
Michio Ito collection CEMA 25

Finding aid prepared by Callie Bowdish, Janet Chen, and Suzanne Im, 2013.

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2013 July

Title: Michio Ito collection

Identifier/Call Number: CEMA 25

Contributing Institution: UC Santa Barbara Library, Department of Special Collections

Language of Material: English

Physical Description: 9.0 linear feet(8 document boxes and 1 oversize box)

Date (inclusive): 1911-1980

Abstract: Michio Ito was a concert dancer and choreographer from Japan. This collection consists of numerous photos, magazines, articles, posters and books about his dances and choreography. The collection also consists of programs from his dance concerts, his own personal notes, and diagrams of his dances, as well as films and audio recordings used for film production. The bulk of the material is related to the writing of the book *Michio Ito: The Dancer and His Dances* by Helen Caldwell.

Physical Location: Del Norte

Language of Materials: The collection is in English.

Biography

Michio Ito (ca. 1892-1961) was a Japanese concert dancer and choreographer. He left Japan for Paris in 1911. After training in Paris, he went on to study dance in Egypt. In 1912, he enrolled at the Émile Jaques-Dalcroze school in Hellerau, Germany. Ito later moved to London, where under the sponsorship of Lady Ottoline Morrel, he began to perform solo works. He made his professional debut as a recital dancer in May 1915. After his debut, he gave a series of concerts in London which culminated in his choreography and performance of *At the Hawk's Well* by William Butler Yeats, at a private performance.

Ito emigrated to the United States in 1916 and lived in Los Angeles from 1929 - 1941. He spent most of his time in America choreographing for his own company. During his time in America, he spent most of it divided between New York and on the West Coast. During his New York period he staged several plays for innovative theater groups that included *Bushido* for the Washington Square Players (1916), *Tamura* (1918) and *Nuages et Fêtes*(1929) for the Neighborhood Playhouse, and *Turandot* (1929) for the Habima Players.

In Los Angeles Ito staged plays in Japanese for the Tokujiro Tautsui Company of Players and the Japanese Children's Theatre and he also had symphonic groups concerts at the Rose and Hollywood Bowls. He is frequently said to have staged many Oriental dance sequences in early sound-era films, although only two such credits can be verified, most notably, his work as a technical advisor on the 1933 version of *Madame Butterfly* (Paramount). Ito also appeared in at least one addition Paramount film, *BooLoo* (1938), in which he portrayed an African tribal chieftan.

Ito was deported from the United States in 1941 and he returned to Tokyo where he established a school. He then went on to produce Prologs for Japanese movie-house chains and after 1946 he staged shows for the Fifth Air Force (Occupation Army). Ito was involved in television production before his death in 1961, but it cannot be determined whether he staged dances for variety shows or worked in a technical or production capacity. His school and company in Tokyo was managed by his former student, Ryuko Maki and remained functioning until 1976.

Over the last few years, Ito's work and choreographic theories have had a revival in the United States, which were primarily sponsored by Maki and her student, Satoru Shimazaki, a Japanese choreographer who worked in New York. Shimazaki has given recitals consisting of Ito's reconstructed works and included Ito's piece in concerts of his own company and repertory. Shimazaki also had demonstrations of Ito's choreographic vocabulary, which were a limited selection of movements that he manipulated into his characterizational and abstract works. His theories will probably become the subject of more discussion and will take their place with those of his contemporaries that are possibly dated, but very recognizable for their period and Dalcroze influence.

Reference: Cohen-Stratyner, Barbara Naomi. 1982. *Biographical dictionary of dance*. New York: Schirmer Books.

Access Restrictions

Service copies of audiovisual items may need to be made before viewing or listening. Please consult Special Collections staff for further information.

Use Restrictions

Copyright has not been assigned to the Department of Special Collections, UCSB. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Head of Special Collections. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Department of Special Collections as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which also must be obtained.

Acquisition Information

Donated by Helen Caldwell, 1992.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of Item], Michio Ito collection, CEMA 25. Department of Special Collections, UC Santa Barbara Library, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Scope and Content

The Michio Ito Collection contains Ito's personal notes and biographical research about Ito done by Helen Caldwell. The collection is divided into six series spanning 9 boxes. The bulk of the collection consists of articles, programs, and publications about Ito's career. Also included are Ito's personal notes, dance diagrams, films, and audio recordings. Altogether, the collection provides an insight into Ito's creative and professional life as a dancer and choreographer.

Processing Information

Processed by Callie Bowdish, Janet Chen, and Suzanne Im, 2013.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Itō, Michio, 1893-1961

Choreographers--Japan

Dancers--Japan

Japanese--California--Los Angeles

Japanese--United States

Series I: Michio Ito book materials**Series Scope and Content**

This series consists of pictures from Helen Caldwell's book about Michio Ito. There are also pictures taken by Toyo Miyatake.

Box 1, Folder 1-7
Box 3, Folder 25
Box 1,
Folder 13-15,
Box 5,
Folder 26-28

Book Pictures June 28, 1977**Book Pictures****Toyo Miyatake****Series II Research****Series Scope and Content**

This series contains Helen Caldwell's research on Michio Ito.

Box 1,
Folder 8-12,
Box 5,
Folder 30-33

Helen Caldwell

Box 1, Folder 8-12
Box 5,
Folder 30-33

Helen Caldwell folders**Helen Caldwell folders**

Subject Files

Box 5, Folder 1-4
Box 5, Folder 5
Box 5, Folder 6
Box 5, Folder 7
Box 5, Folder 8
Box 5, Folder 9
Box 5, Folder 10
Box 5, Folder 11

III-Chapter II - Melancholy + Epic Hero 127-157**Albeniz-Tango****Boccherini-Minuet****Chopin + Tango****Dance-Poses****Debussy****Delibes****Excercises + 10 Gestures**

Box 5,

Folder 12-13

Box 5, Folder 14

Box 5, Folder 15

Box 5, Folder 16

Box 5, Folder 17

Box 5, Folder 18

Box 5, Folder 19

Box 5, Folder 20

Box 5, Folder 21

Box 5, Folder 22

Box 5, Folder 23

Box 5, Folder 24

Box 5, Folder 25

Box 5, Folder 29

Griffes

Ippolitow-Iwanow-Caucasian Sketches

Ito Dances and Music

Kelley-Javanese

Masks-Japanese Mask Book

Pavane (Henry VIII?)

Ravel-Chinese Pavane

Sarasate

Satie

Sawada

Schumann

Scott- Lotus Land

Scriabine

Yamada

Box 9, Folder 1

Biography and career - "Memories"

Box 9, Folder 2

Costume pictures in cedar chest

Box 9, Folder 3

Group dances

Box 9, Folder 4

Interpretations

Box 9, Folder 5

ITC - Xerox articles - Yeats, Harlocke Ellis, Castles, Ruth St. Denis, Howarth, HSC

Box 9, Folder 6

Nixon, Roberta

Box 9, Folder 7

Noguchi, Ito

Box 9, Folder 8

Second edition

Box 9, Folder 9

Translations - Kyogen

Box 9, Folder 10

Unused

Series III: Articles and programs

Series Scope and Content

This series contains numerous articles, programs, and magazines about Michio Ito and his dance concerts.

Articles

Articles

Box 2, Folder 1	1911-1914
Box 2, Folder 2-8	1914-1916: England
Box 2, Folder 9-10	1927-1929: New York
Box 2, Folder 11	1929: LA
Box 2, Folder 12	1930
Box 2,	1931
Folder 13-14	
Box 2, Folder 15	1932-1939
Box 2, Folder 16	1940
Box 2, Folder 17	1941, 1945-1948
Box 2, Folder 18	1960-1969
Box 2,	1970
Folder 19-22	

Magazines

Box 9, Folder 11	Dance Magazine
Box 4, Folder 2-4	PB Magazine
Box 3, Folder 1-4	PM Magazine

Box 3, Folder 16-18

Miscellaneous Programs and Articles

Box 4, Folder 1

PB Books

Box 3, Folder 5, 6, Box 4, Folder 5

Posters

Box 4, Folder 6-8

PR Programs

Box 3, Folder 7-15

Programs

Box 3, Folder 19-21

Xeroxes, Magazines X-M

Box 3, Folder 22-24

Xeroxes, Programs, and Announcements

Series IV: Publications

Series Scope and Content

This series contains publications, such as books and magazines about Ito. Also included is the book written by Helen Caldwell in English and Japanese versions.

Books

Box 6	Takeishi, Midori, and David Pacun. 2006. <i>Japanese Elements in Michio Ito's Early Period (1915-1934): meetings of East and West in the collaborative works.</i> Tokyo: Gendai Tosho.
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Books

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- | | |
|-------|--|
| Box 6 | Caldwell, Helen. 1977. <i>Michio Ito: the dancer and his dances</i>. Berkeley: University of California Press. |
| Box 6 | Caldwell, Helen. 1977. <i>Michio Ito: the dancer and his dances</i>. Berkeley: University of California Press. Translated by Einosuke Nakagawa into Japanese
Language of Material: Japanese |
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Box 7

Miscellaneous Publications about Dance and Costume

- Lemoisne, P.A., and Tyra de Kleen. 1929. L'illustration: Noël 1929. Paris: [s.n.]
December 1929**
- Dance Lovers Magazine March 1924**
- Dance Lovers Magazine July 1924**
- Dance Lovers Magazine November**
- The Dance Magazine March 1926**
- The Dance Magazine July 1926**
- The Dance Magazine October 1926**
- The Dance November 1926**
- Dance February 1946**
- L'illustration December 1928**
- L'illustration December 1929**
- Nritya Rekha**

Series V: Movies**Series Scope and Content**

This series contains reel to reel films, magnetic audio tapes used for film production, slides and stop-motion negatives.

Audio for movie production 1972-1980

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Reel A23155/R7 | Movie - Intro and Program I and II |
| Reel A23156/R7 | Movie Program III and IV |
| Reel A23157/R7 | Billy I |
| Reel A23158/R7 | Billy II |
| Reel A23159/R7 | Billy III and HC 1980 July 1 |
| Reel A23160/R7 | Caldwell II 1972 July 22 |
| Reel A23161/R7 | Caldwell III Slowed and Caresse on side II 1980 May 15 |
| Reel A23162/R7 | Steve I and Caresse retape |
| Reel A23163/R7 | Steve II |
| Reel A23164/R7 | Steve [Traverse?] |
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Films

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Film V2164 | Hal Mohr Blue Print Of Choreography |
| Film V2166 | Hal Mohr Blue Print of Choreography-Scriabing 5 |
| Film V2167 | Hal Mohr Blue Print of Choreography-Spanish Fan |
| Film V2168 | [Man Hunt?] |
| Film V2169 | Reel 1 -Unidentified |
| Film V2170 | Reel 2 -Unidentified Sc no. 25 [Pavnane?] |
| Film V2171 | Scr no [6?] (Several Film Titles) |
| Film V4903 | Out take |
| Film V4904 | Full part of chorography, Hal Mohr |
| Film V4905 | Reel 1 no.1, New Neg. |
| Film V4906 | Reel 2 From New Neg. |
| Film V4907 | Reel 3, New Part |
| Film V4908 | R-4, New Pt. Int |
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Ito slides

Box 1, Folder 16	Choreography
Box 1, Folder 16	Portraits

Notes

Box 9, Folder 12	HC Movie I-A performance
Box 9, Folder 13	Ito - Motion pictures
Box 9, Folder 14	Tape D commentary

Box 7	Stop motion - final version 1976 July 11
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Box 7	35 mm negatives
	Series VI: Musical scores

Series Scope and Content

This series includes musical scores with handwritten notes. Information regarding this music is also included in Series II: Research, Subject Files.

Box 8, Folder 1	Albeniz-Tango
Box 8, Folder 2	Amsco Music Publishing Co.
Box 8, Folder 3	Boccherini
Box 8, Folder 4	Chopin-Album
Box 8, Folder 5	Chopin-Etudes
Box 8, Folder 6	Chopin-Nocturne Waltz
Box 8, Folder 7	Debussy
Box 8, Folder 8	Delibes
Box 8, Folder 9	Grieg
Box 8, Folder 10	Griffes
Box 8, Folder 11	Henry VIII
Box 8, Folder 12	Ippolitov-Ivanov
Box 8, Folder 13	Kelley
Box 8, Folder 14	Ravel
Box 8, Folder 15	Sarasate
Box 8, Folder 16	Satie
Box 8, Folder 17	Sawada
Box 8, Folder 18	Schumann
Box 8, Folder 19	Scott-Cyril
Box 8, Folder 20	Scriabin
Box 8, Folder 21	Tschaikowsky
Box 8, Folder 22	Yamada