

**Valeria Ladd Collection on the Revived Greek Dance**  
**Guides to Special Collections in the Music Division of the Library of Congress**



**Music Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2009**

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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:** Valeria Ladd Collection on the Revived Greek Dance

**Span Dates:** 1924-1967

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1932-1934)

**Call No.:** ML31.L32

**Creator:** Ladd, Valeria, 1892-1984

**Extent:** 83 items

**Extent:** 1 container

**Extent:** 0.5 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/2013572135>

**Summary:** Valeria Gibson Ladd was a dancer with the Noyes School of Rhythm during the 1930s. This collection, consisting almost entirely of photographs, documents the practice of a genre of dancing based on the revival of Greek aesthetics and costume, as practiced by dancer Florence Fleming Noyes (1871–1928). In the early 1900s, Noyes established the Noyes School of Rhythm, where Valeria Ladd taught and performed.

## 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

Ladd, Valeria, 1892-1984--Photographs.

Ladd, Valeria, 1892-1984.

Ladd, Valeria, 1892-1984.

Noyes, Florence Fleming.

Rapp, Catherine, 1901-1992--Photographs.

### Organizations

Noyes School of Rhythm.

### Subjects

Dance photography.

Dance schools--United States.

Dance--Greece.

Dancers--Photographs.

Modern dance.

### Form/Genre

Photographic prints.

## Provenance

Gift; Vicky Risner; 2009

## Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

## Processing History

The Valeria Ladd Collection on the Revived Greek Dance was processed and a finding aid created by Judy Estey in 2009. The finding aid was revised and coded for EAD format by Libby Smigel in 2016.

## Other Repositories

The National Museum of Women in the Arts houses a one-box collection titled the Valeria Ladd Papers, 1919-1985.

## Related Material

The Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress holds many images of revived Greek dancing of the early twentieth century, including photographs of Isadora Duncan and Florence Fleming Noyes.

## Copyright Status

Materials from the Valeria Ladd Collection on the Revived Greek Dance 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 Valeria Ladd Collection on the Revived Greek Dance is 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], Valeria Ladd Collection on the Revived Greek Dance, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Valeria Gibson Ladd (1892-1984) was a dancer with the Noyes School of Rhythm during the 1930s; she brought a group of dancers from the Noyes School to perform in Greece in 1932 and 1934. The Noyes School of Rhythm had been founded in the early 1900s by Florence Fleming Noyes. Noyes was a proponent of the natural dancing style of Isadora Duncan and other practitioners of what was often termed the "revived Greek dance." Noyes developed her own movement system toward regaining one's natural sense of rhythm. The technique Noyes created was based on a natural, fluid movement designed to emphasize rhythm through coordination and concentration. The school branch in Portland, Connecticut, continues to offer programs and camps.

## Scope and Content Note

Most of the materials in this one-box collection document Noyes Rhythm dancers.

The materials are organized in two series: Photographs and Miscellany.

In the **Photographs** series, most images document Valeria Ladd, Catherine Rapp (1901-1992), or other members of the Noyes Dance Group and their trips to Greece in the 1930s. In addition to photographs of dancers posing or dancing in

natural settings or with ancient Greek ruins, there are photographs of museum pieces, landscapes, and the remains of Greek theatres and monuments.

The **Miscellany** series contains the first issue of *The Denishawn Magazine* and Ladd's certificate of her election to Who's Who.

## **Organization of the Valeria Ladd Collection on the Revived Greek Dance**

The collection is organized in two series:

- [Photographs, 1932-1960s](#)
- [Miscellany, 1924-1967](#)

## Description of Series

### Container

BOX 1

### Series

#### Photographs, 1932-1960s

Most photographs are dancers, scenes, or museum items. Most of the photographs are undated.

Some prints are marked as being later prints (circa 1960s) made from earlier originals or negatives. Several photographs are of subjects not directly related to Valeria Ladd or the Noyes School of Rhythm.

Photographs taken on location in Greece are grouped by subject (people, places, art).

BOX 1

#### Miscellany, 1924-1967

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	<p><b>Photographs, 1932-1960s</b></p> <p>Most photographs are dancers, scenes, or museum items. Most of the photographs are undated. Some prints are marked as being later prints (circa 1960s) made from earlier originals or negatives. Several photographs are of subjects not directly related to Valeria Ladd or the Noyes School of Rhythm.</p> <p>Photographs taken on location in Greece are grouped by subject (people, places, art).</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/1-3	<p>Dancers at Cape Sounion, 1932, undated</p> <p>Location at Temple of Poseidon.</p> <p>Dancers include Valeria Ladd and Catherine Rapp.</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/4	<p>Dancers at Delphi, undated</p> <p>Location near Corycian Cave, Mount Parnassus.</p> <p>One dancer is identified as Catherine Rapp.</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/5-6	<p>Dancers at Epidauros [Epidavros], undated</p> <p>Locations near the ancient theatre at Epidauros and in an olive grove.</p> <p>Two dancers are identified as "Jeannette" and "Laura" on verso.</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/7-8	Dancers at the island of Naxos, undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/9	Dancers at unidentified locations in Greece, undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/10	<p>Kotopoulē, Marika, 1930s</p> <p>Two photographs of Greek actress Marika Kotopoulē: one in a group, one a portrait by Arnold Genthe (also held by Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress).</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/11	<p>Scenes in Greece, undated</p> <p>Delphi, Parthenon, Temple of Athena Alea in Tegea, others.</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/12	Sculptures in Greek museums, undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/13	<p>Dancer in studio poses, circa 1932</p> <p>Includes individual studio photos, as well as photographs of poster advertising "Valeria Ladd and Her Noyes Dancers" (Cotopouli Theatre, November 1932), which incorporates the studio poses into the advertisement.</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/14	<p>Noyes dancers, undated</p> <p>Location unidentified.</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/15	<p>Dancer in Greek garb, undated</p> <p>Mounted on board.</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/16	Dancers in Greek garb, undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/17	<p>Theatrical portrait, undated</p> <p>Scene of "The Thief" by Henry Bernstein?</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/18	<p>Leap, undated</p> <p>Explanatory hand-written note on verso from Melissa Smith: photograph of a leap using long exposure taken under a single spotlight.</p>
BOX 1	<p><b>Miscellany, 1924-1967</b></p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/19	Who's Who certificate, 1967
BOX-FOLDER 1/20	<p><i>The Denishawn Magazine</i>, 1924</p> <p>Volume 1, number 1.</p>