

Dance Notation Collection



**Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2020**

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/perform.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/2006560673>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.music/eadmus.mu020028>

Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by the Music Division of the Library of Congress, 2020

Collection Summary

Title: Dance Notation Collection

Inclusive Dates: 1893-1981

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1947-1981)

Call No.: ML31.D35

Extent: 42 items

Extent: 6 containers

Extent: 4.25 linear feet

Extent: 5 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English.

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2006560673>

Summary: The Dance Notation Collection consists of scenarios, scores in codified dance notation, and descriptions of dance dating from 1893 to 1981, many of which originated from copyright deposits submitted to the U.S. Copyright Office to register rights for choreography. Most of these scores are recorded in Labanotation, the system of dance notation that Rudolf von Laban (1879–1958) developed. George Balanchine, Doris Humphrey, Kurt Jooss, Léonide Massine, and Antony Tudor are among the distinguished choreographers whose works are represented in this collection.

Provenance

This collection of dance notation, descriptive scenarios of dance and movement, and dance scores originated from copyright deposits submitted to the U.S. Copyright Office to register rights for choreography. The collection remains open for future additions through the U.S. Copyright Office and by direct submission from choreographers or dance notators.

Accruals

Additional copyright deposits, dance scores notated using codified symbols, and other dance notation items given to the Music Division will be added to this collection.

Processing History

Elizabeth Aldrich inventoried and processed the Dance Notation Collection in 2012. In 2020, Libby Smigel reassessed, processed, and rehoused the collection, and Rachel McNellis coded the finding aid for online access. The finding aid will be updated to accommodate additional dance notation documents and scores that the Music Division obtains.

Other Repositories

Outside repositories containing significant collections of dance notation include the Dance Notation Bureau, which houses the largest collection of dance scores written in Labanotation, as well as the Dance Notation Bureau Collection at Ohio State University and Benesh International at the Royal Academy of Dance in London.

Related Material

The Music Division holds a wide range of dance-related collections with notated dance scores. Notably, the [American Dance Theatre Archive](#) houses scores notated in Benesh dance notation. The [Julia Vincent Cross Papers](#) contains a bound choreography notebook with detailed hand-written descriptions of 29 dances attributed to Alexandre Volinine, Isadora Duncan, Mikhail Mordkin, and others, as well as Cross's own choreography. The [Erick Hawkins and Lucia Dlugoszewski Papers](#) includes scores exhibiting a unique choreographic notation devised by Hawkins, as well as music scores that are annotated with choreographic notes and cues. The Library of Congress as a whole has an extensive collection of books devoted to dance notation and dance scores that record works of many genres.

Copyright Status

Materials from the Dance Notation 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 Dance Notation 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.

Microfilm

Several works by George Balanchine, Hanya Holm, and Doris Humphrey, deposited between 1953 and 1963, are available on five reels of microfilm that are shelved as Microfilm 2021/02436 (Mus). These materials are described in the finding aid and may be requested using the call number and reel number listed with the item. *To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.*

Preferred Citation

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

Scope and Content Note

The Dance Notation Collection consists of various documents used to record dance movements, sequences of dance steps, and stage arrangements. Items include diagrams, choreographic notes and dance notation, microfilm, descriptive scenarios and themes, and dance scores recorded in formal notation systems such as Labanotation. This collection began as a set of copyright registrations submitted to the U.S. Copyright Office. The modern dance, ballet, cultural dance, and musical theatre works among the 28 original submissions date between 1893 and 1981. They represent artistic works of major twentieth-century choreographers such as George Balanchine, Hanya Holm, Doris Humphrey, Kurt Jooss, Sophie Maslow, Léonide Massine, Agnes De Mille, and Antony Tudor. Two items in the collection were registered for educational purposes. Ray Cook's *Theme and Variations* was intended as an introduction to Labanotation and the reconstruction of dance scores, and Ida C. Craddock's *Danse du ventre* described Egyptian belly dance as having instructional value for nineteenth-century marriage.

Note that the date included with the title of the choreographic work is that of the completed score, as most dance notation is completed after the premiere of the dance, sometimes long afterward and with different casts. The copyright number assigned by the U.S. Copyright Office may have another date, which corresponds to the date when the copyright registration number was recorded.

Arrangement

The collection is organized in two series:

- [Labanotation, 1947-1981](#)
- [Other Dance Notation, 1893](#)

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

Asselbourg, Jocelyne.
Balanchine, George. Allegro brillante.
Balanchine, George. Symphony in C.
Cook, Ray, 1934-
Craddock, Ida C.
De Mille, Agnes. Fall River legend.
Dunkley, K. Wright.
Grelinger, Els, 1923-2015.
Guest, Ann Hutchinson.
Holden, Richard, 1927-2015.
Holm, Hanya, 1893-1992.
Humphrey, Doris, 1895-1958.
Hynninen, Airi
Jooss, Kurt, 1901-1979.
Laban, Rudolf von, 1879-1958.
Marriett, Jane.
Massein, Leonide, 1896-1979.
Topaz, Muriel.
Weber, Lynne.
Weetering, Conrad van de.
Wile, Charlotte.
Zide, Rochelle.

Organizations

Dance Notation Bureau (New York, N.Y.)

Subjects

Ballet.
Choreography.
Dance notation.
Labanotation.
Modern dance.

Titles

Ball in old Vienna (Choreographic work : Jooss)
Beau Danube (Choreographic work : Massine)
Big city (Choreographic work : Jooss)
Bourrée fantasque (Choreographic work : Balanchine)
Cereus (Choreographic work : Tudor)
Continuo (Choreographic work : Tudor)
Dance notation copyright deposits
Day on earth (Choreographic work : Humphrey)
Folksay (Choreographic work : Maslow)
Gaité parisienne (Choreographic work : Massine)
Green table (Choreographic work : Jooss)
Jardin aux lilas (Choreographic work : Tudor)
Leaves are fading (Choreographic work : Tudor)
My fair lady (Choreographic work : Holm)
Night spell (Choreographic work : Humphrey)
Offenbach in the underworld (Choreographic work : Tudor)

Parade (Choreographic work : Massine)
Pavane pour une infante défunte (Choreographic work : Jooss)
Pulcinella (Choreographic work : Massine)
Ritmo jondo (Choreographic work : Humphrey)
Soirée musicale (Choreographic work : Tudor)
Symphonie concertante (Choreographic work : Balanchine)
With my red fires (Choreographic work : Humphrey)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1- 6 REEL 1-5

Series

Labanotation, 1947-1981

The Labanotation series consists of dance scores written in Labanotation. Hungarian-born dancer and choreographer Rudolf von Laban (1879–1958) created the system and introduced it in *Kinetographie Laban*, which he published in 1928. Labanotation uses symbols written on a vertical staff to represent different aspects of a specific movement: body part, direction, level, duration, and physical and emotional dynamics. The Dance Notation Bureau in New York City, which Eve Gentry and Ann Hutchinson Guest founded in 1940, holds the largest collection of dance scores written in Labanotation.

The items in this series document the choreographed works of George Balanchine, Ray Cook, Hanya Holm, Doris Humphrey, Kurt Jooss, Sophie Maslow, Léonide Massine, and Antony Tudor. The scores were written by professional dance notators, including Ray Cook, Els Grelinger, Airi Hynninen, Ann Hutchinson Guest, Jane Marriett, and Muriel Topaz, among others. Hanya Holm's dances from the hit Broadway musical *My Fair Lady* (1956), are especially noteworthy, along with Agnes de Mille's *Fall River Legend*, (1975), which she choreographed for renowned Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. Unlike the other works in the series, Ray Cook's *Theme and Variations* (1981) was a pedagogical work intended as an introduction to Labanotation.

A microfilm edition of select works are available on five reels that are shelved as Microfilm 2021/02436 (Mus). *To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.*

Arranged alphabetically by choreographer's last name and therein by title of the dance work.

BOX 5

Other Dance Notation, 1893

The Other Dance Notation series includes a 10-page typed manuscript with hand-written corrections of Ida Craddock's *Danse du ventre [Dance of the Abdomen]* (1893). Describing the movement, Craddock explains how Egyptian belly dancing has instructional value for nineteenth-century marriage.

Arranged alphabetically by author and therein by title of work.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1- 6 REEL 1-5	<p>Labanotation, 1947-1981</p> <p>The Labanotation series consists of dance scores written in Labanotation. Hungarian-born dancer and choreographer Rudolf von Laban (1879–1958) created the system and introduced it in <i>Kinetographie Laban</i>, which he published in 1928. Labanotation uses symbols written on a vertical staff to represent different aspects of a specific movement: body part, direction, level, duration, and physical and emotional dynamics. The Dance Notation Bureau in New York City, which Eve Gentry and Ann Hutchinson Guest founded in 1940, holds the largest collection of dance scores written in Labanotation.</p> <p>The items in this series document the choreographed works of George Balanchine, Ray Cook, Hanya Holm, Doris Humphrey, Kurt Jooss, Sophie Maslow, Léonide Massine, and Antony Tudor. The scores were written by professional dance notators, including Ray Cook, Els Grelinger, Airi Hynninen, Ann Hutchinson Guest, Jane Marriett, and Muriel Topaz, among others. Hanya Holm’s dances from the hit Broadway musical <i>My Fair Lady</i> (1956), are especially noteworthy, along with Agnes de Mille’s <i>Fall River Legend</i>, (1975), which she choreographed for renowned Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. Unlike the other works in the series, Ray Cook’s <i>Theme and Variations</i> (1981) was a pedagogical work intended as an introduction to Labanotation.</p> <p>A microfilm edition of select works are available on five reels that are shelved as Microfilm 2021/02436 (Mus). <i>To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.</i></p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by choreographer’s last name and therein by title of the dance work.</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/1	<p>Balanchine, George</p> <p><i>Allegro Brilliante</i>, 1977</p> <p>Notator: Richard Holden</p> <p>Copyright number and date: Du 106982; 1977 December 30</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/2 REEL 2	<p><i>Bourrée Fantasque</i>, 1949?</p> <p>Synopsis of thematic content, 1 page</p> <p>Notator: Ann Hutchinson Guest with Els Grelinger</p> <p>Copyright number and date: Du 35212; 1953</p> <p>Also available as Microfilm 2021/02436 (Mus). Made from NYPL copy</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/3 REEL 3	<p><i>Symphonie Concertante</i>, 1947?</p> <p>Synopsis of thematic content, 1 page</p> <p>Notator: Ann Hutchinson with Els Grelinger</p> <p>Copyright number and date: Du 35213; 1953</p> <p>Also available as Microfilm 2021/02436 (Mus). Made from NYPL copy</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/4 REEL 4	<p><i>Symphony in C</i>, 1948</p> <p>Synopsis of thematic content, 1 page</p> <p>Notator: Ann Hutchinson with Els Grelinger</p> <p>Copyright number and date: Du 35214; 1953</p> <p>Also available as Microfilm 2021/02436 (Mus). Made from NYPL copy</p>
BOX-FOLDER 1/5	<p>Cook, Ray</p> <p><i>Theme and Variations</i>, 1981</p> <p>Two printed copies</p> <p>Notator: Ray Cook</p>

Labanotation, 1947-1981

Container	Contents
	Copyright number and date: PA 130-652; 1981 November 2 De Mille, Agnes
BOX-FOLDER 1/6-8	<i>Fall River Legend</i> , 1975 Notator: Jane Marriett Copyright number and date: Du 106977; 1977 December 30
BOX-FOLDER 5/1-2	<i>Rodeo</i> , 1976 Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo Notator: Jane Marriett Copyright number and date: Du 106986; 1977 December 30
BOX-FOLDER 1/9 REEL 1	Holm, Hanya <i>My Fair Lady</i> dances, 1956? Description, 2 pages Notator: Els Grelinger Copyright number and date: Du 45865; 1957 October 16 Also available as Microfilm 2021/02436 (Mus)
REEL 5	Humphrey, Doris <i>Day on Earth</i> , 1963 Notator: Muriel Topaz Copyright number and date: Du 58898; 1963 November 12 Available as Microfilm 2021/02436 (Mus)
BOX-FOLDER 1/10	<i>Night Spell</i> , 1974 Notator: Jane Marriett Copyright number and date: Du 106985; 1977 December 30
BOX-FOLDER 1/11	<i>Ritmo Jondo</i> , 1976 Notator: Ray Cook Copyright number and date: Du 106984; 1977 December 30
BOX-FOLDER 2/1-2	<i>With My Red Fires</i> , 1965 Notator: Muriel Topaz Copyright number and date: DP 9443; 1975 May 12
BOX-FOLDER 2/3	Jooss, Kurt <i>A Ball in Old Vienna</i> , 1976 Notator: Jane Marriett Copyright number and date: Du 106983; 1977 December 30
BOX-FOLDER 6/1	<i>The Big City</i> , 1974 Notator: Airi Hynninen Copyright number and date: Du 106980; 1977 December 30
BOX-FOLDER 2/4	<i>The Green Table</i> , 1977 Notator: Muriel Topaz, Charlotte Wile Copyright number and date: Du 106969; 1977 December 30
BOX-FOLDER 2/5	<i>Pavane on the Death of an Infanta</i> , 1976 Notator: Charlotte Wile Copyright number and date: Du 106971; 1977 December 30
BOX-FOLDER 2/6-7	Maslow, Sophie <i>Folksay</i> , 1972 Notator: K. Wright Dunkley Copyright number and date: Du 106978; 1977 December 30
	Massine, Léonide

Labanotation, 1947-1981

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 3/1-2	<i>Le Beau Danube</i> , 1971 Notator: Ann Hutchinson Guest, assisted by Jocelyne Asselbourg and Conrad van der Wetering Copyright number and date: Du 106967; 1977 December 30
BOX-FOLDER 3/3	<i>Gaité Parisienne</i> , 1974 Notator: Airi Hynninen Copyright number and date: Du 106979; 1977 December 30
BOX-FOLDER 3/4	<i>Parade</i> , 1974 Notator: Jocelyne Asselbourg Copyright number and date: Du 106974; 1977 December 30
BOX-FOLDER 3/5-6	<i>Pulcinella</i> , 1974 Notator: Lynne Weber Copyright number and date: Du 106972; 1977 December 30 Tudor, Antony
BOX-FOLDER 4/1	<i>Cereus</i> , 1972 Notator: Muriel Topaz Copyright number and date: Du 106973; 1977 December 30
BOX-FOLDER 4/2	<i>Continuo</i> , 1976 Notator: Muriel Topaz Copyright number and date: Du 106879; 1977 December 30
BOX-FOLDER 4/3-4	<i>Jardin aux Lilas</i> , 1967 Notator: Muriel Topaz Copyright number and date: Du 106968; 1977 December 30
BOX-FOLDER 4/5	<i>The Leaves Are Fading</i> , 1975 Notator: Airi Hynninen Copyright number and date: Du 106976; 1977 December 30
BOX-FOLDER 4/6-7	<i>Offenbach in the Underworld</i> , 1975 Notator: Lynne Weber Copyright number and date: Du 106975; 1977 December 30
BOX-FOLDER 4/8	<i>Soirée Musicale</i> , 1975 Notator: Ann Hutchinson, 1962; revised by Airi Hynninen, Muriel Topaz and Rochelle Zide, 1975 Copyright number and date: Du 106981; 1977 December 30
BOX 5	Other Dance Notation, 1893 The Other Dance Notation series includes a 10-page typed manuscript with hand-written corrections of Ida Craddock's <i>Danse du ventre [Dance of the Abdomen]</i> (1893). Describing the movement, Craddock explains how Egyptian belly dancing has instructional value for nineteenth-century marriage. Arranged alphabetically by author and therein by title of work. Craddock, Ida C.
BOX-FOLDER 5/3	<i>Danse du ventre [Dance of the Abdomen]</i> as performed in the Cairo Street Theatre, Midway Plaisance, Chicago, 1893 Typed manuscript with corrections, ten pages Copyright date: 1893 October 27 <i>Note:</i> No Copyright Office registration number