



**The Rosemary Dalton Papers**

**N72**

**The National Dance Archive of Ireland  
Glucksman Library  
University of Limerick**

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**Reference Code:** IE 2135 N72

**Title:** The Rosemary Dalton Papers

**Dates of Creation:** 1925-2013 (predominantly 1950-1966)

**Level of Description:** Fonds

**Extent and Medium:** 2 boxes (73 files)

**CONTEXT**

**Name of Creator(s):** Dalton, Rosemary (née Bartram).

**Biographical History:** Rosemary Dalton was born Rosemary Bartram in Dublin. She started ballet classes at the Abbey School of Ballet, co-founded by W. B. Yeats and Ninette de Valois in 1927. She also studied piano at the Municipal School of Music (now College of Music) under Josephine Curran and acted as accompanist to the school's orchestra under Michael McNamara.

In 1953, on a trip to enjoy a week of ballet performances in London, Rosemary became acquainted with author and bookseller Cyril Beaumont and his wife. Their friendship was to last until Cyril Beaumont's death in 1976.

Rosemary became involved with the National Ballet School, founded by Cecil French Salkeld in 1954, both as a council member and as a student, taking classes with the school's artistic director, Madame Valentina Dutko. Encouraged by Dutko, Rosemary started an evening class for adults who had danced ballet as children and wished to take it up again as a hobby. When Valentina Dutko moved to the United States with her diplomat husband, the ballet school was left in Rosemary's care. In need of a teacher of the Russian method of Ballet which the school had adopted, the school committee wrote to Nadine Nicolaeva-Legat for advice, and on her recommendation hired Legat's former student, Patricia Ryan, as a teacher.

Following her marriage, Rosemary Dalton moved from Dublin to Cork and as a consequence of family commitments gave up an active involvement in ballet in 1963 for a number of years. In the late 1980s, she befriended Eric Gibson and Mary Gibson-Madden and became involved in the running of Ballet Theatre Ireland founded by the couple in 1992. Her involvement in the school was to lead to a friendship with Dame Ninette de Valois and her secretary Helen Quinnell who, along with Sir Peter Wright, joined forces in an ultimately unsuccessful attempt to encourage the Arts Council to support the dance company.

In 1980, Cork Vocational Education Committee persuaded Rosemary to start fitness classes for women. She taught yoga in adult education classes and community schools in Cork for 30 years, retiring in 2011.

**Immediate Source of Acquisition:** Donated by Rosemary Dalton to the National Dance Archive of Ireland in three instalments on 7 October 2013, 13 December 2013, and 8 January 2014.

## CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

**Scope and Content:** Publications, programmes, press cuttings, correspondence, photographs, and memorabilia illustrating Rosemary Dalton's lifelong interest and involvement in ballet and her friendship with Cecil French Salkeld (1903-1969), Nadine Nicolaeva-Legat (1895-1971), Cyril Beaumont (1891-1976), and Dame Ninette de Valois (1898-2001).

**Appraisal, Destruction and Scheduling Information:** All records have been retained.

**Accruals:** No accruals are expected.

**System of Arrangement:** The documents have been arranged into six series according to their form and thereunder chronologically by date.

## CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE

**Conditions Governing Access:** Unrestricted access to all items.

**Conditions Governing Reproduction:** Standard copyright regulations apply to all items. For photocopying or reproducing material, please consult with the staff.

**Language/ Scripts of Material:** English; some books and programmes in Russian.

**Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:** Books, paper documents, and photographs in good condition.

**Finding Aids:** A hard copy of the descriptive catalogue is available at the Special Collections and Archives Department, Glucksman Library, University of Limerick.

## DESCRIPTION CONTROL

**Archivist's Note:** Papers arranged and described by Anna-Maria Hajba.

**Rules or Conventions:** This description follows guidelines based on *ISAD(G)* 2nd edition, 2000; *Irish Guidelines for Archival Description*, 2009; *National Council on Archives: Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names*, 1997; and *EAP Guidance on Data Protection for Archive Services*, 2018.

**Date of Description:** January 2014. Revised December 2020.

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1 PUBLICATIONS (1947-1998)

1.1 Books (1947-1993)

- 1/1/1            1955  
*Balet. Gosudarstvennogo Ordena Lenina Akademicheskogo Bol'shogo Teatra SSSR.* Moskva: Gosudarstvennoye Izdatel'stvo Izobrazitel'nogo Iskusstva, 1955. [*Ballet. Order of Lenin State Academic Bolsboi Theatre.* Moscow: State Publishing House of Fine Arts, 1955]. Hardback with dust jacket. Illustrated. Unpaginated. In Russian. *Fragile.*  
c. 460 pp.
- 1/1/2            1954  
 Beaumont, Cyril. *Ballets of Today. Being a Second Supplement to the Complete Book of Ballets.* London: Putnam, 1954. Hardback, with dust jacket (damaged). Illustrated. Signed with a dedication to Rosemary Bartram by the author on an end leaf.  
251 pp.
- 1/1/3            1951  
 Beaumont, Cyril W. *Complete Book of Ballets. A Guide to the Principal Ballets of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries.* Reprint of a revised edition. London: Putnam, 1951. Hardback. Illustrated. Signed by the author on the publication page. Signed on an end leaf 'Love and best wishes to Rosemary Christmas 1953 from Daddy.'  
1106 pp.
- 1/1/4            1949  
 Beaumont, Cyril W. *Dancers under My Lens. Essays in Ballet Criticism.* London: C. W. Beaumont, 1949. Signed by the author on the dedication page. Hardback. Illustrated.  
160 pp.
- 1/1/5            1959  
 Beaumont, Cyril W. *Flash-Back. Stories of My Youth.* With a preface by Sacheverell Sitwell. London: C. W. Beaumont, 1951. Hardback with dust jacket (damaged). Signed by the author on the title page.  
106 pp.

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- 1/1/6 1952  
Beaumont, Cyril W. *Supplement to Complete Book of Ballets*. London: Putnam, 1952. Signed with a dedication to Rosemary Bartram by the author on the copyright page. Hardback with dust jacket (damaged). Illustrated.  
212 pp.
- 1/1/7 1992  
De Valois, Ninette. *Come Dance with Me. A Memoir 1898-1956*. Paperback edition. Dublin: The Lilliput Press Ltd., 1992. Illustrated. Signed by the author on the title page.  
238 pp.
- 1/1/8 1993  
Gregory, John. *The Legat Saga*. Second edition. London: Javog Publishing Associates, 1993. Hardback with dust jacket. Illustrated.  
187 pp.
- 1/1/9 1989  
Hall, Fernau. *The Beauty of Ballet*. With forewords by Margot Fonteyn and Eve Evdokimova. London: The Hamlyn Publishing Group Limited, 1989. Hardback with dust jacket (damaged). Illustrated.  
157 pp.
- 1/1/10 1947  
Haskell, Arnold in collaboration with Walter Nouvel. *Diaghileff. His Artistic and Private Life*. London: Victor Gollancz Ltd., 1947. Hardback. Illustrated. Signed on the end leaf 'To Sylvia from Rosemary with love Easter 1953'.  
318 pp.
- 1/1/11 1948  
Vaganova, Agrippina. *Basic Principles of Classical Ballet. Russian Ballet Technique*. Translated from the Russian by Anatole Chujoy. London: Adam & Charles Black, 1948. Hardback with dust jacket. Illustrated. Inside cover contains a label dedicating the book to Rosemary Bartram as a school prize by Alexandra College, Dublin.  
139 pp.

## 1.2 Magazines (1998)

- 1/2/1 June 1998  
Ninette de Valois centenary issue of *Dancing Times*. Lacking pages 833-834 and 839-840.  
94 pp.

**2 PROGRAMMES (1955-2013)**

- 2/1**            January 1955  
Programme of a studio recital by the Irish National Ballet School at Dagg Hall, Dublin on 17 and 31 January 1955. The programme cover has been signed by the performers. For a related photograph, see **5/2**.  
1 item
- 2/2**            11 July 1962  
Programme of a performance of *Checkmate*, *The Good Humoured Ladies*, and *Le Baiser de la Fée* by the Royal Ballet at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden on 11 July 1962. With a related ticket stub. For related press cuttings, see **3/4**.  
2 items
- 2/3**            21 July 1962  
Programme of a performance of *Divertissement from Napoli*, *Pas de deux from Flower Festival at Genzano*, *Antigone*, and *The Good Humoured Ladies* by the Royal Ballet at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden on 21 July 1962. For related press cuttings, see **3/5**.  
1 item
- 2/4**            15 February 1963  
Programme of a performance of *Checkmate*, *Symphony*, and *Les Patineurs* by the Royal Ballet at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden on 15 February 1963. For related press cuttings, see **3/6**.  
1 item
- 2/5**            1 July 1963  
Programme of a performance of *Swan Lake* by the Bolshoi Ballet at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden on 1 July 1963. With a related ticket stub. For related press cuttings see **3/7**.  
2 items
- 2/6**            21 June 1965  
Programme of a performance of *Sylvia* and *Danses Concertantes* by the Royal Ballet at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden on 21 June 1965. With a related ticket stub. For related press cuttings, see **3/8**.  
2 items

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- 2/7            1 September 1965  
Programme of a performance of *Donizetti Variations*, *Liebeslieder Walzer*, and *Stars and Stripes* by New York City Ballet at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden on 1 September 1965. With a related ticket stub. For related press cuttings, see 3/9.  
2 items
- 2/8            6 September 1965  
Programme of a performance of *Prodigal Son*, *Allegro Brillante*, *Momentum pro Gesualdo*, *Movements for Piano and Orchestra*, and *La Valse* by New York City Ballet at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden on 6 September 1965. With a related ticket stub. For related press cuttings, see 3/10.  
2 items
- 2/9            10 September 1965  
Programme of a performance of *Fanfare*, *Irish Fantasy*, *Agon*, and *Stars and Stripes* by New York City Ballet at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden on 10 September 1965. With a related ticket stub and amendment slip.  
3 items
- 2/10           16 July 1966  
Programme of a performance of *Les Sylphides*, *The Invitation*, and *Ramonda Act III* by the Royal Ballet at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden on 16 July 1966. With a related ticket stub.  
2 items
- 2/11           6 September 1966  
Programme of a performance of *Swan Lake* by the Leningrad State Kirov Ballet at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden on 6 September 1966. With two related ticket stubs.  
3 items
- 2/12           29 September 1966  
Programme of a performance of *La Bayadère*, *Gayaneh*, and *Divertissements* by the Leningrad State Kirov Ballet at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden on 29 September 1966. With a related ticket stub.  
2 items
- 2/13           26 March 1980  
Programme of the Cork Dance Company's sixth annual Charles Lynch concert at Connolly Hall on 26 March 1980.  
1 item



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- 2/14** 20 September 1992  
Programme of a performance of *Giselle* at the Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow on 20 September 1992. With handwritten comments relating to the performance on one of the end pages. Also a related souvenir booklet. In Russian.  
2 items
- 2/15** 22 September 1992  
Programme of a performance of *Swan Lake* by St Petersburg Company at the Pushkin Theatre, St Petersburg on 22 September 1992. With handwritten comments relating to the performance on one of the inside pages.  
1 item
- 2/16** 23 September 1992  
Programme of a performance of *Swan Lake* in St Petersburg on 23 September 1992. In Russian. With handwritten comments relating to the performance on the back page.  
1 item
- 2/17** 24 September 1992  
Programme of a performance of *Coppelia* at the Mariinsky Theatre, St Petersburg, on 24 September 1992. In Russian. With handwritten comments relating to the performance on the back page.  
1 item
- 2/18** 30 September 2013  
Souvenir programme of the gala premiere of *Don Quixote* by the Royal Ballet at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden on 30 September 2013. For a related press cutting, see **3/14**.  
1 item

### **3 PRESS CUTTINGS (1955-2013)**

- 3/1** 4 July 1955  
Article relating to the Irish National Ballet School extracted from the *Weekly Bulletin of the Department of External Affairs* No. 286 (4 July 1955). The article is accompanied by photographs of dancers Janet Neesham and Eistir O'Brolchain in costume.  
4 pp.

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- 3/2            January 1958  
Press cuttings relating to the opening of the new premises of the National School of Ballet at 39 Parnell Square, Dublin; the departure of its director, Madame Valentina Dutko, to the United States; and the prospect of the formation of a national ballet company in Ireland.  
6 items
- 3/3            [May 1960]  
Press cutting from *The Courier* entitled 'The Legat Ballet School Gets a New Home'.  
1 item
- 3/4            July 1962  
Reviews of a performance of *The Good Humoured Ladies* by the Royal Ballet at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden on 11 July 1962. For a related programme, see 2/2.  
8 items
- 3/5            July 1962  
Reviews of a performance of *Antigone* and *The Good Humoured Ladies* by the Royal Ballet at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden on 21 July 1962. For a related programme, see 2/3.  
5 items
- 3/6            February 1963  
Reviews of a performance of *Symphony* by the Royal Ballet at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden on 15 February 1963. For a related programme, see 2/4.  
7 items
- 3/7            July 1963  
Reviews of a performance of *Swan Lake* by the Bolshoi Ballet at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden on 1 July 1963. For a related programme, see 2/5.  
8 items
- 3/8            June 1965  
Reviews of a performance of *Sylvia* by the Royal Ballet at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden on 21 June 1965. For a related programme see 2/6.  
3 items

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- 3/9**            September 1965  
Reviews of a performance by the New York City Ballet at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden on 1 September 1965. For a related programme, see **2/7**.  
3 items
- 3/10**            September 1965  
Reviews of a performance of Balanchine's choreographic works by the New York City Ballet at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden on 6 September 1965. For a related programme, see **2/8**.  
5 items
- 3/11**            19 September 1984  
Press cutting relating to the funeral of pianist Charles Lynch.  
1 item
- 3/12**            April 1993  
Press cuttings relating to a week-long celebration of dance in theatres around Cork city.  
2 items
- 3/13**            July-August 1997  
Press cuttings relating to an international summer school at the Gibson-Madden School of Dance, Cork. For a related timetable, see **6/2/7**.  
2 items
- 3/14**            6 October 2013  
Review of the gala premiere of *Don Quixote* by the Royal Ballet at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden on 30 September 2013. For a related programme, see **2/18**.  
1 item

#### **4 CORRESPONDENCE (c. 1955-2013)**

- 4/1**            [c. 1955-1959]  
Postcard and Christmas greeting cards from Cyril Beaumont; also a handwritten price list of books by Beaumont on writing paper bearing the address and logo of his bookshop.  
5 items

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- 4/2            21 February 1957  
Letter from Nadine Nicolaeva-Legat, The Legat School, Bishops Down Park Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, giving advice on running a ballet school.  
2 pp.
- 4/3            28 January 1958  
Letter from Anton Dolin, 11 Curzon Lodge, Curzon Place, London W1, thanking Rosemary Dalton for permission to use her dance studio, and making arrangements for giving classes to the senior students of her school.  
1 p.
- 4/4            April-October 1966  
Letter from the Legat School Development Fund, Finchcocks, Goudhurst, Cranbrook, Kent, seeking financial support towards the running of the school. Also a related brochure and booklet, and two issues of *Legat News* published by the Legat School Trust.  
5 items
- 4/5            [1991]  
Draft circular from the Vaganova Academy Fund Committee (Rosemary Dalton, Eric Gibson, and Mary Gibson-Madden) seeking financial assistance for the students of Vaganova Ballet Academy in St Petersburg who are starving.  
1 p.
- 4/6            12 April 1995 (date of original)  
Photocopy of a letter from Dame Ninette de Valois to Professor Ciaran Benson, Chairman, The Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, in which she as principal patron of Ballet Theatre Ireland queries the Art Council's decision to refuse the dance company's application for funding.  
2 pp.
- 4/7            10 February 1996 (date of original)  
Photocopy of a letter from Sir Peter Wright, Director Laureate, Birmingham Royal Ballet to the Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, urging the Arts Council to give favourable consideration to an application for funding which the Ballet Theatre Ireland is about to make.  
2 pp.
- 4/8            14 February 1996  
Letter from Derek Purnell, Administrative Director, Birmingham Royal Ballet to The Arts Council, 70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2, supporting Ballet Theatre Ireland's application for funding.  
1 p.

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4/9 17 January 1997  
Letter from Helen Quinnell, secretary to Dame Ninette de Valois, thanking Rosemary Dalton for her letters and providing news of de Valois' state of health.

1 p.

4/10 28 July 1999  
Greeting card from Helen Quinnell, secretary to Dame Ninette de Valois, enclosing a newsletter from the Royal Ballet School (now not present) and a photograph taken on de Valois' 101st birthday (for which see 5/9).

1 item

## 5 PHOTOGRAPHS (1925-1999)

5/1 [1925]  
Black and white photograph (200 x 151 mm) of Anna Pavlova in a scene from *The Dying Swan*.

1 item

5/2 January 1955  
Black and white photograph (209 x 157 mm) by the *Irish Times* of Irish National Ballet School dancers Eistir O'Brolchain, Clidna O'Riordan, and Pauline Hill performing at the Olympia Theatre, Dublin in January 1955. For a related programme, see 2/1.

1 item

5/3 1955  
Black and white photograph (208 x 158 mm) by the *Irish Times* of Cecil French Salkeld, director of The Irish National Ballet School, with his assistant Helen Moloney and two dancers in costume.

1 item

5/4 [c. 1950s]  
Black and white group portrait (253 x 202 mm) of Madame Nadine Nicolaeva-Legat with her senior students.

1 item

5/5 1992  
Colour photograph (130 x 101 mm) of (L-R) Rodney Bolingbroke, Nikolai de Lusignan, Eric Gibson, Frances Reilly, Mary Gibson-Madden, and Rosemary Dalton at a summer school in Rochelle House [Cork].

1 item

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- 5/6** [1993]  
Paper printout of a colour photograph of a scene from *The Nutcracker* by Ballet Theatre Ireland with Karen Downey as Clara in centre stage.  
1 item
- 5/7** 6 June 1998  
Colour photograph (151 x 102 mm) of Dame Ninette de Valois, Anthony Dowell, and Merle Park in front of White Lodge, Richmond Park, London on de Valois' 100th birthday.  
1 item
- 5/8** 6 June 1998  
Colour photograph (151 x 102 mm) of Dame Ninette de Valois and her secretary Helen Quinnell with her husband David Quinnell in the garden at White Lodge, Richmond Park, London on de Valois' 100th birthday.  
1 item
- 5/9** 6 June 1999  
Colour photograph (151 x 102 mm) of Dame Ninette de Valois surrounded by well-wishers on her 101st birthday. For the names of individuals featured in the image, see **4/10**.  
1 item

## **6 MEMORABILIA (c. 1950-1997)**

### **6.1 Autographs (c. 1950-1955)**

Also see **2/1** and **6/2/6**

- 6/1/1** 1950-1951  
Small hardback notebook containing signatures of members of International Ballet, Ram Gopal Company, Festival Ballet, and individual dance professionals collected at performances given in Dublin.  
1 item
- 6/1/2** [c. 1950s]  
Small hardback notebook containing signatures of members of Sadler's Wells Theatre Ballet. The signatures were collected during the company's performance at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin. *Fragile*.  
1 item

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6/1/3 [c. 1950s]  
Sheet of lightweight card bearing the signature of John Gilpin (1930-1983), principal dancer of the London Festival Ballet from 1950 to 1971.  
1 item

6.2 Other (c. 1950-1997)

6/2/1 [c. 1950s]  
The Association of Russian Ballet syllabus for the examinee.  
8 pp.

6/2/2 23 July 1966  
Invitation to the Legat School Founder's Day Garden Party on 23 July 1966.  
1 item

6/2/3 21 February 1993  
Railway ticket and related note. The ticket was issued to members of the Gibson-Madden School of Dance to perform and be interviewed on RTÉ.  
2 items

6/2/4 19 December 1993  
Ticket for a performance of *The Nutcracker* by Ballet Theatre Ireland at the Cork Opera House.  
1 item.

6/2/5 11 December 1994  
Invitation to a performance of *Swan Lake* by Ballet Theatre Ireland with guest artists from Het National Ballet, Amsterdam on 11 December 1994 at the Cork Opera House.  
3 items

6/2/6 [December 1994]  
Thank you-card signed by members of Ballet Theatre Ireland to commemorate the company's final performance.  
1 item

6/2/7 28 July-2 August 1997  
Timetable of the Gibson-Madden School of Dance international summer school on 28 July-2 August 1997. For related press cuttings, see **3/13**.  
1 p.

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