

AMHERST CENTER FOR RUSSIAN CULTURE

**Aleksandra Balashova Papers
1912-1975**

Summary: The Aleksandra Balashova Papers reflect a short period of life of a well known Russian ballerina. They consist of photographs and letters mostly from her life in exile.

Quantity: 0.25 linear feet

Containers: 1 document manuscript box

Processed: August 2012

By: Tanya Chebotarev

Listed: September 2012

By: Tanya Chebotarev

Finding Aid: September 2012

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Access: There is no restriction on access to the Aleksandra Balashova Papers for research use. Particularly fragile items may be restricted for preservation purposes.

Copyright: Requests for permission to publish material from the Aleksandra Balashova Papers should be sent to the Director of the Amherst Center for Russian Culture. It is the responsibility of the researcher to identify and satisfy the holders of all copyrights.

INTRODUCTION

Historical Note

Alexandra Balashova was born in Moscow in 1887. She graduated from the Bolshoi Ballet School in 1905. She was a beautiful and dramatically expressive dancer and made her debut at the age of 19 as Tsar-Maiden in *Humpbacked Horse*. She soon became a principal dancer in such roles like Aurora (*Sleeping Beauty*), Medora (*Le Corsaire*), Kitri (*Don Quixote*), Swanilda (*Coppelia*), Raymonda (*Raymonda*), Nikia (*La Bayadere*) and Odette-Odile (*Swan Lake*). Her partner in many performances was Mikhail Mordkin.

She was married to a wealthy Moscow capitalist A.K. Ushkov and left Russia in 1921. Their mansion at Prechistenka 20 in Moscow soon became home of the Isadora Duncan Dance School. Ironically, Balashova had moved in to Isadora Duncan Parisian apartment at Rue de la Pompe. She danced in Europe and the United States until she retired in 1931. Aleksandra Balashova died in exile in 1979.

History of the Papers and Their Organization

In 1991, the Aleksandra Balashova Papers were donated to the Amherst Center for Russian Culture by Thomas Whitney, AC Class of 1937.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Scope and Content Note

The Aleksandra Balashova(1887-1979) Papers contain photographs, correspondence and one newspaper clipping documenting professional and personal life of Aleksandra Balashova in exile. This collection will be of particular interest to scholars studying the history of Russian ballet in the 20th century.

Organization and Arrangement

The Papers are organized as follows:

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1960 Sep 12- 1975 May 3	Aleksandra Balashova to Tamara and Abram Gurvich 15 letters, two postcards, one envelope
1	2	1960 Sep 12- 1975 May 3	Photocopies of the same correspondence, newspaper clipping entitled "Zvezdy baleta" by Elena Lutskaia

Aleksandra Balashova Papers

1	3	1912	Aleksandra Balashova in Moscow, one photo
1	3	1914	Aleksandra Balashova in London, one photo
1	3	1919	Aleksandra Balashova in dance created for her by M. Mordkin, one photo
1	3	n.d.	Aleksandra Balashova, no place, one photo
1	3	1946	Aleksandra Balashova in Monte Carlo, two photos
1	3	1947	Aleksandra Balashova with Liz Jeanmaire, Algaroff and Grunberg in Monte Carlo, one photo