

**Mary Wigman Collection**  
**(1886-1973)**  
**Inventory**

1 envelope; 48 items

This collection of photocopies of letters, together with a taped conversation (kept in The Theatre Department) were donated by Canadian dancer Judy Jarvis in memory of her teacher, the German dancer Mary Wigman. The letters were written over the last eight years of her life, at a time when her health was failing. They combine comments on Ms. Jarvis' dance career with miscellaneous details of her life in Germany at the time. It is interesting to compare these letters with items in *The Mary Wigman Book\**, for an overall picture of the period. Mary Wigman died in 1973 of complications from a leg broken three years earlier; in the last years of her life her sight also deteriorated to the extent that she was almost blind. There is frequent mention in the letters of her frustration with her recurrent illness, and her handwriting is difficult to read towards the end. The letters are primarily in English (she was educated in England in her youth), with few passages in German. There are also several odd paragraphs by her companion Anni Hess Hesschen).

Env. #1: Correspondence – 48 items

Letters from Mary Wigman to Judy Jarvis, 1966-1973. (photocopies)

The following is a rough index of items mentioned in the letters:

burning of Judy Jarvis' studio	letter #36
death of Dore Hoyer	11, 14
death of Judy Jarvis' father	37
death of Mary Wigman's brother	27
discussion of J.J.'s dance performance	6,9,12,22, 27,28,29,30,38,43,44
on life and independence	34,40
on teaching dance	6,41
reminiscences of her career and friends in dance	6
preparations for J.J.'s performance in Berlin	15

\*Sorell, Walter, ed. and trans. *The Mary Wigman Book*. Middletown, Wesleyan University Press, 1975.

Gift of Judy Jarvis, Apr. 9, 1975  
Inventory:A. Goluska, Jun 24, 1981