
Finding Aid for the Gordon Anthony Ballet and Theatrical Photograph Albums, 1935-1946

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Note

Finding Aid for the Gordon Anthony Ballet and Theatrical Photograph Albums, 1935-1946

Collection number: 884

UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections
Manuscripts Division

Los Angeles, CA

Contact Information

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Josh Fiala, May 2002

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Gordon Anthony Ballet and Theatrical Photograph Albums,

Date (inclusive): 1935-1946

Collection number: 884

Creator: Anthony, Gordon

Extent: 8 oversize boxes

Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Abstract: Gordon Anthony was born James Gordon Dawson Stannus (1902-1989) in Wicklow, Ireland. His photographs during the ballet revival in England in the 1930s helped the Royal Ballet obtain international prominence. His books include *Margot Fonteyn* (1950), *Alicia Markova* (1951) and *A Camera at the Ballet: Pioneer Dancers of the Royal Ballet* (1975). The collection consists of 8 large albums of photographs and clippings of British ballet and stage by Gordon Anthony as well as 400 original photographic prints.

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Language: English.

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Restrictions on Access

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Additional Physical Form Available

A copy of the original version of this online finding aid is available at the UCLA Department of Special Collections for in-house consultation and may be obtained for a fee. Please contact:

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Gordon Anthony Ballet and Theatrical Photograph Albums (Collection 884). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

Biography

Born James Gordon Dawson Stannus, December 23, 1902 in Wicklow, Ireland; better known as Gordon Anthony, a theatrical photographer whose work revolved primarily around dance; his sister, Ninette de Valois, danced for Diaghilev and directed the Sadler's Wells and Covent Garden Ballets; his photographs during the ballet revival in England in the 1930s helped the Royal Ballet obtain international prominence; began his career in 1926, photographing students at his sister's ballet school in London; appointed official portrait photographer of the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre in Stratford, 1933; books include *Margot Fonteyn* (1950), *Alicia Markova* (1951), and *A Camera at the Ballet: Pioneer Dancers of the Royal Ballet* (1975); his 1948 publication, *Studies of Dancers*, was the first book of color photography in Great Britain; died July 21, 1989.

Scope and Content

Collection consists of 8 large albums of photographs and clippings of British ballet and stage photographer Gordon Anthony. 400 original photographic prints include images of Alicia Markova, Margo Fonteyn, Robert Helpmann, Terence Rattigan, Mrs. Sacheverell Sitwell, and John Gielgud. Collection also includes letters of appreciation from Gielgud and others.

Organization and Arrangement

Arranged in the following series:

1. Original photographic prints of dancers (Boxes 1-2).
2. Original photographic prints of dancers and actors (Box 3).
3. Reproductions of photographs from the press depicting ballets and plays (Boxes 4-8).

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Anthony, Gordon--Archives.

Photographers--England--Archival resources.

Ballet dancers--Photographs.

Actors--Photographs.

Photograph albums.

Box 1

Album containing 58 original photographic prints, all (but two) signed by both photographer and dancers, many with inscriptions or greetings.

Physical Description: 12 × 9 Oblong album, upper joint broken, perfect condition within.

Scope and Content Note

Dancers included are:

Markova
Princess Romanovsky-Krasinsky
Leonide Massine
Riabouchinska
Margot Fonteyn
Tamara Toumanova
Baronova
Vera Nemchinova
Colonel De Basil
Lubov Tchernicheva
Yurek Shabelevsky
Danilova
Pamela May
Robert Helpmann
Anton Dolin
June Brae
Mary Honer
Harold Turner

Box 2

Album containing 61 original photographic prints, all of dancers.

Physical Description: Oblong album, metal initials G.A. on upper cover.

Scope and Content Note

Dancers included are:

Margot Fonteyn
Robert Helpmann
Fraser
Pamela May
Markova
Brae
Toumanova

Box 2

26 postcards of dancers from photographs by Gordon Anthony.

Physical Description: Oblong album, metal initials G.A. on upper cover.

- Box 3 **Album containing 20 original photographic prints.**
 Physical Description: 9.5 x 7.5.
 Scope and Content Note
 Photographic prints include:
 Terence Rattigan
 John Lehman
 Lord Woolton
 Lord Templewood
 Mrs. Sacheverall Sitwell
- Box 3 **290 original photographic prints, mostly of dancers or players.**
 Physical Description: 5 x 3.5 Oblong album, metal initials G.A. on upper cover.
- Boxes 4-8 **5 albums, indexed.**
 Reproductions of photographs by Gordon Anthony, cut from the illustrated press, depicting ballet and many plays.
 Letters of appreciation from Grahame-Browne, Marie Tempest, L. Greanin of the Ballet Jooss, John Gielgud, Rene Blum, N. Sergueff.
 Ticket and De Luxe Programme, Covent Garden, State Visit of President Lebrun, March 22, 1939 (Box 7).
 Special Programme, Lilian Bayliss Memorial Fund, In the Presence of H.M. The Queen, May 10, 1938.