

Guide to the Fé Alf Papers, c.1928-c.1933

(S) *MGZMD 90

Jerome Robbins Dance Division



The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Fé Alf Papers, c.1928-c.1933

Collection ID: (S) *MGZMD 90

Creator: Alf, Fé

Size: 1 document box (17 items in 11 folders)

Repository: The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.
Jerome Robbins Dance DivisionNew York, New York

Languages Represented: English German

Administrative Information

Source: Gift. Mrs. Alfred Fippinger [Fé Alf]. Received: 1988.

Access: The collection is open to research.

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Biographical History

Fé Alf [the professional name of Felicitas Ahlff] was born in Germany c.1910 and received her early dance training with Kurt Jooss in Hamburg. She later studied the Mensendieck method and then entered the Wigman School in Dresden, graduating in 1931. She came to New York City in November 1931 as assistant teacher to Hanya Holm at the New York Wigman School. She opened her own studio where she taught modern dance and she performed as a concert dancer until c.1939 primarily performing her own works. In 1938 she joined with Louise Allen, William Bales, George Bockman, Kenneth Bostock, Elizabeth Colman, Alice Dudley, Eleanor King, William Miller and Sybil Shearer to form the Theatre Dance Company, a cooperative group.

Scope and Content Note

This collection of papers of Fé Alf contains material from c.1928 in Germany to c.1933 in the United States. It contains primarily a diary and course papers written while Alf was a student at the Wigman School in Germany, course papers written while she was a student at the Hagemann Schule in Hamburg, and lectures given at the Wigman School in New York. These materials were organized and identified by Joan Griffin.

Material is written in German and English.

Organization

- I. Personal Diary
- II. Course Papers
- III. Lectures
- IV. Miscellaneous

Container List

I. Personal Diary

- f. 1 [at Wigman School, 1929-1931?]
1 item

II. Course Papers

A. History [written at Wigman School in Germany, c.1929-1931]

- f. 2 "Aeltere Steinzeit (Paläolithikum) etwa 10-5000 v. Chr."
1 item
- f. 3 "Geschichte des Tanzes"
1 item

B. Gymnastic

- f. 4 "Die Deutsche Mensendieck-Gymnastik der Hagemann-Schule,
Hamburg
1 item
- f. 5 "Etwas Ueber Die Entwicklung Der Gymnastischen
Bewegung"
1 item
- f. 6 "Was verlangt man von einer Gymnastiklehrerin?"
1 item

- f. 7 C. "Der Moderne Tanz"
1 item
- f. 8 D. "Die Weltwirtschafts-Krise: ihre auswirkung auf politischem, wirtschaft-lichem und Künstlerischem Gebiet"
1 item

III. Lectures

- f. 9 A. Wigman School, New York, c.1932-1933
4 Items
Includes:
[creation of a dance]"The Young Dancer"
"Relaxation and Passivity Versus Activity and Tension"
"The Problem and Scope of the Amateur Work in the German Dance Movement"
- f. 10 B. [notes on background of the New Dance Group?]
1 item

IV. Miscellaneous

- 4 Items
- f. 11 Financial report on Wigman School, Germany, 1929
- f. 11 2 newspaper articles by Wigman
Articles titled "Der moderne Tanz in Deutschland" and
"Bühnentanz-Bühnentänzer"
- f. 11 Photograph of Alf's dance teacher at the Hagemann Mensendieck Schule, 1928
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Separated Material

Received with the collection were 9 books which have been separated from the manuscript material:

- Fritz Giese and Hedwig Hagemann. Weibliche Körperbildung und Bewegungskunst. Munich, Delphin-Verlag, 1924.
- Bess M. Mensendieck. Funktionelles Frauenturnen. Munich, F. Bruckmann, 1923.
- ----- . Körperkultur der Frau. Munich, F. Bruckmann, 1919.
- Hedwig Hagemann-Boese. Über Körper und Seele der Frau. Leipzig, Grethlein & Co., 1927.
- Wolfgang Graeser. Körpersinn: Gymnastic-Tanz-Sport. Munich, C.H. Beck, 1927.
- Ludwig Klages. Vom Wesen des Rhythmus. Kampen auf Sylt, Niels Kampmann, 1934.
- Ludwig Pallat and Franz Hilker. Künstlerische Körperschulung. Breslau, Ferdinand Hirt, 1926.
- Brockhaus' kleines Konversations-Lexikon. 2 v. Leipzig, Brockhaus, 1906.
- Der Kreis, IX/12, December 1932. Mary Wigman issue.