



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Guide to the Muriel Topaz Collection of Materials on Antony Tudor

1940-1999

*MGZMD 131

Processed and encoded through a gift from Robert W. Wilson.

Processed by Barbara Cole and Charles Perrier, 2003.

Summary

Creator: Topaz, Muriel

Title: Guide to the Muriel Topaz Collection of Materials on Antony Tudor

Date: 1940-1999

Size: 5 boxes (2.25 linear feet)

Source: The Muriel Topaz Collection of Materials on Antony Tudor were donated to the Jerome Robbins Dance Division in 2002 by Muriel Topaz.

Abstract: Materials collected by Muriel Topaz for her biography on the choreographer Antony Tudor entitled *Undimmed Lustre: the Life of Antony Tudor*. Includes correspondence, interviews, professional papers, and varied information on Tudor's choreography, including review, articles, programs, and correspondence. Also includes a small series of photographs, some of which appeared in the biography.

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>

Preferred citation: Guide to the Muriel Topaz Collection of Materials on Antony Tudor, Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Processed by Barbara Cole and Charles Perrier, 2003; Machine-readable finding aid created by Charles Perrier; reviewed by Ann Morris, 2009

Creator History

Antony Tudor, British dancer, choreographer, and teacher, was born William Cook in London, April 4,

1909. His training began in 1928 with Marie Rambert and continued with Pearl Argyle, Harold Turner, and Margaret Craske. His career included: dancer and choreographer for Ballet Club (later Ballet Rambert) from 1930-1937; founder and choreographer of London Ballet, 1937-1940; resident choreographer of Ballet Theatre (later American Ballet Theatre), New York, 1939-1950; artistic director, Royal Swedish Ballet, 1952-1964; associate director, American Ballet Theatre, from 1974; and, as teacher for Metropolitan Opera Ballet School and Juilliard School. His works include *Jardin aux Lilas* (Ballet Rambert, 1936), *Dark Elegies* (Ballet Rambert, 1937), *The Judgement of Paris* (Westminster Theatre, London, 1938), *Gala Performance* (London Ballet, 1938), *Pillar of Fire* (Ballet Theatre, 1942), *Dim Lustre* (Ballet Theatre, 1943), *Undertow* (Ballet Theatre, 1945), *Lady of the Camellias* (New York City Ballet, 1951), *Offenbach in the Underworld* (Philadelphia Ballet Company, 1954), *Hail and Farewell* (Metropolitan Opera Ballet, 1959), *Echoing of Trumpets* (Royal Swedish Ballet, 1963), *Shadowplay* (Royal Ballet, London, 1967), and *The Leaves are Fading* (American Ballet Theatre, 1975). Tudor is the recipient of the Carina Ari Gold Medal, 1973, Dance Magazine Award, 1974, Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Award, Royal Academy of Dancing, 1985, Handel Medaillon of the City of New York, 1986, Capezio Dance Award, 1987, Kennedy Center Honors List, and honorary doctorate, Oxford University. He died in New York, April 19, 1987.

Muriel Topaz was a dancer, teacher, choreographer, reconstuctor, and author. Born in Philadelphia where she studied ballet and modern dance, she was a student at New York University School of Education and the Juilliard School of Music in the early 1950's. She had a long association with the Dance Notation Bureau and was its director from 1978 to 1985. She notated works by twenty-five different choreographers including George Balanchine, Doris Humphrey, José Limón, Paul Taylor and others. She was also the rehearsal director of the Juilliard Dance Ensemble, 1966-1970, and then director of the Dance Division, 1985-1992. In 1998, she received a John Simon Guggenheim Foundation fellowship to pursue research for her Tudor biography, published by The Scarecrow Press in 2002. She died, at age 70, in 2003.

Scope and Content Note

Materials collected by Muriel Topaz for her biography on the choreographer Antony Tudor entitled *Undimmed Lustre: the Life of Antony Tudor*. Includes correspondence, interviews, professional papers, and varied information on Tudor's choreography, including review, articles, programs, and correspondence. Also includes a small series of photographs, some of which appeared in the biography.

Container List

Series I. Binders ([20 Binders])

Includes correspondence, interviews, professional papers, and varied information on Tudor's choreography, including review, articles, programs, and correspondence. Titles copied from original binders.

- b. 1 f. 2 **American Ballet Theatre**
Includes correspondence and interviews with Hugh Laing (excerpt) and Donald Saddler.
- b. 1 f. 3 **Ballets "A"**
Includes Shadow of the Wind, Knight Errant, Offenbach in the Underworld, Nimbus, Echoing of Trumpets, Dim Lustre, Undertow, Elegies, Pillar of Fire, Leaves are Fading, et al.
- b. 2 f. 4 **Ballets "B"**
Includes Romeo and Juliet, Jardin aux Lilas, Cross-gartered, The Descent of Hebe, Gala Performance, Planets, Divine Horsemen, et al.
- b. 2 f. 5 **England**
Includes interviews with Janet Davies, Elizabeth Schooling, Peggy Van Praagh, Alicia Markova, Therese Langfield, Maude Lloyd, Fernau Hall, and Agnes de Mille.
- b. 2 f. 6 **Historical overview**
- b. 2 f. 7 **Interviews**
Includes Celia Franca and Genevieve Oswald.
- b. 3 f. 8 **Juilliard**
Includes correspondence and interviews with Karen Bell-Kanner, Lance Westergard, Bonnie Homsey, and Martha Hill.
- b. 3 f. 9 **Later life**
Includes correspondence and commentaries written for Tudor's memorial.
- b. 3 f. 10 **Metropolitan Opera**
Includes correspondence and interviews with William Burdick, Nancy Zeckendorf, Isabel Browne, Donald Mahler, Judith Bennahum, Sally Bliss, and Douglas Nielsen.
- b. 3 f. 11 **Press/Awards**
Primarily includes photocopies of printed articles and a typescript of Topaz's paper entitled "Notating and reconstructing for Antony Tudor".
- b. 3 f. 12 **Miscellaneous**
Includes contracts, program and casting information, and chronologies.
- b. 4 f. 13 **Philadelphia**
Includes interview with Judith Skoogfors.
- b. 4 f. 14 **1960's to 1970's**
Includes correspondence and interview with Merle Park.
- b. 4 f. 15 **Sweden**
Includes correspondence and interviews with Ellen Rasch, Bengt Hagar, Gerd Andersson, Viola Aberly, Lulli Svedin, Nils Johanssen, Berit Skold and Nils Winquist, Hervor Firststrand, and Vivica Lejung.
- b. 4 f. 16 **Tudor**
Includes notes on Topaz's interview with Tudor, examples of Tudor's writing, and a copy of John Gruen's Tudor interview with Topaz's notes.
- b. 4 f. 17 **Undated correspondence/Van Vechten**
Includes correspondence between Carl Van Vechten and Hugh Laing.
- b. 5 f. 18 **Palmers**
Includes many letters from Tudor to members of the Palmer family, living in New Zealand.
- b. 5 f. 19 **Sally's [Bliss] archive**
Includes correspondence and interview with Yasuki Sasa.

Series I. Binders (cont.)

b. 5 f. 20 **Australia**

Includes interviews with Bill Akers, Colin Peasley, Dame Margaret Scott, Gailene Stock, Kate Geldart, McCree & Olip, Marilyn Rowe and Leigh Rowles, Rex McNeil, Cecil Bates, Ross Stretton, Ray Powell, and Walter de Marie.

II. Photographs ([5 folders])

A small collection of formal and informal photographs of Tudor, his work, and his friends and family.

b. 5 f. 21 **Portraits**

b. 5 f. 22 **Tudor on stage**

b. 5 f. 23 **Tudor rehearsing or teaching**

b. 5 f. 24 **Tudor with notables**

b. 5 f. 25 **Tudor with friends and family**