

Muriel Stuart Papers
San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum

INTRODUCTION

Provenance

These papers were donated to the archives by Iris de Luce Waiss in 1977.

Restrictions

Entire collection is open for research use.

Publication Rights

Publication rights vary with materials.

Collection Number

977.034

Size

No. of containers: 2 hollinger boxes
Linear ft: 1.5

Processed by

Paul Padgette and Marianne Carden

Date completed

November 1994

Related materials

Dance Oversize: photos of Paula Delaido
photos of Charlotte Earle, Chicago Civic Opera

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BIOGRAPHY

Muriel Stuart Popper was born in 1903 in South Norwood, England. In 1913, at the age of 10, she was one of several English girls chosen by Anna Pavlova to study the great dancer's techniques. The following year Stuart studied for a time with Ivan Clustine in Paris. At age 14, while travelling with her mother in Chicago, Stuart joined the Pavlova Company, then touring the United States. During the First World War, the company spent the duration in South America. The war over, tours to London, Paris, America, Japan, China, Southeast Asia, the Philippines, North Africa, Australia, and New Zealand followed.

Between 1916 and 1926, when Stuart left the Pavlova Company, she was a soloist in many of the featured titles, including Autumn Leaves, Coppelia, Chopiniana, Amorilla, and Rhapsodie Hongroise. Her principal partner with the Pavlova Company was Mikhail Nicholoff.

Stuart married Julian Brudetzky, a Russian violinist with the company, who left to become concert master with the San Francisco Symphony. Stuart followed him - to Pavlova's disappointment - and soon opened a dance school in San Francisco and later one in Los Angeles.

In the season of 1928-1929, Stuart danced with the Chicago Civic Opera Ballet. It was her last period of professional dancing. In Chicago, she choreographed two ballets for the opera and taught the Opera Ballet corps. In order to enlarge her knowledge of dance, she studied modern dance techniques with Harold Kreutzburg.

After her marriage with Brudetzky ended, Stuart settled and studied in New York. There she gained additional training from Martha Graham and Agnes de Mille. They were impressed with her knowledge and introduced her to Lincoln Kirstein, director of The School of American Ballet, which was a training studio for the future New York City Ballet. He engaged her for the faculty of the school in 1937, where she remained a teacher for 35 years. It was during this time that she married James Warrick, a playwright and her second husband. They had a son, Peter. This marriage also faltered after several years. By her own admission, she was wed to her career.

In 1952, Muriel Stuart and Lincoln Kirstein published a distinguished text, The Classic Ballet: Basic Technique and Terminology. It had a preface by George Balanchine and drawings by Carlus Dyerand and was published by Alfred Knopf. The San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum has a copy signed by Stuart.

Muriel Stuart's recent death on January 29, 1991 will undoubtedly stimulate more critical and biographical study of this remarkable artist and teacher.

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SCOPE AND CONTENTS

The PALM archive of Muriel Stuart is rich in photographic images of Stuart as a dancer with the Chicago Civic Opera and with the Pavlova Company and contains dozens of inscribed photographs of her contemporaries in dance, opera, and related arts, including such luminaries as Lincoln Kirstein, Charles Chaplin, and Anna Pavlova. There are some letters, programs, and promotional pieces, as well as some printed matter on her career. It should be noted that her scrapbooks are deposited with the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center, New York.

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SERIES DESCRIPTION

SERIES I. Biographical Materials
6 folders

Includes biographical sketches, correspondence, programs, drawings, and photos relating to the life of Muriel Stuart. Arranged by format and thereunder by date.

SERIES II. Pavlova Company
10 folders

Contains programs, promotional materials, and photos relating to Stuart's tenure with the Pavlova Company from 1916-1926. Arranged by format and thereunder by subject.

SERIES III. Chicago Civic Opera
4 folders

Includes programs, promotional materials, and photos relating to Stuart's tenure with the Chicago Civic Opera Ballet from 1928-1929. Arranged by format and thereunder by subject.

SERIES IV. Scrapbook
1 folder

Consists of 16 photos which once constituted a scrapbook titled "1915." Most of the photos feature unidentified dancers, although a few are inscribed with the first name of the individual pictured. Internal evidence would suggest that these are associated with the Pavlova Company. No discernible arrangement.

SERIES V. Portraits
3 folders

Contains photographic portraits of Muriel Stuart in various costumes and dancing roles. Some of these are inscribed to friends. Arranged by subject.

SERIES VI. Friends
8 folders

Includes both identified and unidentified photos of various friends of Stuart, including singers, dancers, and musicians. Arranged by name of subject (if known.)

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CONTAINER LIST

SERIES I. Biographical Materials

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	1	Biographical sketches	1928-36
	2	Correspondence	
	3	Family and early photos	
	4	Photos of Stuart and her students	
	5	Illustrations and drawings related to dance	
	6	Photos of Stuart on tour	

SERIES II. Pavlova Company

1	1	Programs and promotional materials	1916-1926
	2	Photos of Pavlova	
	3	Photos of Pavlova and Uday Shankar	
	4	Photos of dancers and other individuals associated with the company: Lucien Wurmeeer (conductor) Enid Brunova (dancer) Lucy Countney (dancer) Douglas Gerrard (dancer) Andree Hardouin (dancer) Aubrey Hitchens (dancer) E & L Karavaieff (dancers) Sylvia Nichols (dancer) Laurent Novikov (dancer) Frank Parker (dancer) Stefa Plaskowieczka (dancer) Al Veseloff (dancer) A. Volinine (dancer) Janek Zalewski (dancer) Felez Clement (singer)	

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	4	Thomas Chalmers (singer) Elvira Laveroni (singer) Felice Lyne (singer) Riccardo Martin (singer) Giovanni Zenatello (singer)	
	5	Photos of Harcourt Algrenoff	
	6	Photos of Michael Arshansky	
	7	Photos of Hilda Butsova	
	8	Photos of Vlasta Maslova	
1	9	Photos of Helene Saxova	
	10	Photos of Hubert Jay Stowitts	

SERIES IV. Scrapbook

1	1	Photos of unidentified dancers from scrapbook titled "1915" ca.1915	
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SERIES V. Portraits

1	1	Portraits of Muriel Stuart	
	2	Portraits of Muriel Stuart in costumes	
	3	Portraits of Muriel Stuart in dancing roles	

SERIES VI. Friends

2	1	Photo of Charles Chaplin	1916
	2	Photos of Louise Glenn	
	3	Photos of Harriet Lundgren	
	4	Photos of singer Maggie Teyte	
	5	Photos of Edna van Breyman	
	6	Photos of dancers and others in the arts	
	7	Photos of unidentified friends	
	8	Unidentified photos of individuals, some from the performing arts	