

Jean Battey Lewis Collection

Special Collections in Performing Arts
University of Maryland Libraries

Processed by: Rachel Ace and Ava Shadmani

Date Processed: Summer 2017, Winter 2018

Size: 14 linear feet of papers, 1063 photographic items, and 386 recordings

Bulk dates: 1960-2010

Inclusive dates: 1932-2010

Collection No.: 2017-013

SCPA shelf location: N5-3-1 to N5-6-9

Important Information for Users of the Collection:

Restrictions: The collection is open for research use.

Preferred citation: Jean Battey Lewis Collection, Special Collections in Performing Arts, University of Maryland Libraries.

Publication rights: Intellectual property rights for materials within this collection were not transferred to the University of Maryland at the time of donation. As such, all rights remain with the rights holders at the time of the donation. Materials from this collection can be used for educational purposes as permitted under U.S. Copyright Law.

Status: This collection is PROCESSED.

Historical Note:

Jean Battey Lewis (1924–2016) was a prolific arts journalist and leading dance critic in Washington, D.C. Born in New Rochelle, NY, she moved to Washington as a young person to attend the private Sidwell Friends School, where she graduated in 1942. Battey Lewis went on to attend American University, graduating in 1949. She studied with several significant artists, including ballerina Alicia Markova and modern dancer Charles Weidman.

In the 1950s, Battey Lewis accompanied her husband to Japan for his assignment with the U.S. Information Agency. There, she wrote for the *Japan Times* and taught dance at Tokyo's American Cultural Center. Upon returning to Washington, D.C. in 1958, Battey Lewis began writing dance criticism for the *Washington Post*. She hosted "Invitation to the Dance," a program on local radio station WGMS-FM that featured music, commentary, and interviews with major figures in dance. In the late 1970s, she was named editor in chief and associate publisher of the *Washington Guide to the Arts*. She began working for National Public Radio, where she produced stories on subjects ranging from renowned ballerina Martha Graham to whirling dervishes in Turkey. Battey Lewis wrote criticism for the *Washington Times* from 1989 to 2008, reporting on subjects local, national, and international.

Battey Lewis kept all of her published works—written and recorded—along with her corresponding research in this collection. Her research materials include field recordings, interviews, typed and handwritten notes, and secondary source materials such as concert programs, press releases, photographs, and newspaper clippings. The collection contains information on the careers of well-known dancers and choreographers, such as Edward Villella, George Balanchine, and Robert Joffrey, but also on local dance history in Washington, D.C.

Abstract:

The Jean Battey Lewis Collection contains the published works and collected research of Jean Battey Lewis, prolific arts journalist and long-time dance critic in Washington, D.C. Published works include written pieces for journals such as the *Washington Post* and the *Washington Times*, along with radio interviews for National Public Radio and local news stations. Battey Lewis's research includes field recordings, interviews, typed and handwritten notes,

photographs, slides, concert programs, and newspaper clippings. The collection is separated into five series: research files, book files, writings and clippings, recordings, and photographs. The bulk of the materials cover the period 1960-2010.

Scope and Contents of the Collection:

The Jean Battey Lewis Collection is separated into four series, including research files, writings and clippings, various formats of analog and digital recordings, and photographs, all pertaining to her career in dance criticism. Materials cover the period 1932-2010; the bulk of the materials cover the period 1960-2010.

Custodial History and Acquisition Information:

The collection was donated by the Jean Battey Lewis Trust in September 2016.

Processing Information:

The papers were described and re-housed by Ray Ace in summer 2017. The original order of Ms. Battey Lewis's papers were maintained as they were discovered in her home office filing cabinets. Ace also provided preliminary description of the recordings. Ms. Battey Lewis had organized and stored her recordings by format in numerous places in her home office, and the original order was maintained as much as possible. Ava Shadmani contributed further description of the recordings 2017-2018, as well as provided the description of the photographs. The photographs were found in Ms. Battey Lewis's attic, separated from her home office files. Consequently, they were designated a series. All physical materials were foldered when appropriate, and rehoused into archival boxes. All materials are processed and described at the folder or recordings level.

Arrangement of Collection:

This collection is organized into five series.

Series 1: Research Files

Series 2: Book Files

Series 3: Writings/Clippings

Series 4: Recordings

Series 5: Photographs

Series Descriptions:

Series 1: Research Files, 1962–2010 (136 folders)

This series includes files containing Battey Lewis's research on dancers, choreographers, artistic works, dance companies, and festivals. Materials include interview transcriptions, typed and handwritten field notes, and secondary source materials such as concert programs and newspaper clippings. Files are arranged alphabetically by subject.

Series 2: Mark Morris Files, 1947–2009 (5 folders)

This series includes files pertaining to biographical research into Mark Morris, on whom Battey Lewis had planned to write an extended work, which did not come to fruition. The files were separate from Battey Lewis's other Research Files and are arranged in their original order.

Series 3: Writings/Clippings, 1932–1942, 1953–2010 (78 folders)

This series includes newspaper clippings of journalism by Battey Lewis and others, and a bound collection of Battey Lewis's works in the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, *Insight on the News*, *Dance Magazine*, and *National Public Radio*. Newspaper clippings are filed according to subject. Battey Lewis's bound work is arranged chronologically in five volumes. This series also includes personal memorabilia of Battey Lewis's, including written correspondence with friends and family, and childhood memorabilia.

Series 4: Recordings, 386 items

This series contains Battey Lewis's recorded fieldwork on 299 audiocassettes, four open reel tapes, 68 digital mini audio discs, and 15 videocassettes, including interviews with dancers and choreographers, and recordings from rehearsals and performances.

Series 5: Photographs, 942 prints and 121 slides

This series includes 895 identified (and 47 unidentified) promotional photographs and performance stills from ballet companies including as the National Ballet, the New York City Ballet, and the American Ballet Theatre. Also included are professional photographs from rehearsals with artists such as Igor Stravinsky, George Balanchine, and Matteo. The photographs are arranged in their original order. The 121 slides are also arranged in original order. Many of the slides duplicate the photographs in the collection, and all are unlabeled.

Box Inventory:

Series 1: Research Files, 1962–2010

BOX 1

Folder 01: O'Shee Dances, 1996–2002

Folder 02: WGMS, 1972–1973

Folder 03: American Ballet Theatre, 1971–2010

Folder 04: American Ballet Theatre, 1971–2010 (contd.)
Folder 05: American Dance Festival, 1951–2004
Folder 06: Ailey, Alvin, 1980–2009
Folder 07: Balanchine, George, 1993–2008
Folder 08: Ballet West, 1985–1991
Folder 09: Ballet on Trips Abroad, 2006
Folder 10: Ballet Review, 1961–2002
Folder 11: Barnes, Fabian, 1998–2006
Folder 12: Baryshnikov, Mikhail, 1989–2005
Folder 13: Black Dance, 1969–2005
Folder 14: Bolshoi Ballet, 1962–2009
Folder 15: Bournonville, August, 1985, undated
Folder 16: Business Correspondence, 1968–2006
Folder 17: Dance Critics Association, 2006–2008
Folder 18: Dance Critics Association: Newsletter, 1986–1987
Folder 19: Dance Memorabilia, Letters, etc., 1966–2007
Folder 20: Hope Magazine, 2003, undated
Folder 21: NEA: My Reports, 1987–1999
Folder 22: NEA: Reference, 1987–1996
Folder 23: NPR: Business, 1994–2002
Folder 24: NPR: Equipment, 1993
Folder 25: Eiko and Koma, 1990–2008
Folder 26: Boston Ballet, 1984–1994
Folder 27: Books, undated
Folder 28: Broadway Dance, 1995–1998
Folder 29: Brown, Trisha, 1995–2000
Folder 30: Burgess, Dana Tai Soon, 2004–2008
Folder 31: Business of Dance, 2001
Folder 32: California Dance, 1997
Folder 33: China Fest: Kennedy Center, 2005

BOX 2

Folder 01: City Dance Ensemble, 2002–2009
Folder 02: Costas, 2002
Folder 03: Croce, Macaulay, et al, 1975–2009
Folder 04: Critics: DCA Criticism, 1974–1991
Folder 05: Cuba Trip, 2000–2001
Folder 06: Cunningham, Merce, 1982–2009
Folder 07: Dance Critics Association, 1975–2003
Folder 08: DC Metro Dance Award, 2001–2007
Folder 09: Danish Ballet, 1989–2004
Folder 10: Dance Theatre of Harlem, 1968–2001
Folder 11: European Performances, 2000

Folder 12: Farrell Ballet, 1993–2007
Folder 13: Feld, Eliot, 1969–1998
Folder 14: Film and Video, 1979–2002
Folder 15: Glover, Savion, 1995–2005
Folder 16: Gordon, David, 1989–1992
Folder 17: Graham, Martha, 1969–2008
Folder 18: Graham, Martha, 1969–2008 (contd.)
Folder 19: Graham, Martha, 1969–2008 (contd.)
Folder 20: Graham, Martha: quotes for future story, 1991–2001
Folder 21: Graham, Martha: NPR, 1995 – 1998
Folder 22: Graham, Martha / Move, Richard, 1947 – 1998
Folder 23: Graham, Martha / Move, Richard, 1947 – 1998 (contd.)
Folder 24: Houston Ballet, 1985 – 2010
Folder 25: Hubbe, Nikolaj, 1993–2008
Folder 26: Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, 1997–2010
Folder 27: Joffrey Ballet, 1973–2001
Folder 28: Jones, Bill T., 1989–2005
Folder 29: Kaiser, Michael / Kennedy Center, 1996 –2007
Folder 30: Kennedy Center, 2007–2008
Folder 31: Kirov Ballet, 1986 – 2008
Folder 32: Kirov Ballet, 1986 – 2008

BOX 3

Folder 01: Kirov Academy of Ballet, 1990–2007
Folder 02: Kirstein, Lincoln, 1976–2007
Folder 03: Lerman, Liz, 1987–2007
Folder 04: Lerman, Liz, 1987–2007 (contd.)
Folder 05: Limón, José, 1961–2009
Folder 06: Lincoln Center Institute, 1982–1990
Folder 07: Makarova, Natalia, 1970
Folder 08: McIntyre, Trey, 2008
Folder 09: Miami City Ballet, 1989–2009
Folder 10: Mimi, 1960
Folder 11: Miscellaneous: Local, 1976–2006
Folder 12: Miscellaneous: International, 1989–2006
Folder 13: Miscellaneous: National, 1985–2003
Folder 14: Nikolais, Alwin, 1988–1989
Folder 15: New York, undated
Folder 16: NPR, 1993 – 2006
Folder 17: Dance NYC, 2006–2010
Folder 18: New York City Ballet, 1968–2009
Folder 19: New York City Ballet, 1968–2009 (contd.)
Folder 20: New York City Ballet, 1968–2009 (contd.)
Folder 21: NYC: June 1998, 1998
Folder 22: Pacific Northwest Ballet, 1989–1996

Folder 23: Panels: Maryland Arts Council / D.C. Arts Council, 1981–1984
Folder 24: Parsons, David, 1989 – 1998
Folder 25: Pennsylvania Ballet, 1989–2009
Folder 26: Petit, Marseille Roland, 1990
Folder 27: Pilobolus, 1996–2009
Folder 28: Preservation of Dance, undated
Folder 29: Regional Ballet: United States, 2006–2007

BOX 4

Folder 01: Robbins, Jerome, 1989–2001
Folder 02: Royal Ballet / English Dance Companies, 1962–2009
Folder 03: Russian Companies, 1989–1998
Folder 04: San Francisco Ballet, 1981–2008
Folder 05: Shen Wei, 2005–2010
Folder 06: Slides, undated
Folder 07: Step Afrika!, 2006
Folder 08: Synetic Theater, 2002–2009
Folder 09: Essay Ideas, 2007–2010
Folder 10: Tharp, Twyla, 1969–2003
Folder 11: Tudor, Antony, 1963, undated
Folder 12: Video, 1984–1997
Folder 13: Villella, Edward, 1971–1997
Folder 14: Wolf Trap, 1966–1974
Folder 15: Yarkin, Nejla, 2003–2009
Folder 16: Jones, Doris, 1996–2006
Folder 17: National Ballet Archives, 1960–1974
Folder 18: Day, Mary / Early Washington Ballet, 1994–2006
Folder 19: Washington Ballet: New Director, 2000–2008
Folder 20: Washington Ballet: New Director, 2000–2008 (contd.)
Folder 21: Local Dance and Other, 2006–2007
Folder 22: 2011 Dance, 2011
Folder 23: 2010–2011 Dance, 2010–2011
Folder 24: Book Lists, 2010
Folder 25: [Jean Battey Lewis Journalism], September–December 2009
Folder 26: [Jean Battey Lewis Journalism], May–August 2009
Folder 27: [Jean Battey Lewis Journalism], January–April 2009
Folder 28: Dance USA, 2006–2009
Folder 29: Dance DC, 2009
Folder 30: Kennedy Center: Other than dance, 2006–2008
Folder 31: Macaulay Etc., 2009–2010
Folder 32: Wheeldon, 2005–2009
Folder 33: NYC Ballet Current, 2010
Folder 34: Taylor, Paul, 2006–2008
Folder 35: Speech by JBL upon receiving Pola Nirenska Lifetiem Achievement Award, 2004 (?)
Folder 36: Letter from Lincoln Kirstein to JBL, 1973

Folder 37: Fan letter to Jean Battey – dance critic, 1965
Folder 38: Thank You letter to JBL, 1981
Folder 39: Jean’s Clips, 1967–2010
Folder 40: Nureyev, Rudolf, undated
Folder 41: Writing Award, 2008
Folder 42: Photo, 1959

Series 2: Book Files, 1947–2009

BOX 4

Folder 21: Morris, Mark, 1985–2008
Folder 22: Morris, Mark: Quotes, 1999
Folder 23: Morris, Mark: Story Lines, 1998–1999
Folder 24: Morris, Mark: Background, 1989–1999
Folder 25: Jean’s Book of Dance, 1947–2009

Series 3: Writings/Clippings, 1932–1942, 1953–2010

BOX 5

Folder 01: For Dance Book Maybe, 1977–2008
Folder 02: For Dance Book Maybe, 1977–2008 (contd.)
Folder 03: For Dance Book Maybe, 1977–2008 (contd.)
Folder 04: [Interview Transcriptions], 1994–2001
Folder 05: Lyon: Quatrieme Biennale de la Danse, 1990
Folder 06: [Jean Battey Lewis Newspaper Clippings], 2004 –2006
Folder 07: [Jean Battey Lewis Newspaper Clippings], 2005
Folder 08: [Jean Battey Lewis Newspaper Clippings], 2007
Folder 09: Graham, etc., 1999–2000
Folder 10: [Interview Transcriptions], 1991–2001
Folder 11: [Interview Transcriptions], 1991–2001 (contd.)
Folder 12: Morris-Tharp, 1989–2007
Folder 13: Ratmansky-Wheeldon, undated
Folder 14: Asian: Eiko and Koma / Shen Wei, 2005–2006
Folder 15: Washington Ballet, 2003–2007
Folder 16: The Russians and Others, 1983–2005
Folder 17: Entrepreneurs: Hurok / Reinhart / Kaiser, 1994–2010
Folder 18: Farrell, Suzanne, 2001–2007
Folder 19: Ailey S. Glover / Hoofers / Bill T. Jones, 2005–2007
Folder 20: Balanchine and New York City Ballet, 1995 – 2007
Folder 21: NPR, 1994–2009
Folder 22: WEMS Invitation to the Dance, 1973–1976
Folder 32: WGMS Comment on the Arts, 1976–1986
Folder 33: [Drafts], 1995–2008
Folder 34: [Drafts], 1995–2008 (contd.)
Folder 35: Comment on the Arts, 1976–1978

BOX 6

- Folder 01: NPR: Projects, 1996 – 2000
- Folder 02: Interviews, 2005–2008
- Folder 03: Dance Photos, undated
- Folder 04: Autographed photographs
 - Item 01: Ted Shawn by Dwight Godwin, undated
 - Item 02: Paul Haakon by Maurice Seymour, 1939
- Folder 05: Other Writing, 2004–2008
- Folder 06: Capitol Ballet: History, 1970 – 1998
- Folder 07: Taylor, Paul, 1975–2007
- Folder 08: Jean Biography Material, 1981–2009
- Folder 09: [Guide to the Arts], 1978–1980
- Folder 10: NPR Scripts, 1994–1997
- Folder 11: Early Dance / Ballet Russe / Steffi / Jacob's Pillow, 1939–1942
- Folder 12: Speakers Bureau, undated
- Folder 13: Kennedy Center: Education, 1994–1995
- Folder 14: September–December, 2008–2009
- Folder 15: April / May / June / July / August, 2008
- Folder 16: Jean's Clippings: Old, 1962–1993
- Folder 17: Jean's Clippings: Old, 1962–1993 (contd.)
- Folder 18: The World and I, 1994
- Folder 19: Jean Clippings, 1962–2003
- Folder 20: State Department Panel / USIA, 1971–1991
- Folder 21: Dance Courses: Smithsonian, Kennedy Center, etc., 1981–1995
- Folder 22: 1995 and Earlier, 1988–1995
- Folder 23: 1995 and Earlier, 1988–1995 (contd.)

BOX 7

- Folder 01: [Jean Clips], 2004
- Folder 02: [Jean Clips], 2003
- Folder 03: [Jean Clips], 2002
- Folder 04: [Jean Clips], 2001
- Folder 05: [Jean Clips], 2000
- Folder 06: Jean Clips, 1999
- Folder 07: [Jean Clips], 1998
- Folder 08: [Jean Clips], 1997
- Folder 09: [Jean Clips], 1996
- Folder 10: [Sidwell Friends School Quarterly], 1942
- Folder 11: Washington Ballet: Pre-AGMA, 1998–2005
- Folder 12: Guide to the Arts, 1978–1980
- Folder 13: Dead Files, 1999–2005
- Folder 14: Xmas, undated

Folder 15: Memerabilia [sic], 1932 – 1991

BOX 8

Binder 01: Jean Battey Lewis Volume 1: *The Washington Post* 1958–1964

Binder 02: Jean Battey Lewis Volume 2: *The Washington Post* 1964–1969

Item 01: CD-ROM: NPR Interviews, undated

Binder 03: Jean Battey Lewis Volume 3: *The Washington Post* 1970–1973

Binder 04: Jean Battey Lewis Volume 4: *The Washington Post* 1973–1974 and *The Washington Times* 1989–1997

Binder 05: Jean Battey Lewis Volume 5: *The Washington Times* 1997–2004, *The New York Times* 1980–2000, *Insight on the News* 1994–1999, *Dance Magazine* 1996 - 2001, *National Public Radio* 1994–2002, and *Japan Times*, 1953 – 1957

BOX 9

Item 01: Bound scrapbook of Battey Lewis’s newspaper clippings, undated

Item 02: Washington Performing Arts Society Lifetime Achievement Award, 2005

Item 03: Seven press passes belonging to Battey Lewis, undated

Item 04: “Dance Journal” by Susan Valenza for “Intro to the Dance,” Fall 1974

Series 4: Recordings

[Inventories in progress]

Subseries 4.1: Audiocassettes

[ITEM INVENTORY]

Subseries 4.2: Open Reel Tapes

[ITEM INVENTORY]

Subseries 4.3: Mini Audiodiscs

[ITEM INVENTORY]

Subseries 4.3: Videocassettes

[ITEM INVENTORY]

Series 5: Photographs

[ITEM INVENTORY]