



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Fredrika Tuttle Blair research materials**

bulk 1960s-1980s

(S) \*MGZMD 322

Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2013

## Summary

**Creator:** Blair, Fredrika Tuttle

**Title:** Fredrika Tuttle Blair research materials

**Date:** bulk 1960s-1980s

**Size:** 1.93 linear feet (5 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by Frederika Blair, 1986, 1987.

**Abstract:** Fredrika Blair Hastings (formerly Fredrika Tuttle Blair), 1918-1990, published the biography *Isadora, Portrait of the Artist as a Woman* (McGraw-Hill, 1986). The biography was the culmination of thirty years of research on Isadora Duncan (1877-1927) the American dancer. The Fredrika Tuttle Blair research materials hold Blair's research files on Isadora Duncan, mostly from the 1960s, in notebooks, original manuscripts, research notes, and related materials. The collection languages are French and English.

**Access:** Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult:  
<https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

**Conditions Governing Use:** The author/creator retains copyright of materials. For information on obtaining permission to publish, contact the Dance Division at [dance@nypl.org](mailto:dance@nypl.org)

**Preferred citation:** Fredrika Tuttle Blair research materials, (S) \*MGZMD 322. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled by Valerie Wingfield, 2013 The collection was rehoused in acid free folders and containers. The original order was maintained.

## Creator History

Fredrika Blair Hastings (formerly Fredrika Tuttle Blair), 1918-1990, was the author of the biography on

Isadora Duncan "Isadora, Portrait of the Artist as a Woman" (McGraw-Hill, 1986). Blair began her research project on Isadora Duncan during the 1950s. This project lasted thirty years culminating in the publication of her book. Blair was a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Fredrika Tuttle Blair research materials, dated 1960s to 1980s, hold the research files of Fredrika Tuttle Blair's biography on Isadora Duncan entitled "Isadora, Portrait of the Artist as a Woman" (McGraw-Hill, 1986). The collection consists of notebooks, original manuscripts, research notes, and related material.

Blair wrote extensively in the bound notebooks and placed handwritten slips of paper between the pages. Some of the folders of draft materials and notes are housed with mailing envelopes. These mailing envelopes contain Blair's comments about the contents of the folders. It is critical that these envelopes remain housed with the manuscripts because the envelopes contain information pertinent to that particular manuscript. The collection does not hold a complete manuscript draft. There are several early drafts of book chapters dated between 1960s – 1970s. During Blair's research, she examined the research of others on Duncan. There is a translation of the article "Pages from the Past" by Ilya Shneider. There is no correspondence with the exception of two short notes from friends on personal matters and information about Duncan. The remaining material is printed matter. The collection languages are French and English.

**Arrangement:** The collection is arranged into two groups. One group is volumes and the second group is manuscripts in folders. The volumes are notebooks and loose leaf binders. The volumes have many handwritten notes between the pages. Some of the volumes are sequentially numbered with some irregularity in numbering. The loose manuscripts are housed in folders and envelopes. The folders do not have any identifying information as to content of these folders. Similar to the notebooks with the hand-annotated notes, some mailing envelopes with the loose manuscripts have hand written notes.

## **Key Terms**

### **Occupations**

Authors, American

### **Subjects**

Choreographers -- United States

Dancers -- United States -- 20th century

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Manuscripts (Books)

### **Names**

Duncan, Isadora, 1877-1927

## Container List

### Notebooks, Notes and Manuscripts

- b. 1 f. 1 Notebook 1960s  
Volume 1
- b. 1 f. 2 Notebook 1960s  
Volume 2
- b. 1 f. 3 Notebook 1960s  
Volume 3
- b. 1 f. 4 Notebook 1960s  
Volume 4
- b. 1 f. 5 Notebook 1960s  
Volume 5
- b. 1 f. 6 Notebook 1960s  
Volume 6
- b. 2 f. 1 Notebook 1960s  
Volume 7
- b. 3 f. 1 Notebook 1960s  
Volume 8
- b. 3 f. 2 Notebook 1960s  
Volume 9
- b. 3 f. 3 Notebook 1960s  
Volume 10
- b. 3 f. 4 Notebook 1960s  
Volume has no number
- b. 3 f. 5-12 Notes 1960s  
Number 1A
- b. 3 f. 7 Notes 1960s  
Number 7
- b. 3 f. 8 Notes 1960s  
Number 8
- b. 4 f. 1-4 Notes 1960s  
Number 9
- b. 4 f. 5 Notes 1960s  
Number 10
- b. 4 f. 6 Notes 1960s  
Number 11
- b. 4 f. 7 Notes 1960s  
Number 12
- b. 4 f. 8 Notes 1960s  
Number 13
- b. 4 f. 9-10 Notes 1970s  
Numbers 14-15
- b. 4 f. 11 Notes  
Number 16
- b. 4 f. 12 Duncan-related Material  
Number 17

Notebooks, Notes and Manuscripts (cont.)

- b. 4 f. 13 **Notes** 1960s  
Number 18
- b. 4 f. 14 **Notes** 1960s  
Number 21
- b. 4 f. 15-17 **Notes** 1960s
- b. 5 f. 1-6 **Notes, Correspondence** 1960s-1980s
- b. 5 f. 7 **Comments on Drafts** 1970s
- b. 5 f. 8 **Four Chapters Rearranged for Upcoming Biography** 1970s
- b. 5 f. 9 **Translation of Iliya Shneider's Article from Moskva** 1960s