

Cherie Jorgensen Collection on Jane Grossenbacher and Eleanor King



**Music Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
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Prepared by the Music Division of the Library of Congress

Finding aid encoded by Rachel McNellis, 2021 July

Collection Summary

Title: Cherie Jorgensen Collection on Jane Grossenbacher and Eleanor King

Inclusive Dates: 1983-2005

Bulk Dates: 1983-1984

Call No.: ML31.J66

Collector: Jorgensen, Cherie

Creator: Grossenbacher, B. Jane (Bertha Jane), 1951-2008

Creator: King, Eleanor, 1906-1991

Extent: approximately 325 items

Extent: 3 containers

Extent: 1.75 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2020570123>

Summary: Eleanor King (1906-1991) was a modern dancer, choreographer, and educator who studied at Denishawn and joined the Humphrey-Weidman Company. Known for blending Eastern and Western influences in her choreography, she established her own company in Seattle and later taught at the University of Arkansas. Jane Grossenbacher (1951-2008) was a photographer who specialized in black-and white photogravures. The Cherie Jorgensen Collection on Jane Grossenbacher and Eleanor King consists chiefly of photographs that Grossenbacher took of King, as well as correspondence, an exhibit catalog, programs, and promotional materials that document their professional activities.

Acquisition Information

Gift, Cherie Jorgensen, 2021

Accruals

No further accruals are expected.

Processing History

Rachel McNellis processed the Cherie Jorgensen Collection on Jane Grossenbacher and Eleanor King and coded the finding aid in 2021.

Other Repositories

Arizona State University's Cross-Cultural Dance Resources collection contains original Eleanor King materials, including costumes, personal papers, writings, programs, clippings, and photographs. Similar materials are held by the Dance Division of the New York Public Library of the Performing Arts. The Harwood Museum of Art holds a small collection of Jane Grossenbacher's photographs in the Eleanor King Portfolio.

Related Material

The [Herbert H. Coburn Dance Program Collection](#) contains programs for performances by the Humphrey-Weidman Company. The Music Division is also rich in special collections related to Denishawn and its dancers. These include the [Anne Douglas Papers Related to Denishawn](#), [Cesi Kellinger Collection](#), [Denishawn Legacy Collection](#), [Grace McCrea Papers Relating to Denishawn](#), the [Martha Graham Collection](#), and the [Martha Graham Legacy Archive](#).

Copyright Status

Materials from the Cherie Jorgensen Collection on Jane Grossenbacher and Eleanor King 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 Cherie Jorgensen Collection on Jane Grossenbacher and Eleanor King 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 on using or copying materials may apply.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [item, date, container or reel or digital ID number], Cherie Jorgensen Collection on Jane Grossenbacher and Eleanor King, Music Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Notes

Jane Grossenbacher

Jane Grossenbacher was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1951. A renowned photographer, she studied at the San Francisco Art Institute and Indiana University. Grossenbacher was known for her black and white photogravures and staged numerous exhibits of her work across the United States, Europe, and Japan. In addition to photography, she studied Flamenco dancing in Spain and performed with a circus for a year. After living in England and Santa Fe, New Mexico, Grossenbacher moved to San Francisco and worked at the Academy of Art. She married artist Keith Bjorkman (1959-2017) in 1992. Grossenbacher died of ovarian cancer on September 16, 2018.

Eleanor King

Date	Event
1906 February 8	Born in Middletown, Pennsylvania
1922	Moved with her family to Brooklyn, New York
1924	Enrolled at New York University to pursue a degree in journalism Enrolled at the Clair Tree Major School of Theater in New York, New York, and studied dance with Priscilla Robineau
circa 1926	Studied at the Theater Guild School
1927-1928	Studied at Denishawn with Doris Humphrey and Charles Weidman while Ruth St. Denis and Ted Shawn were on tour
1928	Joined the Humphrey-Weidman Company as one of its first members Performed in Humphrey's ballet <i>Color Harmony</i>
1930	Danced in Léonide Massine's production of <i>Le sacre du printemps</i> at the Metropolitan Opera House
1931	Formed a small dance troupe named The Little Group with other members of the Humphrey-Weidman Company: Letitia Ida, Charles Laskey, José Limón, and Ernestine Hedoch Stodelle Performed in her first choreographed work with José Limón, titled <i>B minor Suite</i> , which exhibited J. S. Bach's influence
1934	Attended the Bennington School of Dance with the Humphrey-Weidman Company
1935	Departed from the Humphrey-Weidman Company
1936 Summer	Taught at the Perry-Mansfield Performing Arts School and Camp in Steamboat Springs, Colorado

1937 May	Produced her first major choreographed work, <i>Icaro</i> , a dance-drama set to the music of David Diamond and Franziska Boas, at the Brooklyn Museum Dance Center
1938	Awarded a fellowship at the Bennington School of Dance
1943	Briefly taught at Carleton College in Northfeld, Minnesota Moved to Seattle Choreographed <i>To the West</i> Founded The Eleanor King Dance Repertory Company
1943-1944	Taught at the Cornish School of Arts in Seattle
1944	Attended the Salish Treaty Day Dances at La Connor, which introduced her to Native American dance traditions
1945	Choreographed <i>Northwest Spirit Dance</i>
1947	Established One World in Dance, a nine-week multi-cultural dance program
1952-1971	Taught dance, acting, and choreography at the University of Arkansas
1952	Toured across England, France, and the Netherlands
1955	Studied mime with Etienne Decroux in Paris
1958	Studied in Japan, with a subsequent trip in 1960-1961
1967	Awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to continue her dance studies in Japan Choreographed <i>The Well-Tempered Dancer</i> , which displayed J. S. Bach's influence
circa 1970	Completed her unpublished study <i>The Way of Japanese Dance</i>
1971	Retired in Santa Fe, New Mexico
1976-1977	Awarded a grant from the Vogelstein Foundation to study dance in Bali, Burma, Korea, Sri Lanka, and Thailand
1978	Published her autobiography <i>Transformations: The Humphrey-Weidman Era</i>
circa 1985	Completed her unpublished book <i>Transformations: To the West</i>
1987-1988	Annabelle Gamson performed acclaimed revivals of her works
1987	Awarded the New Mexico Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts
1989	Received a Choreographer's Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts Moved to the Actor's Home in Haddonfield, New Jersey
1990-1991	Directed the American Dance Repertory Theater with Mino Nicolas
1991 February 27	Died in Haddonfield, New Jersey

Bibliography

[Eleanor King Collection](#). Cross-Cultural Dance Resources. Last Accessed July 14, 2021.

[Eleanor King Papers](#). New York Public Library. Last Accessed July 14, 2021.

Eleanor King: Sixty Years of American Dance. Edited by Nicole Plett. Santz Cruz: Moving Press, 1988.

King, Eleanor. *Transformations: The Humphrey-Weidman Era*. Brooklyn: Dance Horizons, 1978.

Scope and Content Note

The Cherie Jorgensen Collection on Jane Grossenbacher and Eleanor King spans the years 1983 to 2005, with the bulk dating from 1983 to 1984. It is organized into three series and arranged by format. The [Photographs](#) series comprises the vast majority of the collection and consists of black and white photographs that Grossenbacher took of King dancing *Northwest Spirit Dance* (1945) and *The Well-Tempered Dancer* (1967). It also contains a small number of head shots and a photo of King dancing with Andrea Seidel, as well as numerous negatives and slides. The [Correspondence](#) series consists of letters between Grossenbacher and others active in the photography and dance fields, including King, Nicole Plett, and Andrea Seidel. The [Printed Material](#) series contains a small number of clippings, programs, and promotional material related to Jane Grossenbacher and Eleanor King, as well as an exhibit catalog.

Organization of the Cherie Jorgensen Collection on Jane Grossenbacher and Eleanor King

The collection is arranged in three series:

- [Photographs, 1983-2003](#)
- [Correspondence, 1988-2005](#)
- [Printed Material, 1983-2005](#)

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

Grossenbacher, B. Jane (Bertha Jane), 1951-2008--Correspondence.

Grossenbacher, B. Jane (Bertha Jane), 1951-2008.

Jorgensen, Cherie.

King, Eleanor, 1906-1991--Correspondence.

King, Eleanor, 1906-1991--Photographs.

King, Eleanor, 1906-1991.

Mantell-Seidel, Andrea.

Plett, Nicole.

Subjects

Dancers--United States--Photographs.

Modern dance--United States--History.

Form/Genre

Clippings (Information artifacts)

Dance programs.

Exhibition catalogs.

Negatives (Photographs)

Personal correspondence.

Photographs.

Promotional materials.

Slides (Photographs)

Description of Series

Container

BOX 1-3

Series

Photographs, 1983-2003

This series consists of photographs, contact sheets, negatives, and slides of Eleanor King dating between 1983 and 2003, with the majority from 1983 to 1984. Many of these photographs taken by Jane Grossenbacher depict King dancing in *Northwest Spirit Dance* (1945) and *The Well-Tempered Dancer* (1967). These works exhibit the influence of Native American dance traditions and the music of J. S. Bach, respectively. Other photographs include a small number of headshots and dancing with modern dancer and historian Andrea Seidel. In addition, this series contains 21 high-quality digital prints of the Eleanor King Portfolio held at the Harwood Museum of Art. The contact sheets, negatives, and slides are numerous and represent these and other related photographs.

Arranged alphabetically.

BOX 2

Correspondence, 1988-2005

This series contains correspondence with Jane Grossenbacher, the majority of which is professional, that dates between 1988 and 2005. Two holograph letters from Eleanor King are notable and shed light on her move to New Jersey and life in the Actors Home.

Nicole Plett, who edited a series of essays about King (*Eleanor King: Sixty Years in American Dance*, Santa Cruz: Moving Press, 1988), is also well-represented. Additional correspondents include Michael Kelly, Mino Nicolas, Janet Lynn Roseman, and Andrea Seidel.

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

BOX 2

Printed Material, 1983-2005

This series includes clippings, an exhibit catalog, programs, and promotional materials that date between 1983 and 2005. The clippings include two obituaries for Eleanor King and a paragraph celebrating her achievements as a dancer. The exhibit catalog, *Eleanor King: Sixty Years in American Dance*, provides significant context for those dances represented in the [Photographs](#) series. Promotional materials consist of posters and a press release that document Grossenbacher's other exhibits, as well as flyers advertising King's masterclasses. The programs for the 1991 Eleanor King Memorial and the 2005 Eleanor King Centennial Concert are also notable.

Arranged alphabetically by material type.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-3	Photographs, 1983-2003 <p>This series consists of photographs, contact sheets, negatives, and slides of Eleanor King dating between 1983 and 2003, with the majority from 1983 to 1984. Many of these photographs taken by Jane Grossenbacher depict King dancing in <i>Northwest Spirit Dance</i> (1945) and <i>The Well-Tempered Dancer</i> (1967). These works exhibit the influence of Native American dance traditions and the music of J. S. Bach, respectively. Other photographs include a small number of headshots and dancing with modern dancer and historian Andrea Seidel. In addition, this series contains 21 high-quality digital prints of the Eleanor King Portfolio held at the Harwood Museum of Art. The contact sheets, negatives, and slides are numerous and represent these and other related photographs.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically.</p>
BOX-FOLDER 2/1	Contact sheets, 1983-1984
BOX-FOLDER 2/2-22	Eleanor King Portfolio, undated High-quality digital reproductions <i>Note:</i> Originals held at the Harwood Museum of Art
BOX-FOLDER 2/23	King, Eleanor and Andrea Seidel, undated
BOX-FOLDER 1/1, 2/24-27	Negatives, 1983-1984
BOX-FOLDER 1/2-6, 2/28-29	Northwest Indian Spirit Dance, 1984
BOX-FOLDER 3/1-4	Slides, 1984-2003
BOX-FOLDER 1/7-12, 2/30-32	The Well-Tempered Dancer, 1984
BOX 2	Correspondence, 1988-2005 <p>This series contains correspondence with Jane Grossenbacher, the majority of which is professional, that dates between 1988 and 2005. Two holograph letters from Eleanor King are notable and shed light on her move to New Jersey and life in the Actors Home. Nicole Plett, who edited a series of essays about King (<i>Eleanor King: Sixty Years in American Dance</i>, Santa Cruz: Moving Press, 1988), is also well-represented. Additional correspondents include Michael Kelly, Mino Nicolas, Janet Lynn Roseman, and Andrea Seidel.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.</p>
BOX-FOLDER 2/33	International Center of Photography, 2003
BOX-FOLDER 2/34	Jackson, Rosemary, undated
BOX-FOLDER 2/35	Kelly, Michael, 2004
BOX-FOLDER 2/36	King, Eleanor, 1989-1990
BOX-FOLDER 2/37	Nicolas, Mino, 2005
BOX-FOLDER 2/38	Plett, Nicole, 1988
BOX-FOLDER 2/39	Roseman, Janet Lynn, 2003

Correspondence, 1988-2005

Container	Contents
BOX-FOLDER 2/40	Seidel, Andrea, 1991
BOX 2	Printed Material, 1983-2005 This series includes clippings, an exhibit catalog, programs, and promotional materials that date between 1983 and 2005. The clippings include two obituaries for Eleanor King and a paragraph celebrating her achievements as a dancer. The exhibit catalog, <i>Eleanor King: Sixty Years in American Dance</i> , provides significant context for those dances represented in the Photographs series. Promotional materials consist of posters and a press release that document Grossenbacher's other exhibits, as well as flyers advertising King's masterclasses. The programs for the 1991 Eleanor King Memorial and the 2005 Eleanor King Centennial Concert are also notable. Arranged alphabetically by material type.
BOX-FOLDER 2/41	Clippings, 1990-1995
BOX-FOLDER 2/42	Curriculum vitae, J. Grossenbacher, undated
BOX-FOLDER 2/43	<i>Eleanor King: Sixty Years in American Dance</i> . Edited by Nicole Plett. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1988 Exhibit catalog
BOX-FOLDER 2/44	Programs, 1991, 2005
BOX-FOLDER 2/45	Promotional materials, 1983, 1995