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.
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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.

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 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 11: Barnes, Fabian, 1998–2006
Folder 12: Baryshnikov, Mikhail, 1989–2005
Folder 13: Black Dance, 1969–2005
Folder 15: Bournonville, August, 1985, undated
Folder 16: Business Correspondence, 1968–2006
Folder 17: Dance Critics Association, 2006–2008
Folder 19: Dance Memorabilia, Letters, etc., 1966–2007
Folder 20: Hope Magazine, 2003, undated
Folder 24: NPR: Equipment, 1993
Folder 27: Books, undated
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 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 11: European Performances, 2000
Folder 14: Film and Video, 1979–2002
Folder 15: Glover, Savion, 1995–2005
Folder 17: Graham, Martha, 1969–2008
Folder 18: Graham, Martha, 1969–2008 (contd.)
Folder 19: Graham, Martha, 1969–2008 (contd.)
Folder 26: Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival, 1997–2010
Folder 28: Jones, Bill T., 1989–2005
Folder 29: Kaiser, Michael / Kennedy Center, 1996 –2007
Folder 30: Kennedy Center, 2007–2008

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 15: New York, undated
Folder 17: Dance NYC, 2006–2010
Folder 26: Petit, Marseille Roland, 1990
Folder 28: Preservation of Dance, undated

BOX 4
Folder 01: Robbins, Jerome, 1989–2001
Folder 02: Royal Ballet / English Dance Companies, 1962–2009
Folder 03: Russian Companies, 1989–1998
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 11: Tudor, Antony, 1963, undated
Folder 16: Jones, Doris, 1996–2006
Folder 21: Local Dance and Other, 2006–2007
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 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
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 08: Jean Biography Material, 1981–2009
Folder 09: [Guide to the Arts], 1978–1980
Folder 11: Early Dance / Ballet Russe / Steffi / Jacob’s Pillow, 1939–1942
Folder 12: Speakers Bureau, undated
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 21: Dance Courses: Smithsonian, Kennedy Center, etc., 1981–1995

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 13: Dead Files, 1999–2005
Folder 14: Xmas, undated
Folder 15: Memerabilia [sic], 1932 – 1991

**BOX 8**
   Item 01: CD-ROM: NPR Interviews, undated

**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]