

INTRODUCTION

Provenance

This collection of photos, scrapbooks, covering nearly sixty years in the professional life of a dedicated teacher and choreographer of classical and modern dance in the Philippines and Northern California was donated to PALM early in 1994. The subject is Anita May Kane. Shortly after her death in January, Miss Kane's sister, Isla Whittier of Rohnert Park, California, presented the collection.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on the collection.

The collection number is 994.023

Size

The collection includes 1 box, 2 cartons, 3 oversize boxes, and 4 large scrapbooks

Processed by Paul Padgette

Completed in July, 1994

Separated Materials:

Set designs for a production of Charles Dicken's "A Christmas Carol"
now filed in Poster Rolls (in tube box).

12 photos, 6x8, the Ballet Rambert, seasons 1944,45, 46. One photo of Marie Rambert.

28 photos, 6x8, Sadler's Wells Ballet

7 photos, 8x10, Theatre d'Art du Ballet, Paris

9 photos, 6x8 1/2, from John Henry Antill's opera "Endymion," world premiere in 1953, by the National Opera of Australia.

5 photos, 6x8 1/2, from Arthur Benjamin's opera "The Devil Take Her," {1931} in a 1953 production by the National Opera of Australia.

Biography

Anita M. Kane was born in New Zealand, November 23, 1910. Moved with her family to the Philippines early in her childhood. She graduated from the American School High School, Manila, in 1929. She began ballet studies in 1925 with Katerina Makarova, an emigre from Russia to the Philippines. Continued with various teachers while in college (Pomona College in California and University of British Columbia).

In 1952 went to London to study with Claude Newman of the Royal Academy of Dancing; studied with Harold Turner, official coach with the Royal Ballet.

She had begun teaching ballet in Manila in 1934 and continued until 1969 except for three years spent in an Internment Camp during the Japanese occupation during World War II.

During these years she more than any other teacher introduced classic ballet to the Philippines through her school, "Studio of the Classic Dance." Her company presented the classical works (Swan Lake, Giselle, Sleeping Beauty, Nutcracker, Coppelia et al) as well as ballets based on folklore, allegorical dance dramas, pageants, water ballets, and interpretive and experimental dance. Under her influence visiting dance companies such as Alexandra Danilova, Royal Ballet, Jose Limon, and Paul Taylor performed in the Philippines.

She organized the Arts Council of the Philippines and served on many cultural arts committees under presidents Quirino, Macapagal, and Marcos. She organized the Pamana Ballet Company in 1963, the first truly professional ballet company in the Philippines. Her work as a choreographer and writer should be noted. She wrote regularly for the Manila Daily Bulletin and other papers. She various series of articles on dance under the general title "Before the Curtain Rises" is included in this collection.

Anita Kane moved to California in 1970 to be near her recently widowed sister and settled in Rohnert Park in northern California. Until the last year of her life she was director of two dance studios in Healdsburg and Rohnert Park. In her late years she was honored frequently for her contributions to ballet. Perhaps the most important to her was the special performances in her honor of Giselle in the Philippines for which she flew to Manila for the performances in 1988.

Anita Kane died of a heart attack on January 6, 1994. She was 83 years old.

Scope and Contents

The importance of the collection is two-fold. It documents the more than half century of a dedicated teacher of dance. She was instrumental in introducing and developing a continuing interest in the Philippines to all dance, and particularly the classic ballet. The scrapbooks and many photographs in the collection document a history of dance and related arts in the Philippines from 1935 through 1970.

SERIES I: BIOGRAPHICAL & PRINTED MATERIAL

Box 1

folder 1 Biographical materials

letters, personal photos, articles and clippings, invitations to events, etc.

folder 2 Articles

Series of articles, "Before the Curtain Rises," by Anita Kane, May 1-19, 1961, from the Manila Bulletin. Concerns the Royal Ballet of London visit to Philippines.

folder 3

Typescript of the above

folder 4 Articles

Series of articles, "Before the Curtain Rises," by Anita Kane, April 12 - May 17, 1962, from the Manila Bulletin. Concerns the "Stars of the Royal Ballet" visit to the Philippines.

folder 5 "Departure: MIA."

Choreography by Anita Kane. Caltex Cavalcade's Third Show on Channel 13 on November 7, 1962, Manila. Clippings from October 6 - November 14, 1962.

folder 6 "Peg O'My Heart,"

a play by J. Hartley Manners, directed by Anita M. Kane, December 8, 9, 10, 1950, at Scottish Rite Temple, Manila. Program, press notices, letter.

folder 7 "The Remarkable Mr. Pennypacker,"

a play by Liam O'Brien, featuring Bill Kane (Anita's brother), produced by Manila Theatre Guild, Army-Navy Club, Manila, February, 1962. Newspaper clippings

folder 8 Typescript

(2 pages) for the series "Before the Curtain Rises," on Doris Humphreys' choreography, by Anita Kane. Circa 1962

folder 9 Typescript

(7 pages) titled "The Exile," a modern ballet in 3 scenes. No author indicated.

folder 10 Anita Kane Ballet.

A scrapbook. Pages from May 31, 1961 to May 4, 1962

folder 11 Shakespeare Festival, Swan Hill, Australia, n.d.
Photo and article on the history of the event.

folder 12 "Reconstruction." Concerto-ballet.
Manuscript score with 16 orchestra parts, by M.O.V. Carluen, 1951. Also see
Over-size box 2 for a framed set of six photographs of "Reconstruction," 1951.

folder 13 Wood and metal plaque: Malacanang.
This plaque of Recognition is awarded to Anita M. Kane ... March 1, 1976 (signed)
Imelda Romualdez Marcos.

folder 14 Wood and metal plaque:Philippine Ballet Theater & Philippine Ballet Society
award this Plaque of Recognition to Ms. Anita M. Kane ... her pioneering efforts
in the promotion of ballet in the Philippines ... April 29, 1988.

SERIES II: PHOTOGRAPHS, TAPES & SCRAPBOOKS

Carton I

Framed photo with glass: Alicia Markova, Anita Kane, Anton Dolin, Benny Villanueva.
Photo, 5x6, mounted, under glass, over-all frame is 7x9. Dated April 12, 1948.

Scrapbook, 1970-1975, Sonoma County, California. Dance news clips,
photographs.size:12x13, green

Scrapbook. News clips and photos, loose leaf, 10x12 (black) Concerns Giselle
performances in April, 1988, honoring Miss Kane, Manila. Also see listing for Plaque
awarded at this time to Miss Kane.

Scrapbook (dismantled). News clips, photos from the production of "The Flower Drum
Song," Manila, 1966. Also see more material on "Flower" in carton Two.

Nine reel-to-reel tapes:

5 inch reels -

"Dulacawan Seasons - Mass Rasilag Dance (Philippines) a taped live
performance, 1969(?)

Unknown symphonic work, n.d.

"Piano-Waltz, n,d,

7 inch reels -

Profkofiev (?) symphonic work, Rohnert Park, 1972
"Cinderella," Healdsburg, 1979
"Alice in Wonderland," XmasTree Festival, Rohnert Park, 1980
(same) 1981
"Nutcracker," n.d.

16mm film: "Hansel and Gretel," n.d.

SERIES II: PHOTOGRAPHS, TAPES & SCRAPBOOKS con't.

Carton II

folder 1: Non-Philippines photographs.

Robert Helpmann, circa 1950, 8x10
Robert Helpmann and Alicia Markova, circa 1950, 8x10, autographed by both dancers
Robert Helpmann and Margot Fonteyn, circa 1950, 8x10, inscribed by her
Michael Maule, circa 1955, 8x10, inscribed by Maule
Basil Pattison (NewZealand) and Moira Claux (Australia) dancing "Modern America." (Bodenwieser Group) circa 1955, 6x8
Anita Kane greeting Ronald and Nancy Reagan, 1968, 5x7
Alexander Godunov (and 2 unidentified persons), circa 1965, 8x10
Roman Jasinsky (and others), circa 1955, 6x7
Karl Rankl (music director, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden), circa 1950, 8x10
Hilde Zadek (opera singer, as Tosca), circa 1950, 8x10
"Tosca," 1950. producer: Christopher West, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Act 1, set, 6x8

folder 2: Photos: Events concerning the arts in Philippines

Two photographs, mounted together, 3x5, 4x7, 1953. A dance class photo; Anita Kane with Walter Hendl, Teodoro Evangelista and Pres. Quirino.
Same persons as above, same event, different poses
Candid photo, group setting, circa 1955, 8x10. Bill Kane, John Field, Anya Linlen, Lynn Seymour, Desmond Doyle during Television interview, Channel 13.
Candid photo, group setting, circa 1960, 8x10. Bill Kane, Mrs. John Lambert, Beryl Grey, Anita Kane, and John Lambert, British charge d'affaires at Channel 13.

Folder 2: Photos: Events concerning the arts in Philippines (con't.)

Candid photo, group setting, circa 1960, 8x10. Beryl Grey and members of the Royal Ballet received by the President of the Philippines' lady, Mrs. Carlos P. Garcia, after a first performance of the ballet company in Manila.

folder 3: Dancer Ester Rimpos

Letter from Rimpos to Anita Kane, 28 January, 1977; 2 1/2 pages in ink, Philippines to California. A biographical note on Rimpos, who danced with Alice Reyes Ballet (program from Australian tour in 1974 included).
13 photos of Ester Rimpos, various sizes.

folder 4: Seven programs of visiting companies to the Philippines

Ballet Rambert, 1947-48 tour
Alexandra Danilova, 1955 (2 copies)
Le Grand Ballet Classique de France, 1965
Emlyn Williams as Charles Dickens, 1965
Stars of the Bolshoi Theatre, 1969
Katherine Dunham, 1957

folder 5: Anita Kane Ballet Company.

Pressclippings, proposals for the company, publicity material.

folder 6: Philippine dance programs

8 programs: 1963-1988, including Ballet Philippines, Pamana Ballet Company, "Giselle" production in 1988 honoring Anita Kane, program signed by 30 members of the company. (Also see scrapbook on this event.)

folder 7: Scrapbook pages

Manila dance news clips, scrapbook pages, 1962, concerning Bayanihan Philippines Dance Company with programs for 1957, 1962, 1964.

folder 8: Royal Ballet in Manila, May, 1961

Articles, clippings, programs (also see scrapbook on Royal Ballet)

San Francisco Performing Arts Library
Anita Kane Papers

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folder 9: Paul Taylor Dance Company in Manila, 1967

Clippings, programs, publicity, photos

folder 10: Jose Limon Company in Philippines, October, 1963

8 photos, 8x10, press releases, programs, reviews, articles, including Anita Kane's series of articles on the company appearing in "Manila Bulletin."

folder 11: Flower Drum Song production in Philippines, 1966

Clippings, invitations, advertising, also see scrapbook and framed photograph.

folder 12: Flower Drum Song

53 photographs from the production, various sizes

folder 13: Flower Drum Song

two copies of large poster for the show

Scrapbooks (unboxed - These scrapbooks include clippings, photographs, attached programs, invitations, and similiar materials.)

- 1) Scrapbook, circa 1939 - 1952, 18x19
- 2) Scrapbook, circa 1950 - 1955, 18x19
- 3) Scrapbook, circa 1955 - 1964, 13x18
- 4) Scrapbook, 1961 - 1962, covering the visit of the Royal Ballet to the Philippines, 17x25

Oversize Box I:

Photograph portrait of Anita Kane, 8x10, mounted, circa 1953
Document: International Star Registry, 11x14, awarded to Anita Kane, 25 December, 1985, with printed matter concerning the award.

Identified photographs of dancers and choreographers in Philippine companies:

Julie Aragon, dancer, 1958 - 4 photos, one inscribed to AK, 8x10
Israel "El" Gabriel, dancer and choreographer, n.d. - 2 photos, both inscribed to AK, 8x10; 2 photos: "Duetto," choreographer Israel Gabriel with dancers Kim Daugherty and James Kelly, 8x10
Mars Garcia, dancer, 1959 - 2 photos, one with Felicitas Layag, 8x10

Elizabeth Guasch, dancer, 1959 - 4 photos, one inscribed to AK, 8x10
Tony Llacer, dancer, 1958 - 4 photos, one inscribed to AK; one with
Serafin Griento, 8x10
Felecita Layag-Radaic, dancer, 1963 - 5 photos, three inscribed to AK,
8x10
Julia Roxas, dancer, 1953 - 5 photos, one inscribed to AK, 8x10; 3 are
4 1/2 x 6 1/2
Tony Tarrosa and Maureen Tiongco, dancers, 1955 - 2 photos, "Giselle,"
8x10
Benny Villanueva, dancer, n.d. - 2 photos, 8x10

Unidentified dancer photographs:

6 photos, 8x10
2 photos, 5x7
4 photos, 3x5

Oversize Box II

Framed photographs, over-all frame size, mounted individually, 18x21

2 photos, ensemble, 3 1/4 x 4 1/2

1 photo of Herminio Maximo and Bert Escolastico, 3 1/4 x 4 1/2

2 photos of Lita Barredo, 4 1/2 x 6 1/2

1 photo of Hmelia Medina, 4 1/2 x 6 1/2

All of above photos in frame are from the production "Reconstruction," 1951
(see the manuscript orchestra manuscript in Series One, Box One)

"Flower Drum Song," Philippines production, 1966 framed, wood & glass, 16x20

"Giselle" poster, mounted on board, 15x20 - Performance by Philippine Ballet Theater,
Manila, April 29,30, 1988, in a tribute to Anita M. Kane.

Divertissement Militaire, 1954 2 performance photos, 7x8 each, mounted on board,
10x17

Anita Kane Concert Group, 1957-58 - Serafin Guinto with Tony Llacer and Herminio
Maximo in 6 performance photos, 4x5 each, mounted on board, 13x16

The Nutcracker, 8 February, 1960 - 4 performance photos, 3 1/2 x 4 each, mounted on
board, 11 1/2 x 12

The Nutcracker, 8 February, 1960 - 4 performance photos, 3 1/2 x 4 each, mounted on
board, 10x13

Anita Kane Ballet, School Recital, 1961 - 6 performance photos, 3 1/2x4 each, mounted on board, 14x24

Anita Kane Ballet, School Recital, 1961 - "The Queen's Swans," 2 performance photos, 4 1/2x6 1/2 each, mounted on board, 7 1/2x14

Oversize Box III

Anita Kane Philippine dance photo albums, circa 1950-1965
15x18
12x15

Two long-playing records of the Bayanihan Philippine Dance Company as presented by S. Hurok, n.d.:
Monitor MF322 (12 titles)
Monitor MF330 (17 titles) Volume Two.