



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Anita Zahn Photographs

circa 1890s-1990 [bulk circa 1920s-1980s]

*MGZEB 16-241

Compiled by Camille Croce Dee, 2016.

Summary

Creator: Zahn, Anita

Title: Anita Zahn Photographs

Date: circa 1890s-1990 [bulk circa 1920s-1980s]

Size: 2.26 linear feet (7 boxes)

Source: Purchase

Abstract: The Anita Zahn Photographs document the life and career of dancer and teacher Anita Zahn (1903-1994) and span from circa 1890s to 1990 (bulk dates circa 1920s-1980s).

Conditions Governing Use: The author/creator retains copyright of materials. For information on obtaining permission to publish, contact the Dance Division at dance@nypl.org.

Preferred citation: Anita Zahn Photographs, *MGZEB 16-241. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

Processing note: Compiled by Camille Croce Dee, 2016.

Related Materials:

Anita Zahn Professional and personal papers, 1920-1991, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, Jerome Robbins Dance Division.

Creator History

Dancer and teacher Anita Zahn (1903-1994) was born in Germany. She was a student of Elizabeth Duncan and her technique. Zahn made her home and career in the United States. She died in Grants Pass, Oregon.

Custodial History

Separated from the Anita Zahn Collection (Manuscript accession #96-07).

Scope and Content Note

The collection documents the life and career of dancer and teacher Anita Zahn and spans from circa 1890s to 1990 (bulk dates circa 1920s-1990). Photographs are mostly black and white and include portraits of Zahn and photographs of her dancers and students. Among them are Rosemarie Beenk, Betty Friedman, Kathleen Hinni, Hortense Dolan Kooluris, and Erna Schulz. There are also a number of personal and family photographs, including her parents, husband and son.

Photographers include Kathryn Abbe, Gordon Anthony, Bouchard, Cecil Clevelly, Louis S. Davidson, Friedman-Abeles, Arnold Genthe, Frances McLaughlin-Gill, Gjon Mili, and Clara Sipprell.

Arrangement: Alphabetical

Key Terms

Subjects

Dance teachers -- United States -- 20th century
Duncan dancing

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Photographs

Names

Genthe, Arnold, 1869-1942
Kooluris, Hortense Dolan
Sipprell, Clara E. (Clara Estelle), 1885-1975

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 **Aherne, Brian and Eleanor** circa 1950s-1986
Includes 1 photograph signed "For Anita with love from Brian Aherne," holiday photograph cards; Zahn possibly also in 2 photographs.
- b. 1 f. 2 **Animals** circa 1930s-1980s
Includes black and white and color photographs of dogs, cats, birds, an owl, and a racoon; owl photograph by Mike Sachs; Zahn in some photographs.
Anita Zahn School circa 1930s-1941
Anita Zahn School circa 1930s-1941
Includes photograph signed by conductor and boys and poster with photographs for concerts at Paper Mill Playhouse, December 17, 1938 and Town Hall, New York, December 18, 1938.
- b. 4 f. 1 **Little Duncan Dancers and Vienna Boys' Choir** 1938 December
Includes photograph signed by Vienna Boys' Choir and conductor, poster with photographs for concerts at Paper Mill Playhouse, December 17, 1938 and Town Hall, New York, December 18, 1938.
- b. 5 f. 1-3 **East Hampton** circa 1930s-1941
Includes mounted photographs signed by Arnold Genthe, some of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, 1941.
- b. 4 f. 2 **Babies (Unidentified)** circa 1940s?
Includes 2 mounted photographs, 1 by Bachrach, 1 by Studio Carmen.
- b. 1 f. 3 **Barnes, Clarence A., Jr. - Cartoon** circa 1950s?
Pencil and ink on paper (letterhead).
- b. 5 f. 4 **[Bauman, Raymond? - Husband]** circa 1920s
- b. 1 f. 4-5 **Candids** circa 1920s-1985
Includes black and white and color snapshots of Zahn and others; also includes photographs of Gilbert Mack.
- b. 1 f. 6-7 **Children and Christmas, Part II - Look Up and Live - CBS-TV** 1960-1962
Includes black and white and color photographs; some Friedman-Abeles photographs; also includes check stub for rebroadcast payment.
Dance Portraits circa 1920s-1977
- b. 1 f. 8-10 **8 x 10 inch Photographs or Smaller** circa 1920s-1977
Includes mostly black and white photographs of Zahn; photographs by Robert Ackerman, Bouchard, James Bruce, Arnold Genthe, Gjon Mili, Pavelle.
- b. 4 f. 3 **10 1/2 x 15 1/2 inches or Smaller** circa 1930s
Includes 2 mounted photographs.
- b. 5 f. 5 **14 x 18 inches or Smaller** circa 1930s
Includes 2 mounted photographs by Arnold Genthe; 1 is color.
- b. 7 f. 1-2 **16 x 20 inches** circa 1930s
Includes mounted photographs by Bouchard, Arnold Genthe, Gjon Mili.
Dance Related circa 1930s-1940s
- b. 1 f. 11-12 **8 x 10 inches or Smaller** circa 1935-1940s
Includes black and white photographs of Zahn in costume in studio and outdoors, solo and with dancers; also include 1 black and white slide (poor condition).
East Hampton circa 1936-1940s
- b. 1 f. 13-14 **8 x 10 inches or Smaller** circa 1936-1940s
- b. 6 f. 1 **13 x 15 inches or Smaller** circa 1930s
- b. 5 f. 6-8 **Zahn, Anita, Rosemarie Beenk, Kathleen Hinni** 1940
Includes mounted photographs by Louis S. Davidson.

- b. 1 f. 15 **Drdla, Franz** circa 1940s
Includes 2 black and white postcards from Drdla.
- b. 2 f. 1 **Duncan, Augustin, Elizabeth Duncan, Isadora Duncan** circa 1910-1940s
Includes snapshots of Augustin Duncan, Elizabeth Duncan and portraits of Isadora Duncan (copy of 1 by Arnold Genthe).
- b. 6 f. 2 **Duncan, Elizabeth** circa 1930s
Includes mounted portrait photograph signed by Arnold Genthe.
Duncan Dancers circa 1930s-1988
- b. 2 f. 2 **8 x 10 inches or Smaller** circa 1930s-1988
Includes photographs of Rosemarie Beenk, Andrea Duncan, Irma Duncan, Betty Friedman, Kathleen Hinni, Hortense Dolan Kooluris, Erna Schulz, and "Hally;" also includes concert program, card, and school brochure.
- b. 4 f. 4 **Anita Zahn Students** circa 1930s
Includes 2 photographs: 1 (mounted) by Gjon Mili, with Betty Friedman, Kathleen Hinni, Carol Rossin; 1 with Rosemarie Beenk, Hortense Kooluris(?).
- b. 6 f. 3 **Duse, Eleanora** 1925
Includes mounted photograph signed by Arnold Genthe.
Early Years circa 1903-1920s
- b. 2 f. 3 **circa 1903-1920s**
- b. 4 f. 5-6 **Album Pages** circa 1912
- b. 2 f. 4 **[Elizabeth Duncan School - Potsdam?]; Aboard Ship** circa 1920s
Some photographs stamped "By John Graubenz, Jaegerstrasse 11, Berlin, Germany."
Family circa 1890s-1940s
- b. 2 f. 5 **General** circa 1926-1940s
Includes photographs with and of son and husband.
- b. 2 f. 6 **Parents** circa 1890s-1930s?
- b. 2 f. 7 **Greece** 1975
Color photographs and negative strips.
- b. 2 f. 8 **Holiday Cards, Notes, Postcards** 1929-1985
- b. 2 f. 9 **Houses, Cars** circa 1920s-1980s
- b. 6 f. 4 **Jones, Robert Edmond** 1925
Includes portrait photograph, signed "To Anita from Robert Edmond Jones, 1944."
Portraits circa 1920s-1960s
- b. 2 f. 10 **8 x 10 inches or Smaller** circa 1920s-1960s
Includes several photographs wearing turban, possibly by Arnold Genthe.
- b. 4 f. 7 **By Clara Sipprell** 1926
Mounted and signed; some photographs with students.
- b. 4 f. 8 **Zahn, Anita, Kathleen Hinni, Rosemarie Beenk** circa 1930s
Includes 1 mounted photograph by Arnold Genthe.
- b. 2 f. 11 **Randall's Island [May Day] - Dance Group** 1937 May 1
- b. 2 f. 11 **8 x 10 inch Photographs**
Includes photographs by A. Rubinstein.
- b. 4 f. 9 **9 1/2 x 14 inch Photograph**
- b. 2 f. 12 **School Building - East Hampton** circa 1936-1960s
- b. 2 f. 13 **Schools - Brochures** circa 1933-1960s
Students circa 1920s-1970s

Students (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 14-16 **8 x 10 inches or Smaller** circa 1920s-1970s
Includes mostly black and white photographs.
- b. 6 f. 5 **15 x 20 inches or Smaller** circa 1960s?
- b. 4 f. 10 **Unidentified Girl with Rosemarie Beenk and Others** circa 1940
Includes 1 mounted photograph by Arnold Genthe; other photographs, also possibly by Genthe; possibly East Hampton.
East Hampton circa 1930s-1969
- b. 4 f. 11 **circa 1937, circa 1969**
Includes 2 mounted photographs: 1 signed by Arnold Genthe; 1 signed with note on verso by Frances McLaughlin-Gill.
- b. 7 f. 3 **circa 1930s**
- b. 6 f. 8 **Unidentified Students on Stage with Set** circa 1920s?
- b. 6 f. 6 **Students and Unidentified Teacher** circa 1930s
Includes 3 mounted photographs by Arnold Genthe; some possibly East Hampton.
Students/Teaching circa 1930s-1980s
Includes photographs of Zahn teaching students.
- b. 3 f. 1-2 **circa 1920s-1980s**
- b. 3 f. 3-6 **East Hampton** circa 1930s-1980s
- b. 3 f. 3-6 **8 x 10 inch Photographs or Smaller** circa 1930s-1980s
Includes photographs by Kathryn Abbe, William Boone Studio, "Janet;" also includes several contact sheets.
- b. 6 f. 7 **1966-1971**
Includes 3 photographs: 1 mounted with note on verso from Cindy Abbe, 1 photograph by Kathryn Abbe, 1 photograph by Aly Johnson with note on verso from Dicki [Johnson Macy?].
- b. 3 f. 7-9 **Unidentified** circa 1920s-1990
Includes black and white and color photographs with some by Gordon Anthony, Cecil Clevelly, Clara Sipprell.
- b. 4 f. 12 **Unidentified Dancers in Costume** circa 1930s?
Includes 1 mounted photograph signed by Arnold Genthe.
- b. 3 f. 10 **Negatives** circa 1920s-1940s
Includes black and white negatives (6 1/2 x 9 inches or smaller), some unidentified, some for prints in the collection.