Guide to the Isadora Duncan Dance Programs and Ephemera

Collection number: MS-P033

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Descriptive Summary
Title: Isadora Duncan dance programs and ephemera,
Date (inclusive): 1900-1957
Collection number: MS-P033
Creator: Duncan, Isadora, 1877-1927
Extent: 0.3 linear feet (1 box and 1 oversize folder)
Repository: University of California, Irvine. Library. Special Collections and Archives.
Irvine, California 92623-9557

Abstract: This collection comprises dance programs and some ephemera documenting Isadora Duncan and her international performances from 1900 to 1920. Materials in this collection are in Dutch, English, French, and German. Also included are programs for performances by her students, the Isadora Duncan Dancers.

Physical location: University of California, Irvine. Library. Special Collections and Archives.
Language: English.

Access
Collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation
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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, 1999.

Processing History

Biography
Isadora Duncan was born in San Francisco on May 27, 1878. She was a pioneer of "free dance" -- the theory that dance was the expression of an inner urge or impulse and reflected the rhythms of nature -- as opposed to the formal dance form of ballet. Her revolutionary ideas on dance were not well accepted in America, and Duncan left for Europe in 1899, where she enjoyed greater success. Her first appearances were from 1900 to 1902 in Paris, Budapest, Vienna, Munich, and Berlin. In 1904 she founded her own school. In 1905 Duncan appeared in Russia for the first time, where she was much admired by advocates of reform of the ballet. In 1925 Duncan moved to France, where she began her autobiography, My Life, and gave occasional performances. She gave her last recital in Paris in July 1927. In Nice, France, on September 14, 1927, Duncan was killed in a car accident. Lessons in the Duncan dance technique continued after her death, and were taught by Irma Duncan (one of Isadora's adopted daughters) and several of her other pupils, who were also known as the Isadora Duncan Dancers.

For further biographical information, see Isadora Duncan, My Life, by Isadora Duncan (New York: Boni and Liveright, 1927). See also Walter Terry, Isadora Duncan: Her Life, Her Art, Her Legacy, (New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1964).

Collection Scope and Content Summary
This collection comprises dance programs and some ephemera documenting Isadora Duncan and her international performances from 1900 to 1920. Materials in this collection are in Dutch, English, French, and German. Also included are programs for performances by her students, the Isadora Duncan Dancers.

Unless noted otherwise, items in this collection are dance programs. Materials are arranged chronologically by performance date.

Related Collections
Related materials can be found in the Mary Desti Collection on Isadora Duncan (MS-P05), Special Collections and Archives, The UC Irvine Libraries.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects
Duncan, Isadora, 1877-1927--Archival resources.
Dance--Archival resources.
Modern dance--Archival resources.

Genres and Forms of Materials
Dance programs.
Ephemera.

Occupations
Dancers.
Dance teachers.

Box 1 : 1  Shakespearean Season, Mr. F. R. Benson's Company, Lyceum Theatre, London, 1900
Box 1 : 2  Officiële Programma Van Den Stadsschouwburg, Amsterdam, 1905-1907
Box 1 : 3  Boston Symphony Hall, 1908
Box 1 : 3  Farewell appearance, New York, 1909
Box 1 : 3  Carnegie Hall, New York, 1911
Box FB-31 : 3  Elizabeth-Duncan Schule, Deutsches Künstler-Theater (Societat) Berlin, 1914
Box FB-31 : 3  Dionysion, New York Century Opera House, 1915
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1 : 3</th>
<th>Palais Du Trocadéro, Paris, 1916-1920</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physical Description: 2 items</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scope and Content Note</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Includes reproductions of Steichen photographs.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Box 1 : 3 | Isadora Duncan Dancers, The Neighborhood Playhouse, New York, 1918 |
| Box 1 : 3 | Chopin Recital, Columbia Theater, San Francisco, 1918 |
| Box 1 : 4 | Isadora Duncan Dancers, Columbia Theater, San Francisco, 1919 |
| Box 1 : 4 | Festival Chopin, L'Ecole Isadora Duncan, France, 1919 |
| Box 1 : 4 | Isadora Duncan Dancers, Carnegie Hall, 1920 (?) |
| Box 1 : 4 | Recital Chopin, Studio D'Isadora Duncan, Nice, France, 1926 |
| Box 1 : 4 | California Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco, 1957 |
|          | Scope and Content Note               |
|          | Memorial exhibition catalog.         |

| Box 1 : 5 | Undated |
| Box 1 : 5 | The Pupils of Isadora Duncan, Liberty Theatre, New York |
| Box 1 : 5 | Isadora Duncan et ses Èleves de l'Ecole de Danse de Darmstadt |
| Box 1 : 5 | Isadora Duncan and Symphony Orchestra, New York |