

Miriam Cole Papers

Guides to Special Collections in the Music Division of the Library of Congress



Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2008

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Processed by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Music Division, 2016

Collection Summary

Title: Miriam Cole Papers

Span Dates: 1923-1997

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1945-1955)

Call No.: ML31.C64

Creator: Cole, Miriam

Extent: 1,430 items

Extent: 5 containers

Extent: 2.5 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Music Division , Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2013572116>

Summary: Miriam "Mimi" Cole (1926-2012) was an American dancer and choreographer who performed solo as well as with the Martha Graham Dance Company and other contemporaries. The Miriam Cole Papers consists primarily of programs; clippings, articles, and scrapbook pages; photographs; music for her choreography; and contracts. Much of the material relates to Cole's association with the Graham company: photographs, programs, articles, and other items documenting the Graham European tour in 1954 are especially plentiful.

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

Berk, Fred, 1911-1980.

Cage, John--Photographs.

Cole, Miriam--Archives.

Cole, Miriam--Photographs.

Cole, Miriam.

Cole, Miriam.

Cowles, Sage.

Cunningham, Merce--Photographs.

Di Gesú, Antony.

Graham, Martha.

Hinkson, Mary.

Holm, Hanya, 1893-1992.

Horst, Louis.

Knutson, Loyde.

Lang, Pearl, 1921-2009.

McGehee, Helen.

Moore, Jack, 1926-1988.

Phillips, Victoria

Ross, Bertram, 1920-2003.

Turney, Matt.

Wood, David, 1925-2002.

Yuriko, 1920-

Organizations

Martha Graham Dance Company.

Wisconsin Dance Group.

Subjects

Choreographers--United States.

Choreography--United States.

Dance companies--United States.
Dance--United States.
Dancers--United States.
Modern dance--United States.
Women choreographers--United States.
Women dancers--United States.

Form/Genre

Albums (Books)
Articles.
Autographs (Manuscripts)
Ballets (Music)
Clippings (Information artifacts)
Dance programs.
Notes.
Photographs.
Promotional materials.
Scores.
Writings (Documents)

Provenance

Gift; Victoria Phillips; 2008

Custodial History

The materials comprising the Miriam Cole Papers were given by Miriam Cole to historian Victoria Phillips, who donated them to the Library of Congress in 2008.

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

The Miriam Cole Papers was processed by Elizabeth Aldrich in 2008. The finding aid created by Aldrich in 2008 was updated and coded for EAD format in 2016 by Libby Smigel.

Transfers

The 33 1/3 rpm and 78 rpm recordings of pieces used for Miriam Cole's choreography were transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound (MBRS) Division of the Library of Congress where they are identified as part of the Miriam Cole Collection (MAVIS collection no. 14401). Now digitized, they are accessible in the Recorded Sound Reference Center in the Library of Congress Madison Building.

Other Repositories

The Sage Cowles Papers at the Performing Arts Archives at the University of Minnesota contains materials related to the Wisconsin Dance Group, of which Cole was a co-founder. The New York Public Library Dance Division holds materials related to Miriam Cole and her contemporaries in many paper and moving image collections.

Related Material

The Library of Congress Music Division is rich in materials related to the career of American modern dance pioneer Martha Graham and her company, for which Miriam Cole danced. Two additional Music Division collections might be of special relevance: the Helen McGehee and Umaña Collection of Dance Materials as Cole danced in choreography of McGehee, and the Pearl Lang Collection as Cole led rehearsals for Lang's company.

Copyright Status

Materials from the Miriam Cole Papers 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 materials in the Miriam Cole Papers are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Music Division before visiting 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], Miriam Cole Papers, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1926, July 11	Born, Brooklyn, New York Née Miriam Levinsohn
1945 Summer	Studied with Hanya Holm at Colorado College
1946	Graduated with a bachelor's degree in science from the University of Wisconsin
1947-1948	Performed with Martha Graham Dance Company in <i>Primitive Mysteries</i> Summer touring with Wisconsin Dance Group through more than 10 states and Canada Instructor in dance/physical education at Vassar College
1950	Choreographed and performed solos "Accumulated Virtue" (inspired by a cartoon by Abner Dean), "Reflections," "Dance, You Monster, to My Sweet Song" Danced in choreography by Fred Berk Audition winner at the Dance Series, 92nd Street Y
1952	Joined Martha Graham Dance Company Danced in choreography by Fred Berk, Helen McGehee, and others Choreographed and performed solo "The Listener" and duet "Pas de Fleurs" (with Jack Moore) and other dances at many venues in New York City Dancer in Agnes de Mille's choreography for <i>Paint Your Wagon</i> Audition winner at the Dance Series, 92nd Street Y
1954	Performed in New York and in Europe with Martha Graham's company
1957-1958	Rehearsing for and filming of <i>Appalachian Spring</i> and <i>A Dancer's World</i>
1963-1964	Performed in <i>The King and I</i>
1966	Final performance for Graham company at lecture-demonstration at Philharmonic Hall
1974	Last year of teaching for Martha Graham school

1978-1989	Rehearsal director or rehearsal assistant for the Bertram Ross Dance Company and the Pearl Lang Dance Company
	Continued to choreograph and perform independently
2012, Dec. 6	Died, Arlington, Virginia

Scope and Content Note

The Miriam Cole Papers spans the period 1923-1997, with most of the materials dating from 1945-1955. Materials include photographs, programs and promotional materials, business papers, clippings and articles, unpublished writings and notes, and music scores. Together they document a portion of the career of modern dancer and choreographer Miriam Cole. Cole's programs, scrapbook pages, and photographs from the Martha Graham Dance Company's 1954 tour to Europe are of particular interest. Cole was also a member of the Wisconsin Dance Group, a company of five graduates of the University of Wisconsin, and her papers contain photographs and other items relating to the Group's tours. The collection is divided into six series.

The **Photographs** series consists primarily of numerous color and black-and-white prints and slides of the 1954 European tour of the Martha Graham Dance Company; most are candid shots of company members visiting tourist sites. Other photographs include the Wisconsin Dance Group's national tour, a Hanya Holm summer workshop, and a Vassar event with John Cage and Merce Cunningham. Cole's scrapbook pages documenting the 1954 European tour of the Martha Graham Dance Company consist of 425 photographs of traveling, tourist sight-seeing, along with a small number showing dance technique demonstrations and backstage preparations.

The **Programs** series includes examples of the Martha Graham Dance Company from 1941 to 1987. The 1954 Graham programs document most of the performances during the company's European tour. Cole's work as a dancer, choreographer, and rehearsal director is represented among the performance programs of Fred Berk's "Stage for Dancers," Theatre Dance, Inc., Pearl Lang Company, and others. The collection includes rare programs of "American Dance," a series of performances in 1953 that featured significant modern dance choreographers such as Graham, Doris Humphrey, José Limón, Merce Cunningham, Nina Fonaroff, Pearl Lang, Helen McGehee, and May O'Donnell; Cole is featured as dancer for both the Graham company and Helen McGehee's choreography. Also present are souvenir programs of the Original Ballet Russe; the Moscow Art Theatre; and ballerina Anna Pavlova. Programs for Cole's performances as a dancer in Broadway musicals *Paint Your Wagon* and *The King and I* are included.

The series **Clippings and Printed Materials** includes reviews and articles (bulk 1950-1955) on Miriam Cole as a dancer and choreographer and on Martha Graham and her dance company. Sources include national newspapers such as the *New York Times* and the *New York Herald Tribune*, dance publications such as *Dance Magazine* and *Dance Observer*, among others. Some clippings lack a date or identification; several from the European tour are in foreign languages. One folder includes materials saved by Cole about Louis Horst, who provided accompaniment and recordings for her choreography and for whose lecture-demonstrations she performed. As some of the articles and scrapbook pages to which clippings were attached were badly deteriorated, record copies have been made to replace originals.

The series **Music** includes several holograph and manuscript scores, some of which include dance cues, for Miriam Cole's choreography. A holograph score of the music for Cole's choreography "Come into the Garden Maud" (1952), arranged by M. Strauss from the Preludes (Op. 34) of Dmitri Shostakovich, is included. Several 33 1/3 rpm and 78 rpm records, including one played by Graham musical director Louis Horst, were transferred to the Library of Congress Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound (MBRS) Division.

The **Writings by Miriam Cole** series contains a hand-written manuscript about Martha Graham and Cole's life, notes for lectures, and choreographic notes for Cole's work "Come into the Garden Maud."

Miscellany includes publicity materials and business papers. Publicity items include posters and flyers for dance concerts of the Martha Graham Dance Company and independent choreographers including Miriam Cole, along with material related to benefit events. Business papers are letters of agreement and other formal contracts between Cole and dance companies, unions, and a television production company. The record photocopies made to preserve fragile items are found in this series.

Organization of the Miriam Cole Papers

The collection is organized in six series:

- [Photographs, 1945-1997](#)
- [Programs, 1923-1989](#)
- [Clippings and Printed Material, 1943-1991](#)
- [Music, 1952](#)
- [Writings by Miriam Cole, 1950-1990s](#)
- [Miscellany, 1952-1993](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1, 4 MAPCASE 4	<p><u>Photographs, 1945-1997</u></p> <p>More than 1,100 color and black-and-white photographs and slides, with the bulk dating between 1945 and 1954. Most subjects and places were identified by Miriam Cole. Organized chronologically.</p>
BOX 2-3	<p><u>Programs, 1923-1989</u></p> <p>Most of the programs document Miriam Cole's performances with the Martha Graham Dance Company, her own choreography, and her artistic contributions to other companies as rehearsal director. Organized chronologically.</p>
BOX 1, 4-5	<p><u>Clippings and Printed Materials, 1943-1991</u></p> <p>Chiefly newspaper clippings, magazine articles, and other printed materials documenting performances or dance topics; most are features or reviews. Many of these were originally in Miriam Cole's scrapbooks. Three folders contain printed material about friends or family. Arranged in two subseries by subjects: performing arts and individuals.</p>
BOX 3	<p><u>Music, 1952</u></p> <p>Scores for Miriam Cole's choreography; several include dance cues. Arranged alphabetically by composer.</p>
BOX 2	<p><u>Writings by Miriam Cole, 1950-1990s</u></p> <p>Handwritten account of career, miscellaneous notes for dance history workshops, technique classes, music notes. Grouped by subject matter.</p>
BOX 2, 4-5 MAPCASE 4	<p><u>Miscellany, 1952-1993</u></p> <p>Business papers, publicity flyers, posters, as well as photocopies made for preservation purposes. Several posters advertising performances are among this series. Grouped by subject.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1, 4 MAPCASE 4	Photographs, 1945-1997 More than 1,100 color and black-and-white photographs and slides, with the bulk dating between 1945 and 1954. Most subjects and places were identified by Miriam Cole. Organized chronologically.
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	Hanya Holm summer workshop performance, 1945 Sequence of performance photographs originally stacked in order within a scrapbook; dancers include Jerome Andrews, Hanya Holm, Libby Mason, Rheba Korin, and others; Loyde Knutson, photographer.
BOX-FOLDER 1/2	Hanya Holm summer workshop, 1945 Miriam Cole dancing alone and with Libby Mason; Loyde Knutson, photographer.
BOX-FOLDER 1/3-4	Wisconsin Dance Group tour, 1948 235 3x4.5 black-and-white photographs Candid shots of company members and tourist locations; a single publicity photo from a contact sheet.
BOX-FOLDER 1/5	Vassar College, 1948 John Cage alone and with Merce Cunningham and Miriam Cole.
BOX-FOLDER 1/6	Vassar College, 1948 Student dance performances under Miriam Cole's direction.
BOX-FOLDER 1/7-13	Martha Graham Dance Company European tour, 1954 133 4x6 digital color prints; 177 4x6 black-and-white prints; 135 slides Candid shots of company members and tourist locations.
BOX-FOLDER 4/7	Martha Graham Company European tour, 1954 29 scrapbook pages with 425 photographs Most are candid shots of company members at tourist locations; some show dance demonstrations or backstage.
BOX-FOLDER 1/14	Miriam Cole with David Wood, 1954 Graham company European tour; with handwritten transmittal note signed by Wood.
BOX-FOLDER 1/15	Miriam Cole with Graham dancers, 1954 Bertram Ross, Stuart Hodes, Cameron McCosh, Mary Hinkson, Linda Hodes during European tour.
BOX-FOLDER 1/16	University of Wisconsin, 1997 70th anniversary of Dance Program: Cole with Mary Hinkson (Jackson), Sage Fuller (Cowles), Matt Turney (Teague), Don Redlich, and others; with letter from U-W faculty Claudia Melrose and Mary A. Brennan.
BOX-FOLDER 1/17	Miriam Cole dancing, undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/18	Matt Turney and Miriam Cole dancing, undated
MAPCASE-DRAWER 4/15	Helen McGehee, unidentified male, undated 2 photographs mounted on boards

Photographs, 1945-1997

Container	Contents
	Antony di Gesù, photographer.
BOX 2-3	Programs, 1923-1989 Most of the programs document Miriam Cole's performances with the Martha Graham Dance Company, her own choreography, and her artistic contributions to other companies as rehearsal director. Organized chronologically.
BOX-FOLDER 3/5-6	Souvenir programs, 1923-1924 Moscow Art Theatre; Anna Pavlova.
BOX-FOLDER 3/7	Souvenir program, 1940 circa Original Ballet Russe.
BOX-FOLDER 2/1	1941-1948 Performances by Martha Graham Dance Company and Graham dancers Jane Dudley and Sophie Maslow.
BOX-FOLDER 2/2	1943-1948 Contains: programs from Vassar and Hanya Holm summer workshop; artist and company performances such as American Ballet Theatre [then Ballet Theatre], Merce Cunningham, Katherine Dunham, Jean Erdman, Nina Fonaroff, Harald Kreutzberg, José Limón, New Dance Group, Charles Weidman, Yuriko.
BOX-FOLDER 2/3	1950 Includes: Stage for Dancers series.
BOX-FOLDER 2/4	1951 Includes: "Modern Dance Today" lecture-demonstration of Louis Horst.
BOX-FOLDER 2/5	1952 Martha Graham Dance Company with the Juilliard Orchestra.
BOX-FOLDER 2/6	1952 Includes <i>Paint Your Wagon</i> .
BOX-FOLDER 2/7	1953 Martha Graham Dance Company and Graham dancers' choreography.
BOX-FOLDER 3/8-9	Souvenir program: Martha Graham Dance Company, 1953-1954 2 copies in English; 1 in French
BOX-FOLDER 2/8-9	1954 Martha Graham Dance Company European tour.
BOX-FOLDER 2/10	1956-1958 Martha Graham Dance Company; includes flyer for demonstration of <i>exercices de style</i> (technique sequences) slated to be filmed.
BOX-FOLDER 3/10	Souvenir program: Martha Graham Dance Company, 1958
BOX-FOLDER 2/11	1959 Bolshoi Ballet; <i>Sweet Bird of Youth</i> .
BOX-FOLDER 2/12	1961-1962 Martha Graham Dance Company.
BOX-FOLDER 2/13, 3/11	1963-1964 <i>King and I</i> at City Center and Lincoln Center, New York City
BOX-FOLDER 2/14	1967-1972, 1978 Includes: American Ballet Theatre; Humphrey-Weidman restagings; Cole choreography; New Dance Group; New York Public Library gala.
BOX-FOLDER 2/15	1979-1981 Pearl Lang and Dance Company.

Programs, 1923-1989

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 2/16	1984-1989 Includes: Bel Canto Opera; Martha Graham Dance Company; Pearl Lang; Jack Moore memorial.
BOX-FOLDER 2/17	Undated Young Adult Pop Series, Paterson, New Jersey.
BOX 1, 4-5	Clippings and Printed Materials, 1943-1991 Chiefly newspaper clippings, magazine articles, and other printed materials documenting performances or dance topics; most are features or reviews. Many of these were originally in Miriam Cole's scrapbooks. Three folders contain printed material about friends or family. Arranged in two subseries by subjects: performing arts and individuals.
BOX 1, 4-5	Performing Arts, 1943-1991
BOX-FOLDER 1/19 BOX-FOLDER 5/1	1943-1949 Hanya Holm Colorado performance; articles on University of Wisconsin dance program and Wisconsin Dance Group; Vassar performance.
BOX-FOLDER 1/20 BOX-FOLDER 4/1	1950 Performance reviews; article on dance notation.
BOX-FOLDER 1/21	1951 Cole reviews and notices.
BOX-FOLDER 1/22	1952 Cole reviews and notices.
BOX-FOLDER 1/23	1953 Graham features and reviews.
BOX-FOLDER 1/24-25 BOX-FOLDER 4/2	1954
BOX-FOLDER 5/2	Includes notices, features, reviews of Martha Graham Dance Company European tour, including April issue of British publication <i>Dancing Times</i> .
BOX-FOLDER 1/26 BOX-FOLDER 4/4	1955-1957 Graham features and reviews, including feature on Graham films.
BOX-FOLDER 1/27	1961-1963
BOX-FOLDER 5/3	1973-1977 Articles on Graham.
BOX-FOLDER 1/28	1984, 1991 Articles on Graham.
BOX-FOLDER 1/29	Unidentified, undated Miscellaneous published notices and reviews.
BOX 1, 4	Individuals, 1955-1987
BOX-FOLDER 1/30	Hinkson, Mary, 1980, 1987 Items about Mary Hinkson Jackson's bakery.
BOX-FOLDER 1/31	Horst, Louis, 1955, 1963-1964, undated Items about Louis Horst's career and awards, including bibliography of sources.

Clippings and Printed Materials, 1943-1991

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 4/3	Keller, Helen, 1954 <i>New York Times</i> feature on Helen Keller with photo of her visit to Martha Graham's studio.
BOX-FOLDER 1/32	Levinsohn, Sandor, 1972 Miriam Cole's father; newspaper article with photograph.
BOX 3	Music, 1952 Scores for Miriam Cole's choreography; several include dance cues. Arranged alphabetically by composer.
BOX-FOLDER 3/1	Anderson, Ada Reif. "Icarus and the Sun," 1952 Holograph score in pencil; 4 p. Autographed.
BOX-FOLDER 3/1	Anderson, Ada Reif. Icarus and the Sun, 1952 Holograph score in ink; 8 p. Dance and tempo notes.
BOX-FOLDER 3/2	Bartók, Béla. Bagatelles op. 8, no. 6 (numbers 8 and 13) Published score; 5 p. Some tempo notes added in pencil.
BOX-FOLDER 3/3	Hamvas, Lewis. The Listener, 1952 Holograph piano score and photocopy; 8 p. For Miriam Cole's choreography of same name; pencil notes. Autographed; titled "The Listening" on earliest version.
BOX-FOLDER 3/4	Shostakovich, Dmitri. Preludes (op. 34), 1952 Manuscript piano score; 6 p. Arrangement by M. Strauss, titled "Come into the Garden Maud." For Miriam Cole/Jack Moore choreography Pas de Fleurs.
BOX 2	Writings by Miriam Cole, 1950-1990s Handwritten account of career, miscellaneous notes for dance history workshops, technique classes, music notes. Grouped by subject matter.
BOX-FOLDER 2/18	Autobiography, "My Life with MG," 1990s Cole's holograph manuscript with typed transcription; covers career through mid-1990s.
BOX-FOLDER 2/19	Choreographic notes, 1952? Tempo and movement cues for "Come into the Garden Maud."
BOX-FOLDER 2/20	Dance history notes, 1950, undated Notes on Louis Horst lecture-demonstration and books.
BOX-FOLDER 2/21	Dance and music notes, undated Typed notes for Elementary I and II modern dance technique classes; handwritten music notes.
BOX 2, 4-5 MAPCASE 4	Miscellany, 1952-1993 Business papers, publicity flyers, posters, as well as photocopies made for preservation purposes. Several posters advertising performances are among this series. Grouped by subject.
BOX-FOLDER 2/22	Contracts, 1952-1964 Includes: <i>King and I</i> and television filming of <i>Appalachian Spring</i> .

Miscellany, 1952-1993

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 2/23	European tour documents, 1954 Visa for United Kingdom; Netherlands itinerary.
BOX-FOLDER 2/24-25	Flyers, 1961, 1989, undated
BOX-FOLDER 5/4	Cole's performances, Graham company, benefit events; brochures for Graham films with personal note from film producer Nathan Kroll.
BOX-FOLDER 4/5	Menu, 1993 Benefit for Bill T. Jones.
MAPCASE-DRAWER 4/15	Posters, 1952, undated Martha Graham company, Pearl Lang company, independent artists; Cole's dance history timeline drawn on the verso of one Graham poster.
BOX-FOLDER 4/6, 5/5	Preservation photocopies Record copies of scrapbook pages or newspaper clippings to replace badly deteriorated pages or to preserve handwritten notes: Hanya Holm summer workshop; Vassar events; Wisconsin Dance Group; Graham European tour.