
Finding Aid to the Hubert Julian Stowitts Papers

Bancroft Staff

The Bancroft Library



2018

The Bancroft Library

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Language of Material: English

Contributing Institution: The Bancroft Library

Title: Hubert Julian Stowitts papers

creator: Stowitts, Hubert Julian

Identifier/Call Number: BANC MSS 2012/165

Physical Description: 5 linear feet (2 cartons, 5 boxes, 4 volumes)

Date (inclusive): approximately 1913-1953

Abstract: The papers of American dancer and painter Hubert Julian Stowitts, including biographical materials, correspondence, and exhibition/performance related materials.

Physical Location: Many of the Bancroft Library collections are stored offsite and advance notice may be required for use. For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.

Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Accruals

No future additions are expected.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Hubert Julian Stowitts papers were gifted to the Bancroft Library by Nancy McGie and Susan Reed in 2012.

Biographical / Historical

Hubert Julian Stowitts was born in Rushville, Nebraska on June 26, 1892. His family later moved to California and eventually settled in Los Angeles. Stowitts attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he graduated in 1915, and where he first began to study dance. While performing in Berkeley's Greek Theatre, he was discovered and recruited by Anna Pavlova of the Ballets Russes. He became one of the star dancers of the company, performing in various productions until the early 1920s. After a brief career as a solo dancer, Stowitts retired from ballet and began to pursue other interests, including figure painting, choreography, costume and set design, motion picture performance, travel and traditional dance of other cultures. His scholarly studies and painted depictions of traditional Indonesian and Indian dance and costume enjoyed wide popularity in the 1930s. In 1936, while in Berlin accompanying an exhibition of his figure paintings of American Olympic athletes, Stowitts assisted Leni Riefenstahl on her documentary Olympia. Riefenstahl protected Stowitts from persecution for being gay, but his exhibition was closed by the Nazi regime because of their objection to the manner in which Stowitts depicted Jewish and African-American athletes. Stowitts continued to lecture on Indian and Javanese culture and to paint privately for the remainder of his life. Hubert Julian Stowitts died in San Marino, California on February 8, 1953.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Hubert Julian Stowitts papers, MSS 2012/165, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley.

Processing Information

Processed by the Bancroft Library Staff in 2012.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of personalia, correspondence, writings, exhibition and performance related materials, and assorted other items. Correspondence is mostly from the 1930s and 1940s.

Separated Materials

Pictorial materials were transferred to the Pictorial Collections of the Bancroft Library (BANC PIC 2012.116). One manuscript item, a 1605 document from the Inquisition in Peru (gifted to Stowitts) was removed from the collection for separate cataloging.

Conditions Governing Use

Some materials in these collections may be protected by the U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.). In addition, the reproduction of some materials may be restricted by terms of University of California gift or purchase agreements, donor restrictions, privacy and publicity rights, licensing and trademarks. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by copyright beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owner. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user. All requests to reproduce, publish, quote from, or otherwise use collection materials must be submitted in writing to the Head of Public Services, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley 94720-6000. See: <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/reference/permissions.html>

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Stowitts, Hubert Julian
Pavlova, Anna
Artists--California
Painters--United States
Dancers
University of California, Berkeley -- Alumni and alumnae.
Gay artists
Dance--20th century

Series 1. **Personalia**

Carton 1, Folder 1
Carton 1, Folder 2
Box 3, Folder 7

Biographical materials
Articles about Stowitts
Articles about Stowitts 1927
Scope and Contents

Issue of French women's magazine, Femina, with articles on Stowitts' Parisian studio.

Carton 1, Folder 3
Box 3, Folder 7
Carton 1, Folder 4
Carton 1, Folder 5
Carton 1,
Folder 6-9
Carton 1,
Folder 10

Estate materials 1955
Passport 1922
Passport 1930
Horoscopes undated
Address books and mailing list approximately 1930-1950
UC Berkeley documents 1913-1914

Series 2. **Correspondence**

Carton 1,
Folder 11-16
Carton 1,
Folder 17-20
Carton 1,
Folder 21
Carton 1,
Folder 22
Carton 1,
Folder 23-38
Carton 1,
Folder 39

Incoming 1910-1953 undated
Outgoing 1930-1953 undated
Regarding Tragic Duse approximately 1940-1949
Letters to Sister Bernice approximately 1930-1939
Letters to mother 1916-1936
Unidentified letters approximately 1930-1950

Series 3. **Writings**

Carton 1,
Folder 40-41
Carton 1,
Folder 42
Carton 1,
Folder 43
Carton 1,
Folder 44
Carton 1,
Folder 45
Carton 2,
Folder 1-3
Carton 2, Folder 4

Manuscript: Adventures in India 1931
Manuscript: The "Arkos" Plan for Post-War Employment undated
Manuscript: Arkos, A Practical Youth Movement and Center for a World Renaissance in Culture thru the Youth of America undated
Manuscript: Arkos: The American Renaissance undated
Manuscript: Arkos undated
Manuscript: The Golden Age of Ballet undated
Manuscript: The Court Costumes of China undated

Carton 2, Folder 5	Manuscript: The Javanese Theatre undated
Carton 2, Folder 6	Assorted manuscript material relating to the Javanese theatre undated
Carton 2, Folder 7-8	Manuscript: Thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory undated
Carton 2, Folder 9	Manuscript: The Key to the Culture of Indonesia undated
Carton 2, Folder 10-12	Manuscript: Vanishing India undated
Carton 2, Folder 13	Manuscript: Industry's Debt to India undated
Carton 2, Folder 14	Manuscripts and notes: assorted on metaphysical ideas undated
Carton 2, Folder 15	Manuscripts and notes: assorted undated
Carton 2, Folder 16	Published writings: assorted 1929-1930

Series 4. Exhibits/Performances

Carton 2, Folder 17	Dance and art exhibit programs and other ephemera approximately 1920-1945
Carton 2, Folder 18	Reviews approximately 1931
Carton 2, Folder 19	Clippings approximately 1930-1940
Box 3, Folder 1	Clippings approximately 1930-1940
Carton 2, Folder 20	The Golden Age of the Ballet, assorted approximately 1948-1991
Carton 2, Folder 21	American Champions approximately 1936
Carton 2, Folder 22-23	Vanishing India approximately 1931-1986
Box 5	Scrapbook (mostly Vanishing India) approximately 1931-1932 Scope and Contents Mostly articles and ephemera from the Vanishing India exhibit.
Box 4 Box 1, Folder 3-6	Scrapbook (mostly Vanishing India) approximately 1931-1936 India paintings 1932 Scope and Contents Issues of the London Illustrated News with articles on Stowitts' India paintings.
Carton 2, Folder 24	The Art of the Theatre in Java 1933
volume 2	Stage Directions for Fay-Yen-Fah 1927
volume 3	Book: The Work of Stowitts for The Fox-God Lyric Ballet in 3 Acts (poem by Templeton Crocker, music by Joseph Redding) 1939
volume 4	Book: The Work of Stowitts for The Fox-God Lyric Ballet in 3 Acts (poem by Templeton Crocker, music by Joseph Redding). Second copy 1939
Box 3, Folder 7	American Champions approximately 1936
Box 3, Folder 7	Manuscript of review of Javanese Theatre Paintings by Hubert Stowitts at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington undated

Series 5. Miscellany

Carton 2, Folder 25	Materials on Anna Pavlova
Box 1, Folder 1-2	Materials on Anna Pavlova Scope and Contents Includes an inscribed copy of "I Shall Always Love the West: Impressions of the Incomparable Anna Pavlova" by J. Paget-Fredericks

volume 1	Book: Anna Pavlova by V. Svetloff 1922
Carton 2,	Drawings undated
Folder 26	
Box 3, Folder 7	Unidentified costume sketches undated
Carton 2,	Travel book on Java approximately 1930
Folder 27	
Carton 2,	1932 Olympiad ephemera 1932
Folder 28	
Box 3, Folder 2-6	Los Angeles Times Olympic Games sections 1932
Carton 2,	Assorted approximately 1925-1945
Folder 29	
Box 2	Zensurkopie: American Athletes by Hubert Stowitts January 14, 1937
	Physical Description: 1 Reels1 35 mm film reel