. 105 Schedules, faculty lists, miscellaneous (14 Items)

IV. Legal and Financial Papers

The second largest series is Legal and Financial Papers (236 items). These papers are concerned with Workman's Compensation, unemployment records, AGMA records, automobile insurance and repairs and also include Fernandez' leases, passports, visas, licenses, identification cards, airline tickets, and various personal bills and receipts.

- b. 7 f. 106-107 Workman's compensation Papers 1959-1971 (20 Items)
- b. 7 f. 108 Unemployment insurance (9 Items)
- b. 7 f. 109 American Guild of Musical Artists, correspondence, miscellaneous (12 Items)
- b. 7 f. 110 Leases (6 Items)
- b. 7 f. 111 Passports 1947-1978 (8 Items)
- b. 7 f. 112 Visas, vaccination certificates, misc. (8 Items)
- b. 7 f. 113 Driver's licenses, registration, insurance cards (22 Items)
- b. 7 f. 114 Performer's stage passes, Actor's Equity cards (15 Items)
- b. 7 f. 115 Miscellaneous membership, banking, identification, and business cards (18 Items)
- b. 7 f. 116-120 Automobile papers: insurance, repairs, misc. (67 Items)
- b. 7 f. 121 Check stubs and pay envelopes (16 Items)
- b. 7 f. 122 Miscellaneous bills and receipts (16 Items)
- b. 7 f. 123 Airline tickets (19 Items)

V. Miscellaneous (90 items)

- b. 8 f. 124 Class plan, notes (1 Item)
- b. 8 f. 125-126 Russian tour mementos including ballet photographs 1966 (37 Items)
- b. 8 f. 127 Date book 1963 (1 Item)
- b. 8 f. 128 Calendars 1969-1974 (3 Items)
- b. 8 f. 129 Biographies of Fernandez (12 Items)
- b. 8 f. 130 Addresses (10 Items)
- b. 8 f. 131 Certificates of merit (4 Items)
- b. 8 f. 132 "Aleko" scenario (2 Items)
- b. 8 f. 133 Letters to Jeanne Fernandez Bruno (miscellaneous correspondents) (3 Items)
- b. 8 f. 134 Miscellaneous (17 Items)