

FRANCESCA LUDOVA, 1907?-1979

Collection Number:

Accession Number: 990.83 and 990.115

SAN FRANCISCO PERFORMING ARTS LIBRARY

1993

**Francesca Ludova Collection**  
**San Francisco Performing Arts Library**

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Francesca Ludova Collection  
San Francisco Performing Arts Library

## INTRODUCTION

### Provenance

The Francesca Ludova Collection was donated to the Library by Harriet Kunze September 25, 1990.

### Restriction

None

### Publication Rights

None

### Collection Number

### Size

Number of containers: 1 box  
Linear feet: .5

### Processed by

Roberta Prince

### Date Completed

February 23, 1993

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### **BIOGRAPHY**

Francesca Ludova, former dancer with the San Francisco Opera Ballet and the Metropolitan Opera Ballet, was born Frances Guigni in San Francisco, California in 1907; she died at the age of 72 years at General Hospital, San Jose, California on June 28, 1979.

Ludova danced with the San Francisco Opera during the late 1920's under the direction of one of her former teachers, Theodore Kosloff. In the 1930's, she moved to Hollywood, California where she appeared both in movies and danced at the Hollywood Bowl.

Francesca danced with the Albertina Rasch Dancers and studied at the Legat School and with Olga Preobrajenska in Paris. She then returned to San Francisco and later joined the Metropolitan Opera Ballet Company.

In 1940, she married Dimitri Romanoff: dancer, ballet master and regisseur with whom she operated the San Jose Ballet School in San Jose, California. Ludova also danced under the name Francesca Romanoff after her marriage to Dimitri.

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### SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Collection of Francesca Ludova contains such personal items as a scrapbook of postcards received by her between the years 1928-1940 from her close friend Eugenie Mason, various other friends and her future husband, Dimitri Romanoff. The majority of the postcards trace the world travels of Eugenie. Sent to Francesca from her visits to Java; Paris; London; Egypt; Bali; Japan; Barcelona; Madrid; Cairo; Rome; Pasadena, California; Prince George, British Columbia; Olympia, Washington; and Santa Barbara, California Eugenie's correspondance expresses the loving bond of friendship shared between the two women. Included in the scrapbook are photographs of Eugenie in Java.

The Collection also includes a wreath pin with three diamonds presented to Francesca Ludova (Frances Giugni) by Theodore Kosloff when she was his student in San Francisco.

Thirty-six black and white publicity stills of such 1920's, '30's and '40's film stars as Charles Chaplin, Jack Pickford, the Marx Brothers, Ronald Colman, Marlene Dietrich and Wallace Beery reflect Francesca's career in Hollywood.

A copy of Francesca Ludova's obituary, as it appeared in Dance News, October, 1979, is included in the Collection.

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### SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series 1. Correspondance  
Envelope 1, Box 1

Bound scrapbook with postcards and photographs,  
originally belonging to Francesca Ludova.

Series 2. Artifact  
Envelope 2, Box 1

Gold pin with three diamonds presented to Francesca  
Ludova (Frances Giugni) by Theodore Koslov.

Series 3. Photographs  
Envelope 3, Box 1

Thirty-six black and white publicity stills of 1920's,  
30's and 40's film stars.

Series 4. Biographical  
Envelope 4, Box 1

Copy of obituary of Francesca Ludova as it appeared  
in Dance News, October, 1979.

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## COLLECTION SEPARATIONS SHEET

These photographs are stored in Individual Theatre Biography's or in the Theatre Oversized Box  
1

Allison, May  
Ayres, Lew (filed with Greta Garbo)  
Banky, Vilma  
Baxter, Warner  
Beery, Wallace (Box 1)  
Boles, John (filed with Beebe Daniels)  
Brady, Alice  
Chaplin, Charles  
Chevalier, Maurice (Box 1 and Individual Theatre Biography)  
Clark, Marguerite  
Colman, Ronald  
Crawford, Joan (Box 1)  
Daniels, Beebe  
Dietrich, Marlene  
Dressler, Marie (Box 1)  
Dunn, James  
Dunn, Sally (filed with Bessie Love)  
Farrell, Charles  
Garbo, Greta (Box 1 and Individual Theatre Biography)  
Harlow, Jean (Box 1)  
Landi, Elissa  
Lockwood, Harold  
Love, Bessie  
March, Fredric (Box 1)  
Marx Brothers  
Marx, Groucho (3)  
Mieter, Mary Miles  
Montgomery, Robert (Box 1)  
Oakie, Jack (Box 1)  
Page, Anita (Box 1)  
Pickhard, Jack  
Reid, Wallace  
Shearer, Norma (Box 1)