

LES BALLETS RUSSES

AU

THÉATRE DU CHATELET



apac

Association of
Performing Arts
Collections

newsletter

No. 9

Winter 2019

Content

Dance, dance, dance! APAC features a large number of members with dance related collections. This issue features contributions from some of those wonderful collections, including Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing Library, National Resource Centre for Dance, the Royal Opera House, and the Royal Ballet School

There is exciting news from the APAC Executive Committee on our Charitable status and affiliation with the ARA; and, there is the opportunity to become part of that wonderful team at the next AGM with four Ex Com positions now available.

As always, many thanks to all of our contributors who have taken the time to share and enthuse us about their fascinating collections.

Editor: Karin Brown

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Contact the APAC Executive Committee if you wish to publish in the APAC Newsletter, Blog, Facebook or Twitter accounts. (see p.10)

APAC NEWS



Dates for the Diary

- 19 March 2019** Vanishing Point: The Curation and Preservation of Virtual Reality
Tuesday, 19 March, 2019, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
LVMH Lecture Theatre, Central Saint Martins, Granary Building, Granary Square, London, N1C 4AA
A day conference at Central Saint Martins discussing virtual and augmented reality.
- 3 April 2019** APAC Meeting, University of Bristol Theatre Collection, Wednesday, 3 April, 2019, 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm. Members meeting exploring HLF funded 'Sharing the Messel Magic' project, making Oliver Messel's personal archive accessible.
- 15 May 2019** APAC's AGM which will take place from 10am-1pm on Wednesday 15 May at the National Theatre. Further details regarding Committee positions available on p.2

News from the Committee

Charitable Status

After several years of working towards charitable status, the Charity Commission awarded APAC charitable status in December 2018. This formal structure will enable APAC to further develop the interests of its membership, apply for project funding with a more rigorous governance structure and have the option to employ staff for projects. This will also protect the Executive Committee officers against any financial losses and provide APAC with ongoing financial clarity and transparency. By becoming a charity, APAC will be able to form a stronger, independent, legal and corporate identity.

The last step in this process is to have the new constitution ratified at the AGM in May. A link to the constitution will be sent out in due course so that members have enough time to read the document before voting at the AGM.

Thank you to all those involved over the years in achieving this milestone for APAC.

Archives and Records Association

APAC is now an affiliate group of the Archives and Records Association (ARA) Section for Specialist Repositories (SSR). Information about APAC and how to join will shortly be added to the SSR website and we will be able to apply for around £250 a year from SSR to put towards APAC's running costs.

Travel Grants

The travel grants page on APAC's website has been relaunched, with clearer information on eligibility and how to apply for travel grants. All members are encouraged to take a look and consider applying: <http://www.performingartscollections.org.uk/members/apac-travel-grants>

APAC Executive Committee: Call for New Members

At this year's AGM (15th May) we are looking to fill four positions on the Executive Committee of APAC. Becoming involved as a member of the APAC Executive Committee is a great opportunity to get to know a wide range of people and collections in our sector, share knowledge and expertise and build up your CV. It also provides continuing professional development if you are working towards one of the ARA qualifications and, more than that, it's a way of impacting on the effectiveness and relevance of performing arts collections in the UK and Ireland.

The positions are listed below and if you are interested please get in touch with me (elee@nationaltheatre.org.uk) to arrange a chat and I can share more details as to what is involved.

- Membership Secretary (x1 position) – This role looks after APAC's membership information and data and communicates directly with APAC members
- Treasurer (x1 position) – This role looks after the financials, liaises with our book keeper and professionally reports to the Executive Committee, funders and members on APAC's financial position
- Member Without Portfolio (x2 positions) – This role plays an integral part in keeping the Executive Committee running by being flexible across all activities.

I very much hope that you'll consider joining the Committee as one of our first batch of Trustees now that we have Charitable Status and look forward to hearing from you .

The screenshot shows the APAC website's blog section. At the top, there's a dark banner with the APAC logo and the text "Association of Performing Arts Collections". Below the banner, the navigation menu includes links for HOME, ABOUT, MEMBERS, RESOURCES, and GALLERY. The main content area features a large image of a theater stage. The first blog post is titled "THEATRE TREASURES: NATIONAL THEATRE ARCHIVE UNBOXED" and was posted on Tuesday, February 19th, 2019. It discusses the 25th anniversary of the National Theatre Archive. The second blog post is titled "Exploring the Value of Programme Collections at the Britten-Pears Foundation" and was posted on Thursday, January 17th, 2019. It explains how programme collections can inform research. To the right of the blog posts, there's a sidebar with a search bar and a "Recent Posts" section listing several other articles.

Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing (ISTD) Library

Diana Barker Library

By Sarah Jardine-Willoughby, Librarian

The Library was started in 1989 and comprises over 5000 items. The subject coverage reflects the different facilities/branches of the ISTD, we cover all dance genres: ballet, contemporary dance, national dance, natural movement, ballroom, Latin to hip hop, as well as historical dance. Other subjects in the library include education to support the ISTD courses, and costume books. We have a run of the *Dancing Times* from 1910 onwards and other journals. Sadly we are missing issues of our journal from 1913-1918. We would love to find the missing issues. Most our books are from the twentieth century but we have a few nineteenth century books, mainly relating to ballroom.



My major project when I started was to stock check the collection and to reclassify the library according to Dewey, from the in-house version which had been used. The catalogue was on an Access database which had minimal data, so it was decided to have an online searchable catalogue a commercial database was chosen "Libib" for the books. Most of the book collection has now been added.

Many of our books were owned by personalities important in the development and history of the ISTD and some are presentation copies. Many of the photographs in our copy of *The Sadler's Wells Ballet: Camera Studies* by Gordon Anthony have been signed.

The library has a collection of programmes including a few of Anna Pavlova and some wartime ones from the 1940's however the majority are more recent, the collection includes musicals and some relating to ballroom dance.

The library also has some archival material relating to the ISTD, including examples of medals

awarded by the ISTD.

Our Archive has some examples of medals awarded by the ISTD from 1940. Other artefacts include memorabilia from personalities important in the history of the ISTD – for example Alex Moore's Imperial Award, and material relating to Phyllis Haylor. We have some material relating to Cyril Beaumont, editor of our journal, Dance from the relaunched issue of December 1924 until Summer 1970, and Chairman of the Society from 1958-1970, including his portrait in the library.



An exciting find was an envelope containing a box labelled **PAYNE, Wyndham**. Circus: A Burlesque Ballet in three scenes by Cyril W. Beaumont. London 1926. 14 paper cutouts in colour on small metal clasps. The costume designs painted by Windham(sic) Payne. ... The box lid has Serge Leslie , and his address and telephone stamped above the description.

Sadly some of the figures have lost the small metal clasp. Future projects include listing and checking the archival material relating to the ISTD in general and the various faculties.

The library is open to all by appointment, we are open usually on Mondays & Thursdays between 10.30 -3.30. It is mainly specialist dance researchers who use the library, however one researcher was looking for inspiration for dress design. One Japanese ballroom dance researcher and dancer was a very faithful visitor as he came every day we were open while he was in London.



University of Surrey

NRCD Collection

by Harriet Costelloe, Archivist

As the National Resource Centre for Dance (NRCD), we collect, preserve and make available materials that represent a wide range of theatrical, educational, and theoretical dance development. Included in our holdings is various material relating to the Russian prima ballerina Anna Pavlova (1881-1931).

Items include photographs, ephemera and rare published works on the ballerina. Surprisingly, one noteworthy related item comes not from our NRCD holdings but another collection, the personal papers of the illustrator E.H. Shepard (1879-1976). In a letter from Shepard to his wife Florence on 14 February 1912 (ref no. EHS/C/9/13/6), Shepard describes having seen Pavlova dance. He writes “she is glorious, you can’t imagine her, it’s quite unlike anything I’ve ever seen”. He then goes on to recount her arrival at the theatre, “she looked so white and tired, but a very sweet face, on the stage she looks quite divine”.

Pavlova’s birthday falls on 12 February and she is currently featured in our Research Room display, *Extraordinary Women*, curated by our Archives Assistant Joanne Ratcliffe and exhibited until the end of March. As well as Shepard’s letter, the display includes a professional photograph of Pavlova in costume for a performance of *The Dying Swan* and a personal portrait of her with her own pet swan, Jack.



Interested in dance, technology and tourism? The EU-funded project, *CultureMoves* (<https://culturemoves.eu>), looks at the intersections between dance, cultural heritage, tourism and education, as well as to the eventual development of an online toolkit which aims to provide dance artists and arts professionals access to dance / cultural content, and to enable new forms of touristic engagement and educational resources. Please help the *CultureMoves* team by completing this very short survey:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf_HQQADAoFZweYnfU90N7hys8sqRHMsHjy-24CwOPvR-AG-A/viewform

The research team which consists of Sarah Whatley, Marie-Louise Crawley and Rosa Cisneros are interested in connecting with others to discuss the project. Please do get in touch to see how we might collaborate. Feel free to contact: Rosa Cisneros at ab4928@coventry.ac.uk.



Packing Margot Fonteyn's tutu for *The Firebird* from 1954 into its storage box. This tutu is going to be displayed at the ROH later in the year.
©Royal Opera House.

Royal Opera House The Royal Ballet Collections

by Julia Creed, Archivist

The Royal Ballet is one of the world's greatest ballet companies. Its story and that of dance and the dancers who have performed at the Royal Opera House is captured in the ROH Collections.

The ROH Collections preserves archives and objects that record the activities of the Royal Opera House and the two preceding theatres since 1732. For those interested in dance we can offer a rich variety of material relating its history at Covent Garden.

The collections tracing The Royal Ballet and the companies that became the Birmingham Royal Ballet since their early days are particularly strong. Board minutes, financial documents, and contract files record the administration of the companies. While posters, programmes, press cuttings, photographs and audio visual recordings capture not only performances in the UK and tour, but how they were marketed and critically received. The design of ballet can be seen in our collections of set and costume designs, 3D set models, wardrobe bibles and original costumes. Technical plans, choreographic and stage management scores tell us how ballets were staged. The archives also cover performances by the internationally renowned ballet companies who have performed at the Royal Opera House over the years.

Supplementing these are special collections including The Royal Ballet Benevolent Fund Collection relating to the early history of the Vic Wells Ballet; collections of theatre photographers; and the personal papers of key ballet figures including Ninette de Valois, Frederick Ashton and Margot Fonteyn.

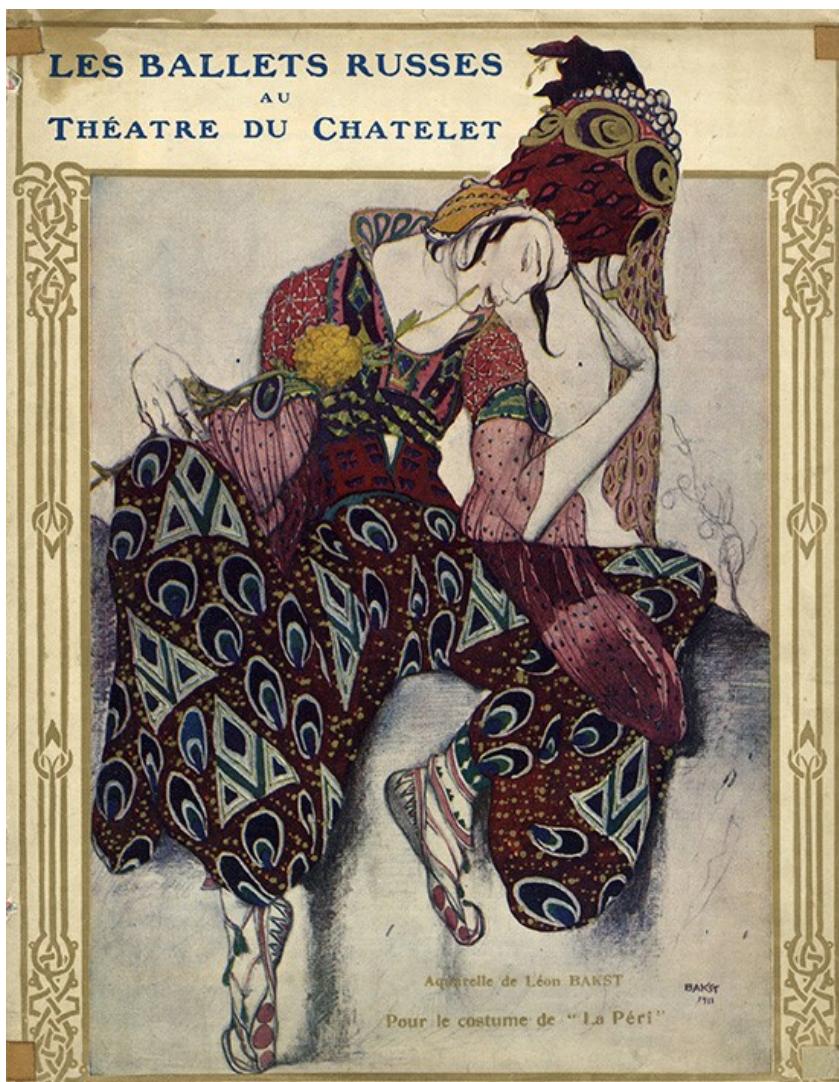
Those engaged in personal or academic research can contact the ROH Collections or look at our online resources for information or to view the archives. For more information visit <http://www.roh.org.uk/about/roh-collections>

Costumes, photographs and designs from past and present productions of Swan Lake are on display in the theatre and at the Costume Centre in Thurrock visitors can see an exhibition about the ballet Seven Deadly Sins. To coincide with the centenary of the birth of the famous Royal Ballet dancer, Margot Fonteyn, the Royal Opera House will be hosting a programme of displays and events in 2019.

In September 2018 Collections launched a new work experience programme, offering those thinking about a career in archives or the theatre the chance to find out what we do. Opportunities will be advertised regularly on the Royal Opera House website www.roh.org.uk

<http://www.performingartsCollections.org.uk/>

Cover of a programme for the Diaghilev Ballets Russes, featuring design by Bakst,
©The Royal Ballet School Special Collections 1911



From the time of its foundation in 1926, The Royal Ballet School has acquired, and continues to accrue, an important collection of documents, artwork and artefacts relating to British ballet history. Known as The Royal Ballet School Special Collections, these include many items of international significance, including the papers of the Camargo Society, Ninette de Valois, Nicolai Legat and Vera Volkova.

With the establishment in 2009 of a dedicated ballet museum at White Lodge, public access to the Special Collections evolved. Between 2010 and 2014, funding for the museum enabled the cataloguing of 70% of the material to either fonds or series level, with some key collections catalogued to item level. Following cuts to government funding, the museum closed in 2015 – although the Collections remain available for research, by appointment.

The Royal Ballet School

by Anna Meedmore, Manager of Special Collections

The School then opted to curate its Special Collections online, in the form of a freely accessible Ballet History Timeline. Extensively illustrated by hundreds of items from the Collections, this new resource places archival material within its historical context, supported by detailed captions and an authoritative narrative text by Anna Meadmore. <https://www.royalballetschool.org.uk/discover/history/ballet-history-timeline/>

Make-up case belonging to Margot Fonteyn, c.1960

© The Royal Ballet School Special Collections



The Royal Ballet School is now trying to raise the necessary funds to continue the cataloguing and digitisation of its Special Collections; it plans to optimise their 'discoverability' through ongoing development of the Ballet History Timeline, and by adding to its Archives Hub descriptions. The School is actively seeking partnerships with other organisations, with a view to improving the location and storage of its Special Collections, and ensuring their long-term safety and accessibility.



Photograph of an early work choreographed by Ninette de Valois, *The Faun* (1928). Ph. Unknown

© The Royal Ballet School Special Collections

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The Society for
Theatre Research

Need help funding your research?

Applications are now invited for the **Society for Theatre Research Awards 2019**

The Society for Theatre Research Fund awards sums ranging from £200 to £1,000, as contributions to the cost of research which is substantially concerned with the history and practice of the British theatre.

Is there an element within your research topics that deals with an aspect of the British theatre which would make it eligible? Topics we can consider include buildings, people, historical or contemporary concerns, theories and practices, and all kinds of performance arts.

We invite all engaged in theatre research to apply – for example you may be an early career academic needing help with a particular piece of research, or an independent scholar digging up traces of local theatre or performers, or a theatre practitioner engaged in practical research on an aspect of performance practice.

The closing date for submitting applications is **March 22nd 2019**.

All references must be received by April 5th 2019.

Applicants will be notified of the results towards the end of April and Award recipients will be publicly announced at the Society's AGM on May 9th.

Apply on our website: <https://www.str.org.uk/grants-prizes/research-awards/>

Keeping in touch...

apac

Digital Preservation Working Group

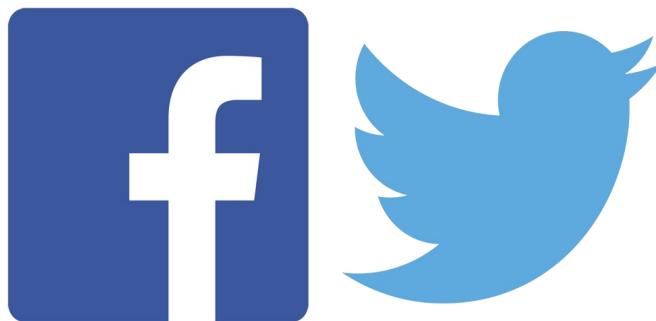
If you would like to join the Digital Preservation Working Group, please contact ele@nationaltheatre.org.uk to be added to their mailing list.

Website: for news on all the latest APAC events, members, developments, blog, twitter feed and other resources keep a regular check on the APAC website: www.performingartscollections.org.uk/blog/

Blog: our members regularly send in posts for the APAC blog. These are fascinating reads and brief insights into some of the wonderful collections and activities going on far and wide: www.performingartscollections.org.uk/blog/

Twitter: APAC's Twitter feed now has nearly 700 followers. It's a great way of letting the world know what your up to and for keeping up-to-date with APAC activities. @apac_ssn

Facebook: for more detail on APAC events and members activities check out our Facebook page and like us!



Mailing List: if you want to ask members anything, share information, or ask for advice don't forget the APAC mailing list which only contacts our current membership. Make sure you've signed up to it in order to get minutes and notices from APAC. www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=APAC



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