



The New York Public Library  
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

**Mary Bywaters collection of Texas Arts material**

1961-1985

(S) \*MGZMD 368

Compiled by Lea Jordan, 2014

## Summary

**Creator:** Bywaters, Mary

**Title:** Mary Bywaters collection of Texas Arts material

**Date:** 1961-1985

**Size:** 1.47 linear feet (4 boxes)

**Source:** Donated by Mary Bywaters, 1985

**Abstract:** Mary Bywaters was a pianist and supporter of the arts from Dallas, Texas. The Mary Bywaters collection of Texas Arts material (1961-1985) contains files from Dallas arts booster groups and companies, as well as programs and photographs documenting the careers of Jerry Bywaters Cochran and Mary Cochran.

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**Preferred citation:** Mary Bywaters collection of Texas Arts material, (S) \*MGZMD 368. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library.

**Processing note:** Compiled by Lea Jordan, 2014

## Creator History

Mary Bywaters was a pianist and supporter of the arts from Dallas, Texas. She attended Southern Methodist University where she studied piano under Paul and Viola van Katwijk. After graduation she continued piano studies at the Paris Conservatory with Isador Philip. She taught piano in her home after returning to Texas.

She married Jerry Bywaters in 1930. He was a faculty member at Southern Methodist University as well as the director of the Dallas Museum of Art. Bywaters devoted her life to nurturing the arts in Dallas. In 1958, she became a founding member of the Dallas Civic Ballet and served as the organization's president for its first seven years. She also served on the boards of the Dallas Art Association, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, and the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts. Bywaters was a member of the Dallas Music Teachers Association, the Civic Music Association, and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra League. Bywaters remained in Dallas until her death in 1988.

Bywaters' daughter Jerry Bywaters Cochran attended Julliard to study modern dance. Upon returning to Texas, Cochran taught dance through the Dallas Civic Ballet, Dallas Dance Ensemble, and Texas Christian University. Cochran's daughter Mary danced with the Paul Taylor Dance Company from 1984 to 1986 before teaching dance at Mills College, the Juilliard School, the University of Michigan, Harvard University, and the North Carolina School of the Arts. Mary Cochran joined the faculty at Barnard College in 2003 and is currently their artistic director of the Department of Dance.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The Mary Bywaters collection of Texas Arts material (1961-1985) contains files from Dallas arts booster groups and companies, as well family files documenting the careers of Jerry Bywaters Cochran and Mary Cochran.

Company materials contain programs, flyers, and other promotional material from Texas-based arts groups such as the Dallas Civic Ballet, the Black Dance Theatre, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, and the Dallas Opera. There are also materials relating to touring shows and exhibits which visited Dallas. Arts booster files hold photocopies of board minutes and member lists, as well as original fundraising flyers and mailings.

Family files hold a professional biography of Jerry Bywaters, photographs of Mary Bywaters' teachers Paul and Viola van Katwijk, and Mary Cochran dance programs and photographs. The bulk of the family material concerns Jerry Bywaters Cochran's teaching career at Texas Christian University and consists of flyers, programs, teaching material, and professional correspondence.

**Arrangement:** Alphabetical by subject.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Arts fund raising  
Dance -- Texas  
Dance companies -- United States

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Programs

### **Names**

Dallas Ballet Association  
Dallas Opera  
Dallas Symphony Orchestra League

Texas Christian University

## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1-9 Art Booster Groups 1965-1985
  - Companies
- b. 2 f. 1-9 Dance 1961-1985
- b. 3 f. 1-3 Music 1975-1984
  - b. 3 f. 4 Theater 1974-1985
  - Family
- b. 3 f. 5 Bywaters, Jerry undated
- b. 3 f. 6-7 Bywaters, Mary undated
- b. 3 f. 8-10 Cochran, Jerry Bywaters 1974-1985
- b. 4 f. 1-3 Cochran, Jerry Bywaters 1974-1985
  - b. 4 f. 4 Cochran, Mary 1982-1984