



The New York Public Library
Jerome Robbins Dance Division

Guide to the

Nancy Brock collection on Mary Wigman

1920-1996

(S) *MGZMD 514

Processed by Stacey Ference in 2020.

Summary

Creator: Brock, Nancy

Title: Nancy Brock collection on Mary Wigman

Date: 1920-1996

Size: 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

Abstract: Mary Wigman (1886-1973) was a German dancer, dance instructor, and choreographer notable for her work in expressionist dance. Her many students included Yvonne Georgi, Hanya Holm, Harald Kreutzberg, Gret Palucca, Margarethe Wallmann, Inge Weiss, and Meta Vidmar. Nancy Brock was also a student of Wigman's from 1953 to 1954, and they maintained a correspondence until Wigman's death. This collection documents the relationship between Wigman and Brock through their personal correspondence, photographs, articles that Brock and others wrote about Wigman, and preparations for "Mary Wigman Day" in 1958 as well as Wigman's 80th birthday celebration. It also contains some of Brock's correspondence with others in the dance field, including Lincoln Kirstein, John Martin, Charles Weidman, and Louis Horst, as well as Brock's lecture notes from her time as a student.

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: Nancy Brock collection on Mary Wigman, (S) *MGZMD 514. Jerome Robbins Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Language of the Material: Multiple languages English, German

Processing note: Processed by Stacey Ference in 2020.

Creator History

Mary Wigman (born Karoline Sophie Marie Wiegmann, 1886-1973) was a German dancer, dance instructor, and choreographer notable for her work in expressionist dance. Throughout her career her

students and collaborators included Yvonne Georgi, Hanya Holm, Harald Kreutzberg, Gret Palucca, Margarethe Wallmann, Inge Weiss, and Meta Vidmar. Though she last performed as a dancer in 1953, she continued to teach at her school in West Berlin until her death.

Nancy Brock studied at the Mary Wigman Studio in West Berlin from 1953 to 1954. She was a solo dancer in a 1954 production of *Saul* by Handel which Wigman staged and they remained in correspondence throughout the years. In addition to her work with Wigman, Brock was a student of Western Reserve University, Bennington School of the Dance, and Hanya Holm School of the Dance. She was Assistant Professor of Physical Education for Women at Purdue University and a dance instructor at various institutions. She was also an early member of the Dance Notation Bureau.

Scope and Content Note

The Nancy Brock collection on Mary Wigman (1920s-1990s) documents the relationship between Brock and Wigman, as well as Wigman's career. The collection holds correspondence between Brock and Wigman; photographs; correspondence between Brock and others; and advertisements and programs for Wigman's studio and other dancers. The majority of photographs in the collection, taken in Germany during the 1950s, hold a copyright by Adolf Falk, Heinz Bieler, or Orgel-Köhne.

Arrangement: Recieved order is maintained. Original folders are maintained, with the exception of the final folder which is composed of loose materials that are related to Nancy Brock.

Key Terms

Subjects

Dancers -- Germany
Manuscripts -- Collections
Modern dance -- Germany
Women dancers

Occupations

Dancers.

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Personal correspondence

Names

Brock, Nancy
Horst, Louis
Kirstein, Lincoln, 1907-1996
Martin, John, 1893-1985
Weidman, Charles
Wigman, Mary, 1886-1973

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 Mary Wigman Letters 1952-1973
- b. 1 f. 2 Wigman Day 3/25/58 and 80th Birthday 1958, 1966, 1977
- b. 1 f. 3 Mary Wigman "Saul" 1953-1954
- b. 1 f. 4 Dance Articles in German 1920-1966, 1955-1956
- b. 1 f. 5 Mary Wigman Clippings, About Articles 1946-1996, 1954-1961
- b. 1 f. 6 Wigman File - Photos and Articles 1927-1974, 1953-1957
- b. 1 f. 7 Mary Wigman 1954-1956
- b. 1 f. 8 Nancy Brock -- Correspondence, Advertisements, Clippings, Notes 1934-1965