Collection Summary

Title: George Zoritch Collection
Span Dates: 1914-2002
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1943-1987)
Call No.: ML31.Z67
Creator: Zoritch, George, 1917-2009
Extent: 159 items
Extent: 1 container
Extent: 0.5 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English and Russian
Location: Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/2011570504
Summary: George Zoritch was a ballet dancer in the post-Diaghilev era of the early twentieth century. The bulk of the George Zoritch Collection consists of photographs (most of them reprints), augmented by several periodicals, programs, clippings, and articles documenting his career.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Baronova, Irina--Photographs.
Danilova, Alexandra, 1907-1997--Photographs.
Hightower, Rosella--Photographs.
Markova, Alicia, Dame, 1910-2004--Photographs.
Preobrajenska, Olga, 1870-1962--Photographs.
Slavenska, Mia--Photographs.
Tallchief, Maria--Photographs.
Toumanova, Tamara, 1919-1996--Photographs.
Zoritch, George, 1917-2009--Interviews.
Zoritch, George, 1917-2009--Photographs.
Zoritch, George, 1917-2009.

Organizations
Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo.
Ballets russes du Col. W. de Basil.

Subjects
Ballet dancers--Photographs.
Ballet dancers.
Ballet.

Form/Genre
Articles.
Clippings (Information artifacts)
Photographic prints.
Programs (Documents)

Provenance
Gift; George Zoritch; 1998
Accruals
No further accruals are expected.

Processing History
The George Zoritch collection was processed by Judy Estey in 2009. Emily Flanigan updated the finding aid and coded it for EAD format in 2016.

Related Material
The Library of Congress Music Division houses the Judith Chazin-Bennahum Photograph Collection Relating to Antony Tudor, the Larry Colwell Dance Photographs, and the Herta Moselsio Photograph Collection. Additional photographs of ballet and dance are found in the George Bain Collection, Arnold Genthe Collection, Carl Van Vechten Collection, and the dance portfolio of photographer Barbara Brooks Morgan, all accessible through the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress.

Copyright Status
Materials from the George Zoritch Collection are governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.) and other applicable international copyright laws.

Access and Restrictions
The George Zoritch Collection is open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Music Division prior to visiting in order to determine whether the desired materials will be available at that time.

Certain restrictions to use or copying of materials may apply.

Preferred Citation
Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container number], George Zoritch Collection, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note
Born June 6, 1917, in Moscow, Russia, George Zoritch began dancing at an early age. His teachers included Pavel Petroff, Theodore Vasilieff, and later the renowned Olga Preobrajenskaya. At age 15, Zoritch auditioned successfully for the Ida Rubenstein Ballet company; he later danced with the Russian Classical Ballet. Zoritch danced with all of the companies that were successors to Diaghilev's Ballets Russes, including Colonel W. de Basil's Ballets Russes; Sergei Denham's Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo; and the Grand Ballet du Marquis de Cuevas. He traveled extensively through Europe, South America, and North America and taught from 1973 to 1987 in the Dance Division of the University of Arizona. He died November 1, 2009, in Tucson, Arizona.

Scope and Content Note
This one-box collection offers iconography and published materials documenting the life and dance career of George Zoritch.
The **Photographs** series includes his performances in ballets such as *Afternoon of a Faun*, *Le Spectre de la rose*, among many others, with a number of the century's greatest dancers, including Alexandra Danilova, Alicia Markova, Mia Slavenska, Rosella Hightower, and Tamara Toumanova. Also included are photographs of Zoritch with ballet teacher Olga Preobrajenskaya and choreographer Léonide Massine. It also includes numerous travel photographs, photographs with other dancers and Zoritch's family. Later photographs document him at social functions with artists in film and dance.

The **Miscellany** series includes clippings, interviews with Zoritch, reviews of his memoir *Ballet Mystique: Behind the Glamour of the Ballet Russe*, among other published material documenting his career. A three-part article on Zoritch in the Russian magazine *Ballet* as well as materials that detail Zoritch's contributions to the Dance Division at the University of Arizona are also included.

**Organization of the George Zoritch Collection**

The Collection is organized in two series:

- [Photographs, 1914-1997](#)
- [Miscellany, 1995-2002](#)
## Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Photographs, 1914-1997</td>
<td>Most of the photographs are recent reprints of historic photographs. Subjects include ballets of the 1930s and 1940s as well as informal scenes of Zoritch with his artist colleagues. Photographs are arranged by subject as follows: ballets alphabetical by title, Zoritch alone and Zoritch with others, composites, family, artwork and awards, celebrities, Tamara Toumenova.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Container List

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/1</td>
<td>Afternoon of a faun [L'après-midi d'un faune], 1958&lt;br&gt;With Taina Elg; John Lindquist, photographer, Serge Lido, photographer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/2</td>
<td>Antinois, 1953&lt;br&gt;With George Skibine; Serge Lido, photographer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/3</td>
<td>Bal des jeunes filles, 1951&lt;br&gt;With Maria Tallchief.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/4</td>
<td>Bogatyri, 1938&lt;br&gt;With Mia Slavenska; Maurice Seymour, photographer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/5</td>
<td>Cakewalk, 1958&lt;br&gt;With Nina Novak; Serge Lido, photographer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/6</td>
<td>Coppelia, 1961&lt;br&gt;Guest artist in Teatre Colon, Buenos Aires, Argentina.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/7</td>
<td>Del amor y la muerte, circa 1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/8</td>
<td>Devil's Holiday, 1940&lt;br&gt;With Alexandra Danilova, Frederick Franklin; Maurice Seymour, photographer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/9</td>
<td>Don Quixote, 1954-1962&lt;br&gt;Maurice Seymour, photographer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/10</td>
<td>Dona Inez de Castro, 1956&lt;br&gt;Annamarie Heinrich, photographer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/11</td>
<td>Gaîté Parisienne, 1940&lt;br&gt;Carl Van Vechten and Serge Lido, photographers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/12</td>
<td>Giselle, 1958&lt;br&gt;With Margrethe Schanne; Hannes Kilian, photographer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/13</td>
<td>La legende des trois soeurs, 1953&lt;br&gt;With Olga Adabache, Jocelyne Vollmar and Jacqueline Moreau; Serge Lido, photographer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/15</td>
<td>New Yorker, 1943&lt;br&gt;With Leo Perper, artist; Henry C. Gibson, photographer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/16</td>
<td>The nutcracker, 1952&lt;br&gt;With Rosella Hightower.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX-FOLDER 1/17</td>
<td>Orphée, 1937&lt;br&gt;Television broadcast; with Irina Baronova.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Photographs, 1914-1997**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX-FOLDER 1/18 | Promenade, 1934  
| BOX-FOLDER 1/19 | Rouge et noir, 1939  
With Nini Theilade; Richard Tucker, photographer. |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/20 | La sonnambula [The sleepwalker], circa 1951  
George Balanchine, choreographer. |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/21 | Le spectre de la rose, 1952  
With Nancy Carlson; Serge Lido, photographer. |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/22 | Swan Lake, 1951  
With Dany Robin, Claire Sombret, Violette Verdy, Brigitte Bardot; Serge Lido, photographer. |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/23 | Symphonie fantastique, 1937  
With Betty Low, Lubov Rostova, Maurice Seymour, Nina Verchinina, Tamara Toumanova, Leonide Massine, Mark Platoff; Maurice Seymour, photographer. |
Studio and informal photographs of Zoritch; many are reproductions of earlier photos. |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/25 | Zoritch with others, 1936-1940  
Travel photos while on tour with Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo and at Warner Bros. Studio in Hollywood. |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/26 | Zoritch with others, 1951-1966, 1980  
With artists and with students. Includes: photograph of 1951 Paris newspaper photo of Zoritch with other celebrities at masked ball in Venice, Italy; Olga Preobrajenskaya teaching a class in 1952. |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/27 | Zoritch with others, 1992-1997  
With artists and students. Includes Zoritch's visits to the Heritage Museum and Diaghilev House in Russia. |
Reprints of two or four individual photographs on same sheet, with a mix of informal, travel, and performance subjects. Each scene is identified by Zoritch on the back. |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/29 | Family, circa 1914, 1919-1923, undated  
Reproductions of Zoritch family photographs, including a photograph of a painting of his ancestor Count Semeon Gavrilovich. |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/30 | Artwork and awards, undated  
Photographs of iconography and awards displayed in Zoritch's home. |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/31 | Celebrities, 1938-1940, 1958-1968, undated  
Includes: group of four ballerinas of Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo (Mia Slavenska, Alexandra Danilova, Alicia Markova, Irina Baronova); reproductions of autographed photographs (Preobrajenskaya, Valentina Pereyaslavec, Yvette Chauviré, Loretta Young, and Eleanor Powell). |
Includes: Zoritch visiting Tamara Toumanova; Toumanova with Taitiana Riabouchinska and Irina Baronova at Ballet Russe retrospective exhibit celebration; Zoritch at Tamara Toumanova's grave. |

**BOX 1**

**Miscellany, 1995-2002**

Clippings, articles, flyers, and a dance program documenting Zoritch's career.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX-FOLDER 1/33 | Clippings, 2000-2002, undated  
Photocopies of newspaper clippings, flyers, and periodical articles. English translations of Russian publications provided by Zoritch. |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/34 | Ballet magazine, 1995-1996  
Three issues of Russian-language magazine *Ballet*, featuring autobiographical articles by Zoritch; English transcripts provided by Zoritch. |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/35 | Dance Expression, 2002  
Issue includes article on Varna International Competition, where Zoritch sat on press jury. |
| BOX-FOLDER 1/36 | Dance Program, 2001  
Performance titled "Odyssey 2001" at University of Arizona. |