

Collection Number:

005.117 / 019.001

Provenance:

Items were donated by Joanna Harris in two separate accessions in 2005 and in 2019.

Restrictions:

Materials created by or pertaining to Welland Lathrop are open for research.

Correspondence and notes to/from Crystal Mann are partially restricted due to sensitive information about persons still living. Access will be determined on a case by case basis.

Publication Rights:

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Extent:

Number of containers: 2 Records Cartons, 1 Document case
Linear Feet: 2.42

Language of Materials:

English

Related Collections:

Anna Halprin Papers at the Museum of Performance + Design:

<http://pdf.oac.cdlib.org/pdf/csfpal/c86q24bh.pdf>

Welland Lathrop Papers at New York Public Library:

http://archives.nypl.org/uploads/collection/pdf_finding_aid/dan18472.pdf

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BIOGRAPHY

Welland Lathrop (1905-1981) was a dancer, teacher, painter, and choreographer and a leader of the west coast modern and avant-garde dance movement. Born in upstate New York, he initially trained in costume and scenic design at the Eastman Theater in Rochester, New York. In 1928 he moved to San Francisco to continue his design education under Rudolph Schaeffer. While in San Francisco, he began studying dance with Ann Mundstock of the Laban School. Later training included the Cornish School in Seattle, Washington (1930-1934) and the Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theater (1938-1941) where he was an assistant in dance composition to Louis Horst. During this time Lathrop performed in several Broadway shows as well as with the Martha Graham Dance Company.

In 1946 he established the Welland Lathrop School and Dance Company, where he was joined shortly by dancer Anna Halprin. The two collaborated as the Halprin-Lathrop Studio Theater from 1948 to 1955. They presented both solo and duo pieces as well as group works they choreographed for their studio company. After their professional separation in 1956, Lathrop continued his school and dance company under his own name for another 10 years. During this time he taught dance at San Francisco State College and Dominican College.

Lathrop referred to his work as "contemporary theatre-dance." His aim was to fully integrate movement, sound, and visual design within his pieces. He believed that any artist must consider all the components of a performance, and took pride in being able to design the visual display of many of his compositions.

Lathrop choreographed dozens of modern dance works, including "*Do Not Go Gentle Into That Goodnight*", "*Comment on Space and Freedom*", "*Partita*", and "*Pieces of Nothing*".

In 1960, he married Nina Cummings, a prominent psychotherapist in the Bay Area. In the late 1960s, Lathrop retired and closed his school, but continued to advise and choreograph for other San Francisco area groups, including the Shela Xoregos Performing Company. In 1977 he choreographed his last work with this group, *Endangered Species*. In that year he also traveled to Jerusalem to give master classes at the Rubin Academy.

Welland Lathrop died in San Francisco in 1981.

[Biography is from the Welland Lathrop Papers at New York Public Library]

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Welland Lathrop Papers contains biographical information about Lathrop's career and education, including programs, writings, correspondence, and related documents. The papers also include photographs of Lathrop in performance as well as photographs of colleagues and collaborators, such as Ann Mundstock and Anna Halprin. The papers also include several workbooks and publications regarding Labanotation, including Lathrop's Elementary and Intermediate certificates from the Dance Notation Bureau.

Also featured are several video recordings of Lathrop's seminal works, such as *Allemande*, *Triptych*, *Partita*, *Don Quixote*, and "*Endangered Species*" (his final work), among others. Also included is a manuscript copy written by Ann Hutchinson Guest, movement and dance researcher and a preeminent authority on dance notation, titled *Your Move* about Labanotation, with Lathrop's notes and feedback.

The collection also includes extensive notes and correspondence with between the late Crystal Mann, a teacher and former member of Lathrop's dance company, and Lathrop's son, Conrad Cummings, on the preservation of Lathrop's archive. This includes detailed inventories, correspondence on filling in gaps in Lathrop's history, and information regarding the digitized objects included in this collection and some of what was donated to the New York Public Library.

The Welland Lathrop Papers are organized as follows: Series I: Personal and Professional Work; Series II: Writings and Instructional Work ; Series III: Correspondence ; Series IV: Programs and Press Materials ; Series V: Photographic Materials ; Series VI: Collected Publications ; Series VII: Audiovisual materials ; Series VIII: Lathrop Archives Related Documents.

SUBJECT TERMS

Cummings, Conrad
Labanotation
Lathrop, Welland
Mann, Crystal
Modern dance.
Modern dance--20th century.
Modern dance--Study and teaching--United States.
Modern dance--United States.

SERIES

- Series I: Personal and Professional Work
Includes biographies, interviews, and other professional work by Lathrop, his work regarding Labanotation, such as certificates, and personal photographs.
- Series II: Writings and Instructional Work
Includes essays written by Lathrop and guides to courses and workshops taught.
- Series III: Correspondence
Includes correspondence written to and by Lathrop, including correspondence written to his wife, Nina Cummings, after his death. Also includes correspondence with dance researcher Ann Hutchinson with an annotated copy of her manuscript, *Your Move*.
- Series IV: Programs and Press Materials
Includes press clippings, promotional materials, and programs.
- Series V: Photographic Materials
Includes portraits, publicity photographs, and backstage/rehearsal photographs.
- Series VI: Collected Publications
Includes books and periodicals, most pertaining to modern dance and Labanotation. Also includes a copy of *Journey of The Angel, The Carpenter, and His Wife* by Steven Quesnel, with the cover designed by Lathrop.
- Series VII: Audiovisual materials
Includes DVCAM masters transferred from original films of several recordings and rehearsals of Lathrop works as well as DVD reference copies.
- Series VIII: Lathrop Archives Related Documents
Includes correspondence and research by Crystal Mann, former Welland Lathrop company dancer. This includes her research notes, correspondence with Conrad Cummings, Lathrop's son, and correspondence regarding the digitization of the films of Lathrop's works.

WELLAND LATHROP PAPERS INVENTORY

SERIES I. PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL WORK

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	1	Biographical information and interviews (includes biographies written by Crystal Mann and others)	circa 1940s-2005, undated
	2	Personal Photographs	circa 1970s, undated
	3	Notes regarding Labanotation	circa 1950s
	4	Dance Notation Bureau Inc. Certificates in Labanotation (Elementary and Intermediate)	1956 May
	5	San Francisco Bay Area Dance Coalition Board Of Director Meeting notes	1974 September 14

SERIES II: WRITINGS AND INSTRUCTIONAL WORK

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
2	1	Writings by Welland Lathrop (includes drafts and notes)	circa 1940s, undated
1	6	Lectures, Workshops, and educational courses	1950, 1952, 1963, 1977

SERIES III: CORRESPONDENCE

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	7	Correspondence to/from Lathrop and to Nina Lathrop (his wife) after his death	1943-1951, 1965-1966, 1981, 1987
2	3-5	Correspondence from Lathrop to Ann Hutchison (Includes annotated <i>Your Move</i> manuscript)	1980, undated

SERIES IV: PROGRAMS AND PRESS MATERIALS

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
2	2	Programs	1936-1966, undated
1	8	Press, promotional materials, and related	1974-1955, 1965-1968, 1981

Series V: PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIALS

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	9	Lathrop in solo performance and portraits	circa 1940s-1970s, undated
	10	<i>Cantos on Chinese Flute</i>	undated
	11	<i>Hamlet</i>	undated
	12	<i>Partita</i>	undated
	13	<i>This is His Birthday</i>	undated
	14	Various performances <i>White Writing, Jacob, Jitterbug, Don Quixote</i> and <i>Enchantment of Alonso Quixano</i>	circa 1950s, undated
	15-16	Unidentified performances	undated
	17	Ann Mundstock Photographs	undated

Series VI: COLLECTED PUBLICATIONS

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	18	<i>Dance Notation Record</i>	1956-1960
	32	<i>Dance Perspectives: Dances of Anatolian Turkey</i> by Metin And	1959
	32	<i>Dance Scope</i> Volume I Issue 1	1965
	19	<i>Dance Techniques and Studies</i> Book 1	1950
	20	<i>Doris Humphrey: The Collected Works</i>	1978

Welland Lathrop Papers, circa 1930s-2005
Museum of Performance + Design

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	21	<i>Elementary Reading Studies</i> from the Dance Notation Bureau, Inc.	1970
	32	<i>The Function of Dance in Human History</i> , Seminar by Franziska Boas	1944
	22-26	<i>Impulse</i> (serial publication)	1949, 1951, 1955, 1957-1961, 1963-1964, 1967-1970
	27	<i>Journey of The Angel, The Carpenter, and His Wife</i> by Steven Quesnel (Lathrop designed cover)	1949
	28	<i>My First Dance Book</i> by Nadia Chilkovksy	1954
	32	<i>Peters Wright Creative Dance Season Opening</i>	1962
	32	<i>A Primer for Movement Description</i> by Cecily Dell	1970
	29	<i>Readings in Modern Dance</i> , Volume I	1974
	30	<i>Study Guide/Elementary Labanotation</i>	1970
	31	<i>Three R's For Dancing</i> by Nadia Chilkovsky	1956

SERIES IV: AUDIOVISUAL

<u>Container</u>	<u>Item Number</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
3		Open Reel Tapes	
	019.001.001	<i>Balance In Action</i>	circa 1950s
	019.001.002	<i>Cable Car</i>	circa 1950s
		VHS Tapes	
	019.001.003	<i>Allemande</i>	undated
	019.001.004	<i>Partita</i>	undated
	019.001.005	<i>Triptych</i>	undated
		DVDs	
	019.001.006	Welland Lathrop Archives Disc 1: <i>Allemande, Partita, Triptych</i>	undated
	019.001.007	Welland Lathrop Archives Disc 2: <i>Don Quixote, Science In Action</i> (2 copies)	undated

Welland Lathrop Papers, circa 1930s-2005
Museum of Performance + Design

<u>Container</u>	<u>Item Number</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
3	019.001.008	Welland Lathrop Archives Disc 3: <i>Creative Dance/Preclassical Dances</i> (2 copies)	circa 1960
	019.001.009	Welland Lathrop Archives Disc 4: <i>Don Quixote</i> [incomplete] (2 copies)	circa 1950s
	019.001.010	Welland Lathrop Archives Disc 5: News clip "Welland Lathrop Memorial Walk" (2 copies)	1982
	019.001.011	Welland Lathrop Archives Disc 6: <i>Partita</i> (with dancer Jeanie Gilmore) (2 copies)	1975 May
	019.001.012	Welland Lathrop Archives Disc 7: <i>Endangered Species</i> (performance and dress rehearsal) (2 copies)	1977
	019.001.013	Welland Lathrop Archives Disc 8: <i>Endangered Species</i> (performance and dress rehearsal) (2 copies)	1977 August
	019.001.014	Welland Lathrop Archives: <i>Triptych</i>	1958
	019.001.015	<i>Welland Does Khachaturian</i>	undated
		DVCAM Tapes	
	019.001.016	<i>Partita</i> (refer to DVD Disc 1)	undated
	019.001.017	<i>Triptych</i> (refer to DVD Disc 1)	undated
	019.001.018	<i>Allemande</i> (refer to DVD Disc 1)	undated
	019.001.019	<i>Don Quixote: Dulcinea</i> (refer to DVD Disc 2)	undated
	019.001.020	<i>Don Quixote: Kodachrome II</i> (refer to DVD Disc 2)	undated
	019.001.022	<i>Don Quixote/ duennas</i> (refer to DVD Disc 2)	undated
	019.001.021	<i>Science in Action</i> (refer to DVD Disc 2)	undated
	019.001.023	<i>Creative Dance/SF State + Prehistoric Dances</i> (refer to DVD Disc 3)	circa 1960
	019.001.024	<i>Don Quixote: Masks and Flags-I;</i> <i>Don Quixote: Masks and Flags-II;</i> <i>Don Quixote: Dulcinea/duennas</i> (refer to DVD Disc 4)	circa 1950s
	019.001.025	Welland Lathrop Memorial Park (refer to DVD Disc 5)	1982
	019.001.026	<i>Partita</i> (refer to DVD Disc 6) [DVD 6 label says 1975]	1977 May
	019.001.027	<i>Endangered Species</i> dress rehearsal (refer to DVD Disc 7)	1977
	019.001.028	<i>Endangered Species</i> (refer to DVD Disc 7)	1977
	019.001.029	<i>Endangered Species</i> dress rehearsal (refer to DVD Disc 8)	1977 August 4
	019.001.030	<i>Endangered Species</i> (refer to DVD Disc 8)	1977 August 10 or 11
	019.001.031	Duplicate [Solano?]	undated
	019.001.032	Duplicate [Solano performance]	undated

Series VIII: LATHROP ARCHIVES RELATED DOCUMENTS

<u>Container</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
1	33	Welland Lathrop Archives Inventories by Crystal Mann	2002-2005
	34	Charlotte Throwbridge collection in Lathrop Archives (Includes design duplications and inventories)	2002-2005
	35-36	Correspondence to/from Crystal Mann and Conrad Cummings and others	2002-2005
	37-38	Correspondence and notes regarding the Digitization of films in the Welland Lathrop Archive	2002-2005

<u>Container</u>	<u>Item Number</u>	<u>Contents</u>	<u>Dates</u>
3	019.001.034	Dance Scans [CD-ROM Disc] (2 copies)	circa 2005
	019.001.035	Welland Lathrop Inventories and Notes [CD-ROM Disc] (2 copies)	2005
	019.001.036	Welland Lathrop/Ann Mundstock Photos [CD-ROM Disc] (2 copies)	undated
	019.001.037	Welland Lathrop/Charlotte Trowbridge [CD-ROM Disc] (2 copies)	undated
	019.001.033	Welland Lathrop/Charlotte Trowbridge Scans [ZIP disk]	undated