Bettina Byers Collection
(1922-1963; 1975-1984)

Inventory

Scrapbook, programs, press clippings, photographs and original stage designs relating to the career of Bettina Byers (1909-1984), Toronto dance teacher and founder of the Academy of Ballet. Also included are programs, clippings and photographs reflecting her musical interests and earlier performances as a pianist, and the singing career of her sister, Rhoda Byers.

2 boxes: 19 envelopes plus scrapbook; .13 metres

Box #1

Env. #1: Programs, The Children Players – 2 items
Hart House Theatre. Feb. 13, 1933
Margaret Eaton Hall. Oct. 31, 1936

Env. #2: Programs, Academy of Ballet, Toronto (including the Ballet Club) – 23 items
Hart House Theatre. Mar. 22, 1941
Northern Vocational School. Nov. 7, 1941
Hart House Theatre. Apr. 18, 1942
Eaton Auditorium. May 12, 1943
Northern Vocational School. May 21, 1943 (or 1948) (3)
Northern Vocational School. June 8, 1943 (2)
Toronto Conservatory of Music. Apr. 13, 1944
Massey Hall. Apr. 27, 1944.
Harbord Collegiate. May 23, 1944
Massey Hall. Apr. 27, 1944
Hart House Theatre. May 2 and 3, 1947
Massey Hall. Oct. 23, 1947 (Faust)
Canadian Ballet Festival. Mar. 1-5, 1949 (flyer)
Eaton Auditorium. Feb. 6, 1951
Eaton Auditorium. Apr. 17, 1953
North Toronto Collegiate. Apr. 28, 1961
Env. #3: Programs, etc. Queen’s University School of Fine Arts – 11 items

Aug. 14, 1945
Aug. 13, 1946
Aug. 14, 1946
Aug. 13, 1947
Aug. 4, 1949
1950?
1953
1955 (2)
Prospectus (1948) and undated photograph.

Env. #4: Programs, Kingston Ont., misc. – 2 items

Kingston Music Club, Convocation Hall, Queen’s U. Apr. 8, 1947.

Env. #5: Programs, Galt, Ont. – 4 items

Academy of Ballet at Tassie Hall, Galt. May 9, 1947. (2)
The Ballet Club of Toronto. Tassie Hall, Galt. May 18, 1951.

Env. #6: Miscellaneous items – 7 items

Toronto Conservatory of Music, Piano Recital (and dance by BB), May 15, 1934 (program)
Chanticleer Theatre, London. L’Enfant Prodigue. Wk. of Nov. 14, 1938 (program)
Metropolitan Opera House, New York. Week of Dec. 11, 1929 (program)
Arts Theatre Club, London. Jan. 1940 (brochure; 2)
Royal Academy of Dancing Silver Jubilee, 1920-1945 (brochure; 2)
Royal Academy of Fine Arts summer school in ballet, 1963 (booklet)

Env. #7: Press Clippings, Toronto (1935 – Nov. 1975) – 12 items.

Env. #8: Press Clippings, Kingston and Galt – 15 items

Kingston, July 11, 1945 – July 30, 1954 (14)
Galt, May 9- Nov. 1, 1947 (1)
Env. #9: Correspondence, etc. – 14 items

1922, July 5. Menu card from RMS Empress of France, autographed by Frank Harris, et al.
1939. Adjudication by Dame Ninette de Valois of performance at Phyllis Bedells’ School of Dancing.
1944, Nov. 13. Letter of thanks from Molly Whitley to BB for her performance for the Dixon Hall Dance Committee.
1941, May 29. Letter of thanks from BB from Nina Gale, Convener, Toronto Heliconian Club, for her performance in concerts for the troops at Camp Borden.
1962, Dec. 13. Receipt from George Zoritch for professional fees paid by the Academy of Ballet.
1979, Dec. Photo postcard from Anton Dolin to BB with Christmas greetings.

See also: env. #19

Env. #10 - #13: Items relating to the musical career of Rhoda Byers, Clifford McCormick (a pianist who frequently performed in joint concerts with Rhoda and Bettina Byers) and Bettina Byers, before she began her career in dance.

Env. #10: Programs, Rhoda Byers and Clifford McCormick – 12 items

1931, Apr. 9. Toronto, Heliconian Club. Clifford McCormick, piano; Rhoda Byers, mezzo-soprano; Elizabeth (Bettina) Byers, accompanist.
1931, Apr. 17. Hart House Theatre. Rhoda Byers, mezzo-soprano; Clifford McCormick, pianist; Elizabeth Byers, accompanist. (including flyer)
1931, May 1. Chatham, Ont. St. Andrew’s Church. Rhoda Byers, mezzo-soprano; Whitney Scherer, pianist; Elizabeth (Bettina) Byers, accompanist.
1931 (?), Oct. 27. Belleville Collegiate Auditorium. (Clifford) Empson McCormick, pianist; Rhoda Byers, mezzo soprano; Elizabeth Byers accompanist.

Env. #11: Press Clippings, etc., 1926-1931 – 7 items

Transcriptions of letters from Michael Raucheisen and Paul Evers re: performances of Rhoda Byers.
Note of congratulations to Mr. Byers re: Rhoda and Bettina Byers concert in Chatham, 1931.
Card from St. Andrew’s Choir, 1931.
3 pages press clippings re: performances of Rhoda and Bettina Byers, and Clifford McCormick.

Env. #12: Photographs, Musicians and Composers – 12 items

B. Hayunga Carman (2 photos, 1 autographed to BB, and obit.)
Theodor Leschetizky
Berta Morena (with note to Rhoda Byers)
Ethel Newcomb (2 photos, and photo of her studio)
Ignace Paderewski
Michael Raucheisen (autographed to BB)
Anton Rubinstein
Theodore Spiering
Richard Strauss

Env. #13: Miscellaneous Programs, Music (many annotated by BB) – 11 items

1931, Feb. 3. Conservatory Concert Hall. Piano recital, Norman Wilks.
1931, Apr. 29. Massey Hall. Paderewski.
1933, Jan. 22. London Palladium. Chopin Recital by Poushnoff, with notes by Clifford McCormick.

Env. #14: Scrapbook – 1 item

Items relating to the dance performance career of Bettina Byers, including programs, press clippings and letters of congratulations, as follows:

1935. Massey Hall. Children’s TSO Concert, with dance study by Alison Sutcliffe (clippings).
[n.d.] Clipping re: Bettina Byers and Margaret Waterhouse leaving to study in London.
[n.d.] Invitation, program, receipt for donation to Royal Academy of Dancing building fund, and thank you note from Adeline Genee for the donation. Also acceptance from Mme. Genee to invitation to attend, various letters of congratulations from well-wishers, and press clippings.
1939, July 18. Royal Academy of Dancing Production Club (program, reviews and letter of congratulations).
1939, Mar. 23. Royal Academy of Dancing Production Club.
1940, Jan. 5. Gananoque, Ont. Recital in aid of Red Cross (program).
1940, Mar. Lecture by Herman Voaden, illus. by Bettina Byers (clipping).


Env. #15: Royal Academy of Dancing – 9 items


1975, Mar. 12. Letter from Philip E. Starr, General Secretary, R.A.D., notifying BB of her election as a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Dancing.

c. 1975. Letter from Dame Margot Fonteyn, President, R.A.D., thanking BB for her work for the Academy and congratulating her on her Fellowship.


Issue of *Dance Gazette*, 1975 no. 2, containing article on new Fellows of R.A.D., including Bettina Byers (2 press releases).

1975, Nov. 7. Typed text of article in Toronto *Globe & Mail*, on BB’s election as first Canadian Fellow of the Royal Academy of Dancing.


See also: Env. #19

Env. #16: Kilby Dickinson (cousin and student of BB) – 7 items

Photographs (4).

Program: Opera Royal de Wallonie. 1981-82 season.


See also: Env. #19

Env. #17: Beryl Grey – 5 items


See also: Env. #19
Env. #18: Music – 2 items


Env. #19: Addenda – 12 items

*Correspondence.* (See also Env. #9)

1947, Sept. 22. TLS from Valerie Bockler (former student of BB). Airletter from Hong Kong describing surroundings and the voyage out. Speaks of her dance teacher George Goncharoff.
1949, Dec. Denmark. ALS from Adeline Genee. Postcard regretting she was unable to attend Academy of Ballet open house.
1966, June 7. Surrey. ALS from Adeline Genee welcoming BB to England; regrets her own ill health limits travel to see her.
1984, April 24. Paris. TL from Camille Chappell thanking BB for her donation and promising a program of the gala.

*Royal Academy of Dancing* (See also Env. #15)

1940(?), June 11. Clipping (ad) re: lecture demonstration by Phyllis Bedells and Mira McBirney at Northern Vocational School Auditorium, Toronto.

*Other*

Kilby Dickinson. 7 photographs and 1 note. (See also Env. #16)
Beryl Grey. 1956 Christmas card with photograph. (See also Env. #17)
Sheila McGowan Damian. 2 photos.

*Photographs* (transferred to Theatre Personalities, Non-Canadian photos)

Irina Baronova (4: 2 autographed to BB; 1 w/ Leon Danielian, auto. to BB)
Alexandra Danilova (autographed to BB)
James Jamieson (autographed to BB)
David Lichine
Tatiana Riabouchinska (autographed to BB)
Brian Shaw and Pamela May in *Symphonic Variations*.
Alison Sutcliffe (autographed to Rhoda Byers) (filed in Theatre Personalities, Canadian)
Tamara Toumanova (3: 1 autographed to Rhoda Byers, 2 to BB)
George Zoritch (autographed to BB)

**Box #2 Original Stage Designs** (Oss)

Costume Designs by Inez Williams for productions of the Academy of Ballet:

*The Seasons*. 1 costume design.
*Pocahontas*. 7 costume designs and 1 jewellery design.
*Mozartiana*. 2 costume designs.


Inventory: J. Tatarnic 21/11/79
Rev. a.g. 19/7/81, 14/1/82, 4/7/85, 13/8/85 28/10/86, 9/9/87