

{ UCLA LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT NEWS }

Library Acquires Isadora Duncan Collection

The UCLA Library has acquired the largest private collection ever assembled of rare materials by and about modern dance pioneer Isadora Duncan (1877/78–1927), one of the most important artistic figures of the twentieth century as well as a native Californian.

“Isadora Duncan is the ‘mother of us all,’ the seminal dancer of the twentieth century, exhorting us to love our bodies and be true to expression in movement. She carried the ideals of romanticism to their furthest reaches, exploring the self and translating this experience into a joyful message of natural beauty laced with tragic loss,” said Emma Lewis Thomas, UCLA professor emerita of dance history. “Would that all could follow her call ‘I am going to dance the philosophy of my life’.”

Assembled by Los Angeles attorney Howard Holtzman over thirty years, the collection of some fifteen hundred items includes manuscripts, correspondence, photographs, artwork, contracts and box office statements, and ephemera.

Upon announcing the acquisition, University Librarian Gary E. Strong saluted the donor who made it possible: “A mere eighteen days before her death earlier this year, longtime donor Joan Palevsky made an extraordinary gift of the funds to acquire the Isadora Duncan Collection. We are deeply saddened by her passing, but we hope this collection will form a lasting tribute to her exemplary generosity.”

Among its highlights are numerous manuscripts in Duncan’s hand, many unpublished, about dance, life, her artistic philosophy, teaching, and her husband, Sergei Esenin; numerous writings including a diary by Edward Gordon Craig about his collaborations and relationship with Duncan; letters by Duncan’s adopted daughter Irma about her mother; original contracts for appearances in Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Germany; and box office statements.

The collection contains hundreds of sculptures, sketches, watercolors, and other artworks by artists including Antoine Bourdelle, Gordon Craig, Jules Grandjouan, Robert Henri, Dame Laura Knight, and André Dunoyer de Segonzac. It also includes such unique items as Duncan’s personal guestbook, featuring the signatures of Gabriele d’Annunzio, Auguste Rodin, and Preston Sturges, and silk scarves designed and printed by her brother Raymond.

continued on page 2



PRESERVING KNOWLEDGE . . .

PROVIDING ACCESS TO THE

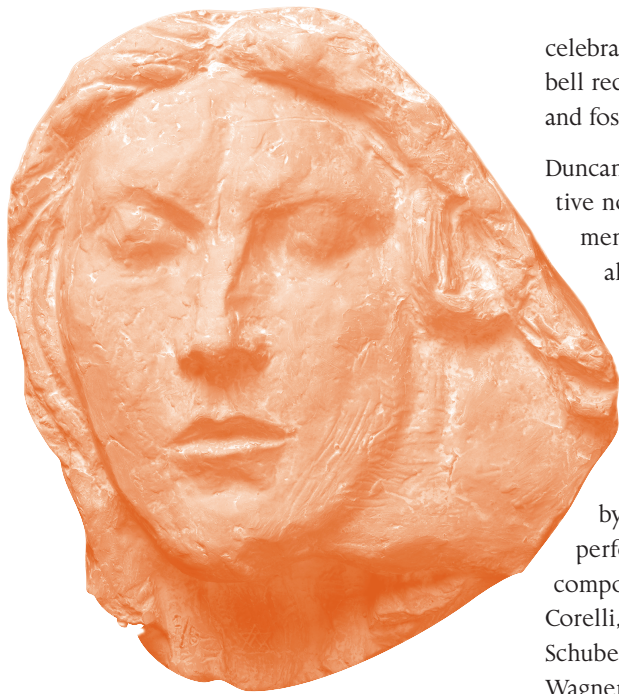
UNIVERSE OF IDEAS



*“Otto,” photographer
1913
Framed black-and-white photograph*

INSIDE

Champagne Reception 3
 Letter from Gary E. Strong 4
 Donor Profile 5
 Modernist Architecture 6



Antoine Bourdelle. *Untitled terracotta bas relief mask of Duncan. Undated.*

The collection is housed in the Charles E. Young Research Library Department of Special Collections. "The Isadora Duncan Collection enhances the department's dance holdings, making it an essential site for research on the study of the new, or 'aesthetic,' dance movement that flourished at the turn of the twentieth century," said Victoria Steele, head of the department. Related collections include those of early modern dance pioneers Maud Allan and Ruth St. Denis; Duncan's creative collaborator, sometime manager, friend, and lover Edward Gordon Craig and his mother, actress Ellen Terry; and Mary Desti, a close friend of Duncan's, as well as her son, film director Preston Sturges, who spent much of his childhood in Europe with his mother as she accompanied Duncan on tours.

Born in 1877 or 1878 in San Francisco, Duncan took a few dance lessons while she was young but rejected the formality of classical ballet for more natural rhythms and movements. She made her professional debut in Chicago in the mid-1890s, then moved with her family to New York where they nearly starved. She achieved her first real success after moving to England in 1898 when the

celebrated actress Mrs. Patrick Campbell recognized her extraordinary talent and fostered her career.

Duncan's performances were innovative not only for her natural movements and Greek-inspired attire, allowing an "almost naked body to be seen on stage," according to Russian actor, director, and producer Konstantin Stanislavsky, but also for her insistence on classical music accompaniment. Inspired by live symphony orchestra performances, she improvised to compositions by Beethoven, Chopin, Corelli, Gluck, Mozart, Rameau, Schubert, Strauss, Tchaikovsky, and Wagner and to the French and Soviet national anthems.

During 1900-14 Duncan performed to great acclaim throughout Europe and in Russia and returned to the United States on three tours. On her 1908 U.S. tour, President Theodore Roosevelt saw her perform in Washington and said she was "as innocent as a child dancing through the garden in the morning sunshine."

Duncan established her first formal school in 1904 in Berlin, with her sister Elizabeth as director; the school continues to operate today in Munich. In 1921 the Bolshevik Russian government invited her to open a school in Moscow into which she threw all of her energies, but when promises of government support failed to materialize by 1924, she returned to France.

Duncan's personal life was both unconventional and tragic. In her relationship with stage designer Gordon Craig, she conceived her first child, Deirdre, and in a subsequent relationship with Paris Singer, heir to the sewing machine fortune and benefac-

tor to her throughout her life, she had a son, Patrick. Both children drowned in 1913, when the brakes failed on the car they were riding in and it rolled into the Seine.

In 1922 Duncan determined to revive her performing career and planned a tour of the U.S. She married the Russian poet Sergei Aleksandrovich Esenin, seventeen years her junior, so that he could legally accompany her. During the tour both were ridiculed and came under criticism and government suspicion for their association with Bolshevik Russia. They separated after two years; Esenin returned to Russia where he suffered a mental breakdown and committed suicide in 1925.

Duncan gave her final performance in Paris on July 8, 1927. During her last years she completed the first volume of a memoir entitled *Ma Vie*, which was published posthumously. She died on September 14, 1927, in Nice in an infamous automobile accident: the scarf she was wearing caught in the open-spoke wheel of a convertible in which she was a passenger, and she died instantly of a broken neck.



Abraham Walkowitz
Sketches of Duncan
c. 1920

Highlights from the collection will be featured in an exhibit on view in the Research Library Department of Special Collections this fall. There will be an exhibit opening event on Tuesday, October 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. Speakers will include the niece of the original collector, Howard Holtzman, who will reminisce about her uncle. For further information, call 310.794.4408.

According to her wishes, her body was taken to Paris and cremated; her ashes were placed in Père Lachaise Cemetery, where some four thousand people attended the interment.

Duncan influenced countless artists in the performing and visual arts. Those in the dance world include dancers Anna Pavlova, Loïe Fuller, Maud Allan, Ruth St. Denis and Ted Shawn, Vienna's Grete Wiesenthal, the German Expressionist generation of the 1920s led by Mary Wigman, and the American modern dance movement of the 1930s spearheaded by Martha Graham.

Stanislavsky kept a Greek vase Duncan gave him in his sparsely furnished bedroom in the Moscow Conservatory; Eleanora Duse and Cosima Wagner were touched by her natural creativity, as were Ballets Russes greats Mikhail Fokine, Vaslav Nijinsky, and impresario Sergei Diaghilev. In later years, Sir Frederick Ashton, Kenneth MacMillan, and countless others have choreographed their homage to this creative artist.

Champagne Reception Celebrates Library Friends

In mid-June University Librarian Gary E. Strong welcomed some 175 guests to a champagne reception to honor the Library's generous friends and celebrate recent acquisitions. Guests enjoyed champagne, hors d'oeuvres, and lively conversation in the Rotunda of the Powell Library Building and viewed notable items acquired over the past year.

Strong thanked donors for their essential role in developing the Library's superlative collections, which have helped place the UCLA Library among the top five academic research libraries in North America and which support the university's mission of teaching, research, and public service. He concluded his remarks with a warm and gracious toast to all Library's donors.



Guests view items from (top-bottom) the Charles E. Young Research Library, Richard C. Rudolph East Asian Library, and Research Library Department of Special Collections.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATES CORNER

Thank you to all our Library Associates for making the inaugural year of this annual giving program a resounding success!

During 2005-06 more than seven hundred friends, alumni, faculty, and parents showed their support of the Library by donating more than \$14,000 dollars in discretionary funds. On behalf of all of our users, we are very grateful to those who have helped the Library serve UCLA's research and instructional mission.

Many dynamic and robust Library Associates programs will take place throughout the coming academic year. Following are activities planned for this fall:

University Librarian's Powell Society Dinner

September 21, 2006

The first annual dinner for Library Associates Powell Society members who make an annual contribution of \$1,000 and above, this dinner will also celebrate the centennial of the birth of Lawrence Clark Powell, who served as university librarian from 1944 to 1961 and in whose honor the Powell Society is named.

Amy Ephron Reading

October 11, 2006

Amy Ephron, author of six acclaimed novels including *A Cup of Tea*, will read from her latest bestseller, *One Sunday Morning*. The reading will be followed by a reception; it is open to all Library Associates who have made contributions of \$250 and above.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Professor Randall Crane

November 15, 2006

The Food for Thought series launches its second year with a conversation on the topic of traffic with urban economist Randall Crane, a distinguished UCLA professor of urban planning, who has a major study of housing and poverty underway in UCLA's Department of Urban Planning. This event includes lunch and is open to all Library Associates who have made contributions of \$250 and above.

We hope you can join us at these upcoming events. For more information about the events or the Library Associates, please call 310.206.8526 or visit the Web site at <http://www2.library.ucla.edu/> development.

FROM THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

Dear Friends and Supporters of the UCLA Library:

September 2006 marks the centennial of the birth of the distinguished bookman and author Lawrence Clark Powell, UCLA's second university librarian, who served from 1944 to 1961. As Doyce B. Nunis Jr. wrote in the Zamorano Club newsletter, "He was...a highly gifted wordsmith, an omnivorous reader, a dedicated librarian, a brilliant administrator and teacher, and, above all, a bookman's bookman."



The name of the landmark Powell Library Building, which today houses UCLA's undergraduate library, pays tribute to this visionary man who launched the UCLA Library on its climb to greatness. Today the Library is ranked among the top five research university libraries in North America and happens to be by far the youngest in the top ten.

Larry Powell laid the solid foundations upon which this level of excellence has been built. During his tenure Library collections grew from four hundred thousand volumes in 1944 to 1.5 million volumes in 1961. He also founded the Library's Department of Special Collections, noting at its dedication in 1950 the vital importance of rare books, manuscripts, and archival materials to scholarly research.

For Larry, the UCLA Library was about books and their usefulness to scholars. So it is uniquely appropriate that we celebrate his centennial by focusing on the Library's heart—its collections—through the launch of the Lawrence Clark Powell Centennial Drive. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 in one year to enhance the library experience, including building collections of books, manuscripts, and online resources; expanding public services; teaching information-seeking skills; and supporting other high-priority needs.

During this centennial year we have asked the members of our recently created Board of Visitors to designate gifts to the Powell Centennial Drive. We are also making it the focus of our Library Associates annual fund efforts for the 2006-07 academic year; to find out more about this program and highlights of past and future events planned for members, please go to page three.

On Thursday evening, September 21, I will host the first University Librarian's Powell Society Dinner, to which members of the Powell Society—those generous annual donors who give a minimum of \$1,000 through the Library Associates—are invited. Our special guest speaker will be Gerald Haslam, a renowned author who has written extensively about California history as well as a survey of Powell's life and career.

The dinner will take place in the beautiful setting of the Rotunda of the Powell Library Building, and surrounding the guests will be an exhibit of materials by and related to Powell. If you are interested in joining the Powell Society and attending this historic event, please call the Library Development Office at 310.206.8526.

When I was state librarian of California, I spent a memorable day with Larry Powell, who visited my office in Sacramento and reminisced about building UCLA's collections and about the many dedicated booksellers, collectors, and donors who helped him in that effort. Many equally memorable visits followed. Those meant a lot to me then; they mean even more to me now. I urge you to join me in continuing Powell's efforts to create exceptional collections in support of UCLA's world-class programs and people.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary E. Strong".

Gary E. Strong
University Librarian

Giving Opportunities

THE UCLA LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

Support from the UCLA Library Associates ensures that critical needs, from special-opportunity acquisitions to information literacy programs, are addressed. Discretionary funds available to the university librarian will make a significant impact on the quality, innovative resources and services that the UCLA Library is able to offer.

HONOR WITH BOOKS

Honor with Books allows donors to pay tribute to a special person by placing a bookplate in his or her honor in a newly purchased book in the subject area of the donor's choice. This \$100 gift supports a critical acquisitions need while honoring a loved one, friend, special teacher, or colleague in perpetuity.

COLLECTION ENDOWMENT INITIATIVE

The Collection Endowment Initiative provides critically needed funds to acquire, preserve, and make accessible library materials in a particular subject area of interest. Collection endowments begin at \$25,000, and the Library invites donors to make a single gift or to build an endowed fund over several years. Special bookplates reflecting the interests of the philanthropist are designed in consultation with the donor and affixed to each item added to Library collections that was made possible by his or her generosity.

MAKING A BEQUEST

In writing a will or living trust, donors can specify that they would like their estate to benefit the UCLA Library. In recognition of alumni, friends, faculty, and staff who have chosen to benefit the university through planned giving, they are welcomed as members of the prestigious First Century Society. Planned gifts include gifts through wills, living trusts, charitable trusts, charitable gift annuities, retirement plans, or other estate planning arrangements.

If you would like to receive more information about these or other options to support the UCLA Library, please contact Amy Smith, director of UCLA Library Development, by telephone at 310.206.8551 or by email at amys@library.ucla.edu. Or visit the Web site at <http://www.library.ucla.edu/development>.

Ken Karmiole

Book Lover, Book Seller, Philanthropist

Ken Karmiole first became interested in books when, as an undergraduate at UC Santa Barbara, he was shopping at a used book store. In fact, he became so interested that he began helping out in the store, a path which has led to his current occupation as an antiquarian bookseller.

After graduating with a BA in history, Karmiole joined the Peace Corps and considered going to law school. However, his interest in books led him instead to the UCLA School of Library Services (now the Department of Information Studies in the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies) for a one-year MLS program, in which he specialized in rare books and manuscripts.

While in school, Karmiole worked part-time at the Heritage Bookshop, which turned into a full-time position following his graduation in 1971. After a few years he struck out on his own and opened Kenneth Karmiole, Bookseller, Inc., first on Westwood Boulevard and now in a lovely office in Santa Monica. He limits his business to rare books and works by appointment only.



Karmiole has been a longtime supporter of UCLA and of the UCLA Library, so when the Library formed its first Board of Visitors in September 2005, he was a natural choice to become a member. And now he has the distinction of being the first board member to make a major gift to the Library. His donation of \$100,000 has launched the Kenneth Karmiole Endowment for Rare Books and Manuscripts, proceeds from which will benefit all UCLA Library special collections.

Although this was the initial gift to establish this endowment, Karmiole feels very strongly that others who support rare books and manuscripts should also give to the fund. “The UCLA Library requires private contributions for the maintenance and development of its collections in order to guarantee the future of first-class scholarly research at UCLA,” he noted.

“Ken’s generosity and leadership are exemplary,” said University Librarian Gary E. Strong. “He understands the importance of the Library’s need for funding to make extraordinary purchases of rare books and manuscripts to support the curriculum and the research needs of scholars worldwide.”

Karmiole’s passion for rare books and his generous philanthropy have benefited other areas on campus as well. He has established the Kenneth Karmiole Lecture Series on the History of the Book Trade in the Center for Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Studies at the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library and the Kenneth Karmiole Fellowship in the Department of Information Studies, which goes to one student each year in the field of rare books and manuscripts.

“I grew up in the Westwood area, used the UCLA Library while a student at University High School, and received my master’s degree at UCLA. I pretty much lived in the Research Library,” Karmiole recalled. “I am very pleased to be in a financial position where I can make donations to an institution that I believe in and that needs my support.”

UCLA Library

21520 Charles E. Young Research Library
Box 951575
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
UCLA



John Frederick Fitzgerald De Ros
(1804-61)

*Personal narrative of travels in the
United States and Canada in 1826...*

London: W. A. Ainsworth, 1827

Charles E. Young Research
Library Department of Special
Collections

Acquired as the Library's five
millionth volume in May 1983

Detail of image shown here and
on upper left of page 1.

The Other Hollywood: Modernist Architecture and the Los Angeles Film Community

THROUGH OCTOBER 15

CHARLES E. YOUNG RESEARCH LIBRARY LOBBY

"The Other Hollywood" counters the prevailing popular image of "Hollywood taste" as shallow, frivolous, and imitative. Through drawings and photographs of modernist projects and built designs by Los Angeles architects A. Quincy Jones, S. Charles Lee, Richard Neutra, and Lloyd Wright, the exhibition suggests the large number of Hollywood actors, directors, and executives who supported a wide range of sophisticated modernist designs. It also counters the popular assumption that modern architecture was stylistically monolithic by presenting the cool, elegantly simple Rationalism of Neutra and Jones as well as the hot, exotic, free-form Expressionism of Wright and Lee.

The exhibition curator is Thomas S. Hines, UCLA professor emeritus of history and architecture. Hines will give a talk about the exhibition on Thursday, October 12, at 4 p.m. in the Research Library Presentation Room. Admission is free, and no reservations are required.

For further information, call 310.825.6925 or visit the
Web site at <http://www2.library.ucla.edu/news/2152.cfm>.

PRODUCED BY:

Gary E. Strong
University Librarian

Amy Smith
Director of Development

Susan Kanowith-Klein
Associate Director of Development

Sherry Wickware
Assistant Director of Development

Robin Weisz/Graphic Design
Art Direction and Design

S. Charles Lee. *Bay Theatre, Pacific
Palisades. 1944. Perspective sketch.* Charles
E. Young Research Library Department of
Special Collections, S. Charles Lee Papers.

