

Iris de Luce Papers
San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum

INTRODUCTION

Provenance

These papers were sent over a number of years by Iris de Luce to Russell Hartley while he was director of the Archives for the Performing Arts.

Restrictions

Entire collection is open for research use.

Publication Rights

Vary with material.

Collection Number

976.5

Size

Number of containers: 2 hollinger boxes
Linear feet: 1

Processed by

Susan Krohn and Marianne Carden

Date completed

November 1994

Related materials

Biographical Files

Flat File XIX: Portfolio of Degas prints; watercolor by Leon Bakst of scene from Good-Humored Ladies. (donated by de Luce)

Costume: Pongee dress

Graphic: PF4 - Classes in Rhythmic Exercises/Iris de Luce Dance Dept. of Peoples. Western Womens' Club, 1928.

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BIOGRAPHY

Iris de Luce was born on April 17, 1903 in New York. She moved to San Francisco while still an infant and later in her childhood, she took interpretive dancing lessons from Ruth Griffith. She also studied dancing at the Anita Peters Wright School for three years; at the Hirsch-Arnold Ballet School for five years; and at the Muriel Stuart Ballet Studios in San Francisco and Hollywood for seven years. In 1928, when Stuart left San Francisco to dance with the Chicago Civic Opera Ballet, she turned all of her students over to de Luce.

De Luce turned to performing after Stuart's return in 1930. She studied drama with Hedwiga Reicher and Cameron Prudhomme and later appeared in motion pictures with Albertina Raasch's ballet company. Her training was enhanced through study in Paris with Egorova, who had been a contemporary student with Pavlova in the Imperial Russian Ballet, and also with Volinine, a former partner of Pavlova. While in Paris, she was chosen by M. Nicola Guerra to dance four of her original solos for a gala performance of the Opera Ballet in Deauville.

Upon her return to San Francisco, de Luce danced with the San Francisco Ballet under the direction of Adolph Bolm. From 1935-1936, she danced the role of Zobeide in the San Francisco Opera Ballet's production of Scheherazade. De Luce also taught ballet at the San Francisco Opera Ballet School and at Dominican College from 1937-1943. After her marriage to Fredrik Waiss, de Luce directed the Iris de Luce Ballet Studio in Sausalito from 1946-1956. Among her outstanding students numbered Francia Russell, Fiona Fuerstner, Carol Conrad, and Mollie Merrill.

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SCOPE AND CONTENTS

These papers document the career of concert dancer and choreographer Iris de Luce. They include clippings, programs, and correspondence dating from her period of affiliation with the San Francisco Opera Ballet as a teacher and performer. In addition, the papers encompass examples of de Luce's artwork in the form of ballet sketches and costume designs.

Very little information is available in these papers on de Luce's teaching activities in Sausalito or on her studies in Paris with Egorova and Volinine. They focus primarily upon her performances in the San Francisco Bay Area.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

SERIES I. Biographical Materials
16 folders

Contains biographical notes, clippings, programs, correspondence, and photos relating to de Luce's career. Arranged by format and thereunder by date.

SERIES II. Artwork
9 folders

Consists of sketches, woodcuts, and costume designs executed by de Luce which feature dancers. Arranged by format.

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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 notes; chronologies	1937; 1979
	2	Newsclippings	1937; 1979
	3	Programs	1926- 1938
	4	Correspondence: A-BELL	1930s -1961
	5	Correspondence: Burton, Virginia	1944- 1957
	6	Correspondence: C-F	1939- 1952
	7	Correspondence: G-P	1933- 1952
	8	Correspondence: R-Z	1925- 1973
	9	Correspondence: Outgoing	1930s
	10	Correspondence to Russell Hartley	1970s
	11	Correspondence from R. Hartley	1970s
2	1	Miscellaneous items	n.d.
	2	Large studio photos of de Luce	
	3	Small studio photos of de Luce	
	4	Photos of de Luce performing	
	5	Photos of de Luce's students	

SERIES II. Artwork

2	6	Sketches by de Luce	n.d.
	7-8	Woodcuts by de Luce	n.d.
Flat File XIX		6 costume design sketches by de Luce	n.d.