



Agnes Cady MacNutt Scrapbook (S0018)

Collection Number: S0018

Collection Title: Agnes Cady MacNutt Scrapbook

Dates: 1912-1937

Creator: MacNutt, Agnes Cady, 1887-1975

Abstract: The Agnes Cady MacNutt Scrapbook contains photocopies from a scrapbook owned by Agnes Cady MacNutt, who, in the early 20th Century, was a prominent voice in the Dance Movement on the Playground of the Parks and Recreational System of the City of St. Louis.

Collection Size: 0.06 cubic feet
(6 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](http://www.shsmo.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Agnes Cady MacNutt Scrapbook* (S0018); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Alexandra M. Usher on May 29, 1980 (Accession No. SA2297).

Existence and Location of Originals: Alexandra M. Usher retained the original scrapbook. The current location of the originals is unknown.

Related Materials: Additional materials related to the Agnes Cady MacNutt Scrapbook can be found in the following collections:

[Anna Agris Papers \(S0804\)](#)

Processed by: Processed by Reilly McDonald and AJ Medlock, August 15, 2023

Historical Note:

Agnes Cady was born in St. Louis, Missouri, on November 12, 1887. After the death of her parents, George Cady (1858-1893) and Clara Romyn (1859-1901), Cady and her seven siblings were raised by their grandmother, Eliza Romyn (1836-1921), and their eldest sibling William R. Cady (1879-1955). During her teenage years, Cady traveled to New York and Cleveland to train professionally as a ballet dancer and spent an additional eighteen months studying in Italy. After returning to St. Louis in 1915, Cady became the dancing supervisor for the Forest Park Playground Productions. During this time, Cady cemented herself as a pioneer of the Dance Movement on the Playground of the Parks and Recreational System of the City of St. Louis, whose primary goal was to bring the performing arts to recreational areas in St. Louis, due to her involvement in the annual St. Louis Municipal Opera Festival and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch Christmas Follies*.

In 1922, Cady assisted in the creation of the Grand Boulevard Community Center, whose purpose was to provide specialized training to young performers in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area. Cady's role at the Center was Directress of Dancing, making her responsible for various projects, including the annual *Entre Dasante Revue*. Cady assisted in additional productions for organizations such as The Shakespeare Association of Washington University, The Wednesday Club of Saint Louis, and the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra throughout the 1920s and 1930s.

In May 1924, Agnes Cady married Joseph Scott MacNutt (1885-1974), a leading portrait painter in St. Louis. The couple permanently relocated to Vandeventer Place, near the newly established St. Louis Theater District. They had two children, Francis MacNutt (1925-2020) and Margaret Alexandra MacNutt (1929-2019). The family traveled often, including in 1926 trips to visit Joseph's family in Germany and France.

In 1937, MacNutt temporarily relocated to Ogunquit, Maine, where she starred as Goya in *A Pageant of Art* at the Colony Theatre. Upon returning to St. Louis, MacNutt resumed her involvement with the performing arts, and continued to be an avid supporter of the St. Louis theatre scene late into her life. Agnes Cady and Joseph MacNutt died a few months apart of one another, with Joseph passing away in September of 1974 and Agnes in February of 1975.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into a single series in chronological order.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains photocopies of a scrapbook owned by Agnes Cady MacNutt, and contains information regarding the Dance Movement on the Playground of the Parks and Recreational System of the City of St. Louis. Also included are photographs of performers from the St. Louis Municipal Opera Theatre from 1918 to 1925. Topics of interest include the St. Louis Municipal Opera Theatre, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch Christmas Follies*, and the Grand Boulevard Community Center. Materials of note include playbills from the annual Municipal Playgrounds Festival and photocopied articles from the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* regarding

performances directed by MacNutt. The collection dates from 1912 to 1937 and is arranged chronologically.

Container List:

f. 1-6 Agnes Cady MacNutt Scrapbook, 1912-1937

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