



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Letters to Edward L. Berman

1933-1946

(S) *MGZMC-Res. 19

Processed by Nina Abrams.

Summary

Creator: Enters, Angna, 1897-1989

Title: Letters to Edward L. Berman

Date: 1933-1946

Size: 105 items

Source: Material received: January, 1954.

Abstract: A series of personal letters written by Angna Enters, mime-dancer, choreographer, composer, writer, designer, to an English friend, Edward L. Berman, over a period of thirteen years, 1933-1946. The letters cover aspects of Enters' very varied careers and travels and include her political thoughts during the war years.

Preferred citation: Angna Enters Letters to Edward L. Berman, (S) *MGZMC-Res 19Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Nina Abrams.

Related Materials:

See also: Angna Enters papers, (*MGZMD 158), Angna Enters correspondence (*MGZMD 101) and other items cataloged separately in the Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Creator History

Angna Enters was born on April 18, 1897 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Her real name was Anita Enters, which she changed into Angna [ahnjna] in the early 20s. She moved to New York as an art student and began to study dance with Michio Ito in 1920. Soon she was performing in concerts as Michio's partner. In March of 1924 Enters produced her first evening of solo performance. In the following years until

1939 she toured the US and Europe on a permanent basis presenting her program called *The Theatre of Angna Enters*. After 1939 she continued to give performances until late 1960s.

During this period of touring, Enters was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship to study Greek mime, art and music forms. She exhibited her paintings, as continued to do in following decades, and published her first autobiographical volume, *First Person Plural* in 1937. In 1939, she published her popular play, *Love Possessed Juana*, co-written with Louis Kalonymus.

Although she continued to perform into advanced age, Enters' stage career declined in the postwar years. She took up residence in California and began to pursue scriptwriting as a profession. Her account of these years, published in *Silly Girl* in 1944, reached the best seller list. She would go on to publish *Among the Daughters* (1955), *Artist's Life* (1958), and *On Mime* (1965).

After Louis Kalonymus's death in June of 1961 Enters accepted an invitation to be an artist-in-residence to the Dallas Theatre Center and Baylor University for the 1961-62 school year. She taught mime there, and spent next school year at the Wesleyan University in Connecticut. The book *On Mime* was the result of these years.

From 1965 to 1968 she lived as a hostess and a travel companion with her life-long friend, retired film producer Albert Lewin, whose wife died in 1965.

In 1970-71 school year she was again an artist-in-residence at Pennsylvania State University, during which she gave her last known public performance.

In 1974 she suffered a physical collapse and was moved to a nursing home. Angna Enters died on February 25, 1989 in a nursing home in Manhattan.

Scope and Content Note

A series of personal letters written by Angna Enters, mime-dancer, choreographer, composer, writer, designer, to an English friend, Edward L. Berman, over a period of thirteen years, 1933-1946. The letters cover aspects of Enters' very varied careers and travels and include her political thoughts during the war years. |||Material is in English.

Key Terms

Subjects

Manuscripts (Letters)

Manuscripts -- Collections

Names

Enters, Angna, 1897-1989

Berman, Edward L.

Container List

- f. 1 1933
- f. 2 1934

Relates work and travel plans. Begins painting. Includes art criticisms of 1933-34. Portrait of Theodore Dreiser; London television; influence of stay in Greece on her art, mime, and music output.
- f. 3 1935

One woman art show of 268 works in three important U.S. museums--performing in one. Film possibilities; description of Havana performance, including program of same; renewal of fellowship grant
- f. 4 1936

California film test; talks of musical, "Boy Meets Girl;" Tour and evacuation from Spain; political statements on world situation, Roosevelt election; coronation of Edward VIII; circulars enclosed
- f. 5 1937

Remarks on world affairs; engagements; description of finished book, *First Person Plural*
- f. 6 1938

More remarks on book; international situation (Munich Pact); royal visit to Paris and Persian Art exhibit there
- f. 7 1939

Month-long engagement at Sert Room, Waldorf-Astoria; N.Y. World's Fair; world tension; wrote, designed sets, composed music for published play
- f. 8 1940

Performances at White House, Santa Fe, Honolulu; Metropolitan Museum of Art purchases painting; another book, *Love Possessed Juana*
- f. 9 1941
- f. 10 1943
- f. 11 1945?
- f. 12 1945
- f. 13 1946 & n.d.

Work in and on films. Meets Jean Renoir. Illness. Work on autobiographical novel, *Silly Girl*; sale of *Silly Girl* to M.G.M. for musical; performances at Metropolitan Museum of Art and army camps