

---

## **Guide to the Royal Danish Ballet Photograph Album on the Premiere of *Giselle*MS.P.072**

Processed by Cyndi Shein; machine-readable finding aid created by Cyndi Shein

Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Irvine Libraries

(cc) 2007

The UCI Libraries

P.O. Box 19557

University of California, Irvine

Irvine 92623-9557

[spcoll@uci.edu](mailto:spcoll@uci.edu)

URL: <http://special.lib.uci.edu>

---

**Contributing Institution:** Special Collections and Archives, University of California, Irvine Libraries

**Title:** Royal Danish Ballet photograph album on the premiere of *Giselle*

**Creator:** Kongelige Danske ballet

**Identifier/Call Number:** MS.P.072

**Physical Description:** 0.9 Linear Feet(1 box and 1 oversized folder)

**Date (inclusive):** 1956

**Abstract:** The collection comprises a photograph album created by the Royal Danish Ballet and presented to visiting Russian choreographer Alexandre Volinine. The album commemorates the company's premiere of *Giselle* on November 10-11, 1946, staged in Copenhagen by Volinine. *Giselle*, featuring the company's principle ballerina, Margot Lander, was one of the company's most successful runs of the decade.

**Language of Material:** Danish .

#### **Access**

The collection is open for research.

#### **Publication Rights**

Property rights reside with the University of California. Copyrights are retained by the creators of the records and their heirs. For permissions to reproduce or to publish, please contact the Head of Special Collections and Archives.

#### **Preferred Citation**

Royal Danish Ballet photograph album on the premiere of *Giselle*. MS-P072. Special Collections and Archives, The UC Irvine Libraries, Irvine, California. Date accessed.

For the benefit of current and future researchers, please cite any additional information about sources consulted in this collection, including permanent URLs, item or folder descriptions, and box/folder locations.

#### **Acquisition Information**

Acquired in 2007.

#### **Processing History**

Processed by Cyndi Shein, 2007.

#### **Processing Note**

During processing, the duplicate photographs, house program, and broadsides were removed and stored separately for preservation purposes.

#### **Historical Background**

The Royal Danish Ballet evolved from Danish theater and traces its roots to the 1748 opening of Denmark's Royal Theatre in Copenhagen. The ballet company experienced its greatest success and growth under the direction of three noteworthy masters, Vincenzo Galeotti (1775-1816), Auguste Bournonville (1830-1877), and Harald Lander (1932-1951). Galeotti increased the number of dancers in the company, introduced Denmark to an international repertory, developed native dancers and composers, and staged popular ballets. Bournonville's reign is often called the "Golden Age." He was the principle male dancer until 1848 and built a rich and diverse repertory. A century later, Harald Lander revived and modernized the faltering company. During the 1930s and 1940s he nurtured and showcased talented dancers such as Margot Lander and Borge Ralov and brought in internationally acclaimed choreographers such as the Russian Alexandre Volinine.

*Giselle*, staged by Volinine in 1946, was one of the Royal Danish Ballet's most successful runs of the decade. The ballet featured lead dancers Margot Lander and Borge Ralov. Lander danced the title role and her performance earned her the Teaterpokalen great performance trophy awarded by the dance critics of Copenhagen.

#### **Collection Scope and Content Summary**

The collection comprises a photograph album created by the Royal Danish Ballet and presented to visiting Russian choreographer, Alexandre Volinine. The album commemorates the company's premiere of *Giselle* on November 10-11, 1946, which was staged in Copenhagen by Volinine. It is inscribed to Volinine and signed on behalf of the Chief of the Royal Theatre by Hennings Rahde (secretary) and S. Bertholdt (head administrator). The first photograph is a portrait of the company with Volinine, signed by the photographer, [Rigmor] Mydtskov. All other photographs are of the dancers during the performance. Inserted in the album were duplicate photographs and a Kongelige Teatre (Royal Theatre) house program for the 1946-47 season. Also included are two broadsides advertising the 1946 performances of the Royal Danish Ballet, one of them inscribed from the dance master, Harald Lander, to Volinine.

#### **Collection Arrangement**

---

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Aschengreen, E. "Royal Danish Ballet." *The International Encyclopedia of Dance*. Ed. Selma Jeanne Cohen and the Dance Perspectives Foundation. Oxford University Press, 2003.

**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

Broadsides -- 20th century.

Photograph albums -- 20th century.

Photographic prints -- 20th century.

Dance cards

Ballet dancers.

Giselle (Choreographic work) -- Photographs.

Giselle (Choreographic work) -- Archives.

Lander, Margot

Mydtskov, Rigmor

Volinin, Aleksandr Emel'ianovich -- Archives

Kongelige Danske ballet -- Photographs

Kongelige Danske ballet -- Archives

---

box 1

**Photograph album 1946**

**General Physical Description note:** 34 x 24 x 3 cm.

**Scope and Contents note**

The album contains 14 black-and-white photographs measuring approximately 7 x 10 inches each. This includes one portrait of Volinine with the ballet company and 13 photographs of the performance of *Giselle*. The album is bound with string and covered in red morocco-grained paper.

box 1, folder 2-3

**Photographic prints 1946**

**General Physical Description note:** 11 black-and-white photographs

**Scope and Contents note**

Photographs duplicate those in the album.

box 1, folder 1  
folder XOS 1

**Program for Det Kongelige Teatre for the 1946-47 season 1946**

**Broadsides 1946**

**Scope and Contents note**

Contains 2 black-and-white newsprint broadsides promoting the 1946 productions of the Royal Danish ballet. One of the broadsides includes information on *Giselle*, and the other is inscribed from Harald Lander to Volinine.