

# Finding Aid to Valeria Ladd Papers, 1890-1984 Archives of Women Artists

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Collection Processed by: Patrick Brown (2006), Chris Burroughs (2014)

National Museum of Women in the Arts  
Betty Boyd Dettre Library & Research Center  
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## Overview

### Repository Information:

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1250 New York Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Email: [lrc@nmwa.org](mailto:lrc@nmwa.org)  
Phone: 202-783-5000

### Title:

Valerie Ladd Papers

### Provenance:

This collection has unknown origins, no acquisition date, and no donor file.

### Collection Dates:

Inclusive dates: 1919-1983  
Bulk dates: 1950-1961

### Physical Description:

Stored in the Library & Research Center's Archives on Women Artists, the collection is contained in one archival box.

### Summary:

The Valeria Ladd Papers collection is housed in one acid-free box in the Betty Boyd Dettre Library & Research Center. The first finding aid and record of the collection is from 2003. In 2006, the collection was reprocessed and re-housed in one box. The collection was separated into four series: Correspondence; Printed Material; Notebooks; and Photographs. The notebooks are in poor condition. The leather cover of the notebook in folder 4 has severe red rot. The text-block is detached from the cover in the notebook in folder 5.

## Administrative Information

### Access Information:

This collection is open for researchers.

### Preferred Citation:

Item, Date, Series, Valeria Ladd Papers, (Archives of Women Artists), National Museum of Women in the Arts, Betty Boyd Dettre Library & Research Center.

### Publication and Photocopies Note:

Permission from the National Museum of Women in the Arts required for publication and reproduction of original materials. Photocopies of original materials can be made for a fee and at the discretion of the library director.

### Related Materials Note:

Valeria Ladd Collection on the revived Greek Dance, part of the Library of Congress Music Division, Washington, D.C. Finding aid online at <https://www.loc.gov/item/2013572135/>

## Organization and Arrangement Information

### Arrangement Note:

The collection is contained in one acid-free box, located in the Library and Research Center. The collection, processed in 2006, was separated into four series and re-housed in one acid-free folder.

The collection is divided into the following four series:

- Series I: Correspondence, 1983, n.d.
- Series II: Printed Materials
- Series III: Notebooks
- Series IV: Photographs

### Processed by:

Patrick Brown, 2006  
Chris Burroughs, 2014

### Processing note:

This represents the third reorganization of the collection. After initial processing in 2003, the collection was reorganized by Patrick Brown in 2006. This new reorganization was completed in 2014 and deemed necessary as the awards/ephemera series was combined with the passport

series to create the new printed materials series. The series were placed in a new order, the folders re-labeled to reflect current Betty Boyd Dettre Library and Research Center guidelines. The materials were then placed in a smaller box and the box re-labeled.

### **Preservation Note:**

Some papers are brittle, researches should handle with care. Gloves or other precautions should be used when handling the photographs. Researchers wishing to obtain photocopies, scans or other facsimiles of items in the collection must consult the archivist.

### **Historical/Biographical Note**

Valeria Gibson Ladd was born in 1896 in Great Falls, Montana. She was a dancer and artist who performed in several dance troupes and had several exhibitions of her art presented. She lived in New York City and painted in both oils and watercolor. Her watercolors have a high degree of abstraction, mainly figure or group subjects, while her oils are more scraps of paper or cloth, which seem to drift in the air against various colored skies.

Ladd is best known for her work in dance. She directed a group circa 1919 before joining the Noyes School of Rhythm, founded by Florence Fleming Noyes, in Portland, Connecticut, in the 1930s. She would go on to establish her own group, the Valeria Ladd Dancing Players, circa 1950.

She died in 1984.

### **Scope and Content Note**

While this one box collection does not give a comprehensive view of the artist, the file does provide insight into Valeria Ladd's various artistic interests of painting, poetry, and dance. The collection is divided into five series:

#### Series I: Correspondence

This series of materials contains letters written by Ladd to her mother during what appears to be a trip to Europe, possibly for dance performances. There is also one piece of correspondence from Dorothy Williams Mott, president of the Noyes School of Rhythm Foundation to "Friends of Noyes Rhythm." All of the correspondence is undated with the exception of the Mott letter, which is dated 1983.

#### Series II: Printed Materials

This series contains three dance performance programs, one directed by Ladd, one by Ladd and the Noyes Dancers, and one by the Valeria Ladd Dancing Players; two announcements for an exhibition of Ladd's art in New York; and a membership citation to Ladd from Zonta International. The material is dated 1919, 1950, 1955, 1961, 1980, and undated.

#### Series III: Notebooks

This series contains two bound notebooks with both handwritten and typewritten poems ostensibly written by Ladd. The first is dated 1942-1944, while the second is circa 1950 to circa 1958.

#### Series IV: Photographs

This series contains 14 photographs, some with Ladd and others who are unidentified. The others are of houses or unidentified people. All but three of the photographs are undated, with one dated 1933, one 1981, and the other 1982.

#### **Inventory**

Here is where the listing of the materials within the collection will appear.

##### Series 1: Correspondence

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	1	1983, n.d.

##### Series 2: Printed Materials

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	2	Announcements Membership certificate 1919-1980, n.d.
1	3	Passport, 1955

##### Series 3: Notebooks

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	4	Brown notebook, 1942-1944
1	5	Black notebook c. 1950 – c. 1958

##### Series 4: Photographs

Box #	Folder #	Folder Title
1	6	Photographs 1933, 1981-1982, n.d.