

**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- ), 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

Ballet Club. North Toronto Collegiate. May 30, 19—  
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  
Ballet Club. Dunloe Road School. Dec. 13, 1946  
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  
Eaton Auditorium. Jan. 13, 1956  
North Toronto Collegiate. Apr. 28, 1961

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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.  
Zonta Club of Kingston. Ballet Club Production at K.C.V.I. Auditorium. Mar. 3, 1947.

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

Galt Canadian Concert Assn. Members Concert. Jan. 14, 1942.  
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)

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Env. #9: Correspondence, etc. – 14 items

[n.d.] Tamara Toumanova. Christmas card.

[n.d.] Alexandra Danilova. Christmas card.

1922, July 5. Menu card from RMS Empress of France, autographed by Frank Harris, et al.

1933, Mar. 26. Letter from Clifford McCormick re: European music scene.

1935. Royal Jubilee Christmas Card.

1939. Adjudication by Dame Ninette de Valois of performance at Phyllis Bedells' School of Dancing.

1939, Mar. 18. Letter from Mayura re: Bettina Byers' prize-winning *An Indian Impression*.

194-, Apr. 19. Letter of thanks from Helen F. Broughall to BB from the Ladies Auxiliary of the Irish Regiment for her performance.

194-, 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.

1945, May 13, Note to BB from Ruth Norris re: her recital May 12, 1945.

1945, May 16. Note to BB from Maudie Dow re: above recital.

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

1927, Jan. 12. Frankfurt. Rhoda Byers.

1927, Feb. 9. Schwerin. Rhoda Byers.

1927, Mar. 4. Magdeburg. Rhoda Byers.

1927, Apr. 2. Berlin. Rhoda Byers.

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.

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1931, May 27. Toronto Conservatory of Music. Clifford McCormick, pianist; Vera Butcher, vocalist.

1931, June 1. Milton, Ont. St. Paul's United Church. Choral and Instrumental Recital, with Clifford McCormick, pianist.

1931 (?), Oct. 27. Belleville Collegiate Auditorium. (Clifford) Empson McCormick, pianist; Rhoda Byers, mezzo soprano; Elizabeth Byers accompanist.

1932, Mar. 14. Oshawa Music Study Club. Clifford McCormick, pianist; Lois Sears, vocalist.

#### 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

1930, Apr. 1. Toronto Conservatory of Music. Chopin recital by Norman Wilks.

1931, Feb. 3. Conservatory Concert Hall. Piano recital, Norman Wilks.

1931, Apr. 29. Massey Hall. Paderewski.

1931, Oct. 16. Hart House Theatre. Hart House String Quartet.

1931, Nov. 20. Convocation Hall. Hart House String Quartet.

1931, Dec. 11. Convocation Hall. Hart House String Quartet.

1932, Feb. 27. Eaton Auditorium. Ernest Seitz, piano.

1933, Jan. 22. London Palladium. Chopin Recital by Pouishnoff, with notes by Clifford McCormick.

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1933, Mar. 17. London, Royal College of Music. Orchestral rehearsal.  
1933, Mar. 22. London, Royal College of Music. Edwin Benbow, piano.  
1944, Mar. Eaton Auditorium. Alexander Kipnis.

#### 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:

1934, Apr. 14/16. Hart House Theatre. Dance recital, pupils of Alison Sutcliffe (program).  
1935, Jan. 21. Hart House Theatre. Alison Sutcliffe, danseuse; Rhoda Byers, mezzo soprano (program).  
1935, May 11. Hart House Theatre. Dance recital by pupils of Alison Sutcliffe (program and clipping).  
1935. Massey Hall. Children's TSO Concert, with dance study by Alison Sutcliffe (clippings).  
1935, June 4. Eaton Auditorium. Toronto Grand Opera Association. *Carmen*. Ballets arr. by Alison Sutcliffe and danced by Bettina Byers et al. (program and clippings).  
1936, May 21. Hart House Theatre. Dance recital by pupils of Alison Sutcliffe. (program).  
1937, Dec. 26-Jan. 2, 1937. Hart House Theatre. *The Snow Queen*. Parts danced by Bettina Byers (program).  
1937, May 29. Hart House Theatre. Dance recital by pupils of Alison Sutcliffe (program).  
1939, May 20. Hart House Theatre. Dance demonstration by pupils of Alison Sutcliffe (program).  
[n.d.] Clipping re: Bettina Byers and Margaret Waterhouse leaving to study in London.  
1938, Apr. 1 & 2. London. Dance recital by students and pupils of Phyllis Bedells (program).  
1939, Mar. 20. London. Miniature ballets and pianoforte solos.  
[n.d.] Invitation, program, receipt for donation to Royal Academy of Dancing building fund, and thank you note from Adeline Genée for the donation. Also acceptance from Mme. Genée 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, Jan. 13. Hart House Theatre. Dance recital by Bettina Byers in aid of Sick Children's Hospital (flyer, program, clippings).  
1940, Mar. Lecture by Herman Voaden, illus. by Bettina Byers (clipping).

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1940, Mar. 28. *Council of Jewish Women Bulletin*. With announcement of program by Bettina Byers.

1941, Mar. 18. Ottawa Technical School Auditorium. Lecture: "History of the Dance." Mme. Adeline Gene, assisted by Bettina Byers. (program, and clipping reviewing same lecture when given in Winnipeg).

1941, Apr. 15-16. Toronto, King Edward Hotel. Ontario Music Teachers Association. . Including demonstration of classical ballet by Bettina Byers (program).

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

1974, Mar. 4. Letter from Patricia Metcalfe, Overseas Manager, R.A.D., notifying BB of her election to the Grand Council. Mar. 4, 1974.

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.

1975, July 17. Letter from Peter Wilson, Editor, *Dance Gazette*, re: article on new Fellows of R.A.D. July 17, 1975.

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.

1975, Nov. 7. Clipping, *Globe & Mail* (above article).

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.

Articles (2): *Nomad*, Nov./Dec/ 1977; *Standard*, Sept. 12, 1986.

See also: Env. #19

Env. #17: Beryl Grey – 5 items

Christmas cards with photographs of Beryl Grey in various roles tipped in: 1955, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1961.

See also: Env. #19

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Env. #18: Music – 2 items

*The Nightingale*, by Barbara Galt. 39 pp. photocopy. A Chinese fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen adapted as a ballet in 2 acts for the Academy of Ballet, November 1954. Includes some notes on the choreography.

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 Genée. Postcard regretting she was unable to attend Academy of Ballet open house.

1966, June 7. Surrey. ALS from Adeline Genée welcoming BB to England; regrets her own ill health limits travel to see her.

1984, Feb. 15. Paris. TLS from Camille Chappell, President, United States Center International for the Performing Arts soliciting contributions for scholarship commemorating Anton Dolin. Incl. info sheets.

1984, April 24. Paris. TL from Camille Chappell thanking BB for her donation and promising a program of the gala.

1988, Sept. 14. Victoria, B.C. ALS from BB to A. Wengle re: former students.

*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.

1939, June 14. *The Bystander*. Clipping (w/photo) re: Irina Baronova. .

1976, Feb. *Dance Gazette*. W/photo of BB and friends on p. 3.

*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

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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.

Gift of Bettina Byers, Oct. 1979, Jan. 1981,  
Jan. 1982, July 1985, Aug. 1985, Oct. 1986,  
Sept. 1987, Jan. 1988, Oct. 1988.

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