Guide to the Collection on La Argentina, 1927-1984 bulk circa 1927-1935

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Collection number: MS-P35

Descriptive Summary
Title: Collection on La Argentina,
Date (inclusive): 1927-1984
Date (bulk): bulk circa 1927-1935
Collection number: MS-P035
Extent: 0.5 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 consists of 45 photographs of La Argentina (Antonia Mercé), most taken during the 1930s by
Monique Paravicini and D'Ora; a program from a performance in Paris by La Argentina; and two items of correspondence
and a membership card from Monique Paravicini regarding membership in the association Les Amis d'Argentina. Also
included is the pamphlet Argentina, a brief publication about the career and life of La Argentina. The collection contains
several items of La Argentina ephemera from unknown sources as well.
Language: English.
Access
Collection is open for research.
Publication Rights
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heirs. For permissions to reproduce or to publish, please contact the Head of Special Collections and University Archives.
Preferred Citation
Collection on La Argentina. MS-P35. 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
Processing History
Processed by Andre Ambrus in 2002.
Biography
La Argentina was born Antonia Mercé to her dancer parents Manuel Mercé and Josefina Luque in 1888. She learned to
dance from her father at the age of four, and by nine debuted with the Royal Opera Theater in Madrid, Spain. Following the
death of her father, at the age of fourteen, she retired from ballet, and started training with her mother in her native
Spanish dances.
La Argentina awakened and reinvigorated a style which previously belonged to the Gypsies. She also reached previously unseen levels of artistry with the Castanets while developing numerous new techniques. From 1928 to 1936 La Argentina made six transcontinental tours of North America. She died in France in 1936 of a heart attack.

**Collection Scope and Content Summary**

This collection consists of 45 photographs of La Argentina (Antonia Mercé), most taken during the 1930s by Monique Paravicini and D'Ora; a program from a performance in Paris by La Argentina; and two items of correspondence and a membership card from Monique Paravicini regarding membership in the association Les Amis D'Argentina. Also included is the pamphlet *Argentina*, a brief publication about the career and life of La Argentina. The collection contains several items of La Argentina ephemera from unknown sources as well.

The collection is arranged topically. Materials are arranged chronologically within each topical grouping whenever possible.

| Box: 1 : 1-5 | Alix Grés materials on La Argentina |
| Box: 1 : 1 | Correspondence, including one photograph, 1984 |
| Box: 1 : 2-4 | Photographs of La Argentina |
| Box: 1 : 2 | D'Ora (photographer), circa 1927- circa 1936 |
| Box: 1 : 3 | Paravicini, Monique (photographer), circa 1927- circa 1936. |
| Physical Description: 17 items. |

| Box: 1 : 4 | Unidentified photographs, circa 1927- circa 1936 |
| Box: 1 : 6 | La Argentina materials from unknown sources, 1924-1931. |
| Scope and Content Note |
| Includes the pamphlet *Argentina*, programs and photographs. |

| Box: FB-48 : 6 | Oversize clipping, 1924 |