K1223

Ula Sharon Robinson Bergfeldt (1905-1993) Papers
ca. 1861-1993
8 cubic feet, oversize

Family, personal and professional materials of Bergfeldt, professional dancer, teacher, producer, and founder of the Kansas City Dance Theatre. Includes family papers: photographs and legal documents for the Sharon and Headlee families, Spring Hill, KS; personal papers: correspondence between Ula and William Harold Bergfeldt (1895-1971) during their courtship and early marriage, as well as Harold’s correspondence to his parents and photographs from France following World War I; and professional papers: scripts for ballets and administrative records of the Kansas City Dance Theatre.

BIOGRAPHY:

Ula Sharon Robinson was born to John M. and Lillett (Sharon) in Spring Hill, Kansas, on March 17, 1905. John was a railway civil engineer who moved the family to the Philippines when Ula was a baby. She always showed talent for dancing, and upon the family’s return to the United States, she became a child star in Philadelphia’s vaudeville scene. At age ten, she toured Australia for three months. The Robinsons moved to Kansas City, where Ula enrolled in the Norman School and began dance instructions with Dorothy Burrows Perkins. At age 14 she and Lillett moved to New York, and at age 15, Ula began a year of critical and popular acclaim starring in the vaudeville hit, Broadway Brevities. For the next several years she continued to study dance and perform in London and New York, most notably in the Greenwich Village Follies and a command performance for King George V.

In 1931, Ula married William Harold “Perky” Bergfeldt (1895-1971), proprietor of Dale-Bergfeldt Tailors, and in 1935, their only child, William Jr. was born. Ula taught dance and produced many original shows in Kansas City, and in 1954 she founded the Kansas City Dance Theatre. KCDT performed many of Ula’s works and gave hundreds of the area’s young people exposure to the dance. Ula continued to teach dance and body mechanics until 1983, and she passed away on January 19, 1993.
PROVENANCE:

This gift was received from Jean Babcock as accession KA0955 on June 16, 1997 and KA0976 on December 1, 1997.

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Specific item; folder number: Ula Sharon Robinson Bergfeldt (1905-1993) Papers (K1223); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

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DESCRIPTION:

The collection consists of family, personal and professional materials of Ula Sharon Robinson Bergfeldt. Family papers include many photographs (including tintypes) and legal documents pertaining to the Sharon and Headlee families in and around Spring Hill, Kansas in the 1800s. Personal papers include correspondence between Ula and W.H. Bergfeldt during their courtship and early marriage, as well as Harold's correspondence to his parents and photographs from France following World War I. Ula also saved many programs of dance and theatre performances she attended. Professional materials include scripts for ballets and administrative records of the Kansas City Dance Theatre.

This collection is closely related to the Jean Coover Babcock (1944-2012) Papers (K0740), who was a student and close friend of Miss Sharon's.

INVENTORY:

BOX 001

Folder 1. Wedding book – Ula Sharon (aunt) and Samuel M. Simmons, August 15, 1894

Folder 2. John and Lilleth (Sharon) Robinson – passports (1922-1930), marriage license (1904)
Folder 4. Funeral book – Lilleth Sharon Robinson (November 22, 1875 – March 6, 1964)
Folder 7. Diary – Jacob Headlee, Carrollton, MO 1861
Folder 8. Religious writings “wrote for Josephus Headlee”, c.1880s
Folder 9. Stock certificates, c.1902-1912
Folder 10. Legal documents, correspondence, etc. – Sharon and Headlee Families, 1800s
Folder 11. Legal documents, correspondence, etc. – Sharon and Headlee Families, 1800s
Folder 13. Correspondence – Ula (Mrs. SM Simmons), and Samuel Simmons from John and Lillett Robinson, 1910-1934
Folder 14. Correspondence – John from Lilleet and Ula, 1903, 1915
Folder 15. Correspondence – Ula (aunt) from Lilleet and Ula, 1912-1923
Folder 16. Correspondence – Ula from Lilleet (chiefly from the Philippines), 1907-1922
Folder 17. Reminiscence – Charlotte Simmons, c.1908-1909
Folder 18. Poems by Lilleet Robinson
Folder 19. “Mama’s Art Work”
Folder 20. “Memories of HaHaTonka”
Folder 21. Leather wallet
Folder 22. Westport High School Herald, 1913
Folder 23. Westport High School Herald, 1914
Folder 24. Correspondence – W.H. Bergfeldt to parents from France, 1918-1919
Folder 25. Correspondence – W.H. Bergfeldt to Ula in New York, June 1931
Folder 26. Correspondence – W.H. Bergfeldt to Ula in New York, July 1931
Folder 27. Correspondence – W.H. Bergfeldt to Ula in New York, August 1931
Folder 28. Correspondence – W.H. Bergfeldt to Ula in New York, September 1931
Folder 29. Correspondence – W.H. Bergfeldt to Ula in New York, October-November 1931

**BOX 002**

Folder 30. Correspondence – W.H. Bergfeldt to Ula in New York, August 1932
Folder 31. Correspondence – W.H. Bergfeldt to Ula in Florida, February 1938
Folder 32. Correspondence – Mildred and Joe, 1977 and undated
Folder 33. Correspondence – Charles and Hannah Bergfeldt, 1906, 1909
Folder 34. Miscellaneous correspondence to Ula (1956-1991)
Folder 35. Essay by William Bergfeldt, Jr. – “Take Shakespeare off the Bookshelf…” undated
Folder 36. Christmas cards
Folder 37. Dardanells/Greece trip, undated
Folder 38. Dried rose
Folder 39. Poetry for Ula by E.M.G. (Maurice) 1931
Folder 40. Autograph book (Aunt Ula), 1886
Folder 41. Passports
Folder 42. Body mechanics/chiropractic
Folder 43. Script – “The Road Beyond”
Folder 44. Script – Circus Ballet
Folder 45. Script – Chinese
Folder 46. Script – “The Nightingale and the Rose”
Folder 47. Script – “Karma”
Folder 48. Script – “Cowboys and Indians”
Folder 49. Miscellaneous scripts
Folder 50. Songs
Folder 51. “My Book”
Folder 52. “The Dance”

*Kansas City Dance Theatre*

Folder 53. “Parc Parisienne” – correspondence, publicity, programs
Folder 54. “Parc Parisienne” – script, notes, production notebook
Folder 55. “The Sword and the Lute” – script, publicity, programs
Folder 56. “Susan Goes to the Art Gallery” – script, publicity, programs
Folder 57. “Fantasy of the Toys” – script, publicity, programs
Folder 58. Nelson Art Gallery – regulations, clippings
Folder 59. Administrative records, 1950s-60s
Folder 60. Administrative records, 1950s-60s
Folder 61. KCDT photos
Folder 62. Notecards – talk on dance
Folder 63. Program – Ballet Celeste, 1958
Folder 64. Nomination of Ula to Women’s Leadership Fountain Project, 1991
Folder 65. Miscellaneous
Folder 66. Miscellaneous clippings
Folder 67. Ula Sharon: Premiere Danseuse, 1993
Folder 68. Working papers for Folder 66.

BOX 003

Family photographs
Photograph album – Ula as little girl
Publicity photographs
Photographs of entertainers
Photograph scrapbook – chiefly Perky, Jr.
Photograph albums and scrapbook – Perky, Sr. in WWI
Clippings – photocopied from scrapbook

BOX 004

Programs
Slides, film, videotape

BOX 005

Reel-to-reel audiotapes - chiefly music and religious

BOX 006

Reel to reel audiotapes - chiefly music and religious

BOX 007

Reel to reel audiotapes - chiefly music

BOX 008

Folder 8.1 Script – The Tempest, 1926
Folder 8.2 Programs-Ula Sharon, 1938; Convention Hall 1916, 1917
Folder 8.3  Program – “Temple Varieties” – B’Nai Jehuda Sisterhood dedicated to the House of Living Judaism

Folder 8.4  Souvenir book – Verdun, France

Folder 8.5  Yearbook – The Log (Rockhurst High School), 1927

Folder 8.6  Kansas City Dance Theatre, 1961

Folder 8.7  Photographs-Ula Sharon Robinson Bergfeldt and others- includes baby pictures, professional dance photographs, ca 1906-1943, 1980s (photocopies)

Folder 8.8  Photographs-Kansas City Dance Company, 1954-1964

Folder 8.9  James M. Robinson-Madeira Mamore Railway-Brazil, South America (photocopies) 1910, memoir 1965

Folder 8.10  Betamax videotape, 2 reels 8 mm color movie film

Folder 8.11  Paper dolls commissioned by the Lincoln Exhibit for the Century of Progress (World’s Fair) held in Chicago, 1933

OVERSIZE (includes KA0955 and KA0956)

Photographs (including railroad construction in the Philippines and South America)

Costume sketches, other artwork

Photocopies of Ula Sharon’s scrapbooks