

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

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MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ESTABLISHES DANCE ARCHIVES

The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, announces the acquisition and exhibition of several collections of material on the dance. With these as a basis the Dance Archives of the Museum has been established. The collections are the gift of Lincoln Kirstein and include Mr. Kirstein's own collection of dance material, material from the collections of Gordon Craig and the late Frederick King, for many years art editor of The Literary Digest. Paul Magriel has been appointed Librarian of the Archives.

A cross section of the collection giving a sampling of the variety of its contents, will be exhibited in a third floor gallery. This exhibition will open to the public on Wednesday, March 6. The Archives will be accessible to students as a part of the Museum's Library.

The material in the Dance Archives includes 1,515 volumes, 1,631 prints, 1,212 photographs, 238 stereopticon views, 6 sculptures, 780 lantern slides, 19 films, 200 programs, music-covers, etc. and miscellaneous items that cannot be readily classified. All the material is well cataloged, with a special subject index which will greatly facilitate the problems of students concerned with any aspect of the dance.

The Dance Archives of the Museum of Modern Art will serve primarily as a bureau of research and information to all persons interested in the art, theory and practice of dancing. Its emphasis will be on the dance in modern times. The material is chiefly concerned with the dance as a visual art and the collection comprises a large amount of both written and illustrative material relating to contemporary theatrical dancing.

The new era of stage design ushered in by Diaghilev and

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the Ballet Russe is well represented with examples of the works of Bakst, Benois, Roerich and others as well as a large collection of original sketches done for the ballets produced by the major American companies. In addition there is available a large collection of photographs, clippings, programs and other material of specific dance interest.

In addition to the dance collection devoted to the 20th century, the Dance Archives includes a library of basic material which will serve as a background for the contemporary dance. This section of basic dance reference contains works on the early court fetes and ballets, the writings of the first Italian dance masters, the first essays in choreography and technique and practice of social dancing, and an iconography of over one thousand prints which illustrates the origins and development of dance styles over a period of four centuries.

Paul Magriel, who has been appointed Librarian of the Dance Archives, has for years been actively engaged in dance research in the principal libraries, museums and private collections in Europe and America. In 1936 the H. W. Wilson Company published Mr. Magriel's Bibliography of the Dance now recognized as the standard reference work in the field. It has yearly cumulative supplements which in 1942 the publisher will incorporate into a second large volume.

Mr. Magriel is also author of Ballet, a short handbook, and is a contributor to the Bulletin of Bibliography and several other publications. He is the American correspondent of the Archives Internationales de la Danse and is a member of the Theatre Library Association, the Bibliographical Society of America and the Association Syndical des Ecrivains et Critiques de Danse.

Mr. Kirstein, the donor of the collection, is Director of the American Ballet Caravan and was one of the founders of the Harvard Society for Contemporary Art; editor of the periodical The Hound and Horn, 1927-1934; and one of the first members of the Museum's Advisory Committee.