Guide to the
Michel Fokine papers
1914-1941
(S) *MGZMC-Res. 11

Processed by Marion Kahn.

Summary

Creator: Fokine, Michel, 1880-1942

Title: Michel Fokine papers

Date: 1914-1941

Size: Approximately 52 items

Source: Gift of Vitale Fokine. Material received on: June 1963.

Abstract: Papers of the choreographer, dancer and teacher, including letters from Arnold L. Haskell, Cyril W. Beaumont, Sara Yancey Belknap, Alexander Levitoff and others, also essays and articles by Fokin and others, bookplates, calling cards and miscellaneous items.


Language of the Material: In English, French and Russian English

Processing note: Processed by Marion Kahn.

Creator History

Mikhail Fokine, Russian dancer, choreographer, teacher, and ballet director, was born in St. Petersburg May 5, 1880. He was trained at the Imperial Theatre School, St. Petersburg where he graduated in 1898. He was a dancer and choreographer at the Maryinsky Theatre and teacher at the Imperial Theatre School. His choreography for the Maryinsky included The Dying Swaro Anna Pavlova and Le Pavillion d'Armide. From 1909-1912, Fokine was chief choreographer for Ballets Russes of Serge Diaghilev, producing such works as Polovtsian Dances, Les Sylphides, Cleopatre, Le Carnaval, Sheherazade, Firebird, and Le Spectre de la Rose. Leaving Diaghilev in 1912, and eventually Russia, in 1918, he pursued work, mainly in Scandinavia, before settling in New York in 1923. As a free-lance choreographer and dancer, often with his wife Vera Fokina (née Antonova), he worked for the Metropolitan Opera House, Hippodrome, and the Ziegfeld Follies, and in other cities such as Boston and Philadelphia. He continued to recreate his older works and stage new ones in Europe and South America. Founder of the Fokine School in New York City in 1921, he and Fokina had one son, Vitale
who became a ballet teacher. Fokine died in New York, August 22, 1942.

Scope and Content Note

Papers of the choreographer, dancer and teacher, including letters from Arnold L. Haskell, Cyril W. Beaumont, Sara Yancey Belknap, Alexander Levitoff and others, also essays and articles by Fokin and others, bookplates, calling cards and miscellaneous items.|||Material written in English, Russian and French

Key Terms

Subjects
Manuscripts -- Collections

Names
Fokine, Michel, 1880-1942
Belknap, S. Yancey (Sara Yancey)
Haskell, Arnold L. (Arnold Lionel), 1903-1980
Levitoff, Alexander
Container List

I. Letters
  f. 1. Various correspondents to Mikhail Fokin. 1930 Aug. 8-1936 June 4
  f. 2. Various correspondents to Mikhail Fokin. 1936 June 5-1941 Nov. 25
  f. 3. Miscellaneous material: envelopes, clippings, bookplates, hotel bills, 1 calling card, 1 invitation.

II. Essays and Articles by Mikhail Fokin.
  f. 5. "The New Ballet" (from the Russian magazine “Argus” 1916 Nov. 1. (22 p.)
  f. 6. "The Dance is Poetry Without Words" New York 1924. (6 p.)
  f. 9. "Sex Appeal in Dance" 1932 Sept. [UNK] (1 p.)
  f. 11. "Art does not enrich modern life..." n.d. (1 p.)
  f. 14. "How a legend is created" and "The Diaghileff file." (Dictated to Vitale Fokine in July 1961. Originally intended to be published in “Dance Magazine” but was never used.)