



## **Anna Agris Papers (S0804)**

**Collection Number:** S0804

**Collection Title:** Anna Agris Papers

**Dates:** 1921-1984

**Creator:** Agris, Anna, 1906-1986

**Abstract:** This collection contains dance programs, photographs, newspaper clippings from pageants, musicals, and dance performances for the municipal playground festival, documenting Anna Agris's career as a ballet dancer and dance instructor in Chicago, Illinois and St. Louis, Missouri.

**Collection Size:** 0.4 cubic foot  
(19 folders, 100 photographs)

**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](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [stlouis@shsmo.org](mailto:stlouis@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Rights & Reproductions](#) on the Society's website for more information about reproductions and permission to publish.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Anna Agris Papers* (S0804); 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 Anna Agris on April 8, 1985 (Accession No. SA2683). An addition was made on April 18, 1985 by Anna Agris (Accession No. SA2690). An addition was made on July 8, 1986 by Anna Agris (Accession No. SA2754).

**Processed by:** Updated by Garret B. Kremer-Wright, May 28, 2020

**Biographical Note:**

Anna Agress was born in 1906 in St. Louis, Missouri, to Julius and Rebecca Agress. She graduated from William Harris Teachers College in 1925, after which she taught elementary school for several years. She began her study of dance under Miss Agnes Cady McNutt. At the age of 19 she attended the Pavley-Oukrainsky Dance School in Chicago taught by dance masters Andreas Pavley and Serge Oukrainsky. She became Pavley's secretary with the school and stayed in that position for the next seven years. Upon Pavley's death in 1931, Agris taught classes for Oukrainsky before he closed the school and moved to California. Agris remained in Chicago as the executive director of Century of Progress. She later returned to St. Louis to form her own dance studio. She also taught dance classes at St. Joseph's Academy and St. Louis School of Theater. She also arranged choreography for several local organizations including Catholic Charities of America, American Legion, and the International Ladies' Garment Worker's Union. She also studied dance with Anton Dolin in New York for an unknown period of time. She married Dr. Harry Agris, originally from Brooklyn, New York, around 1943. She died on May 30, 1986, and was buried in Beth Israel Memorial Park in Woodbridge, New Jersey.

**Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged into the following 2 series:

Personal Papers  
Photographs

**Scope and Content Note:****Personal Papers**

This series contains materials related to the personal and professional career of Anna Agris from 1921 to 1984. Included in this series is a biography of Agris, correspondence, dancing related papers, newspaper clippings, scrapbook, and scripts.

**Photographs**

This series consists of images of Anna Agris, Andreas Pavley, Serge Oukrainsky, and unidentified ballet dancers of Pavley-Oukrainsky ballet studio and other ballet studios from the 1920s to 1940s.

**Container List:**

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| f. 1-15 | Personal Papers   |
| f. 1    | Anna Agris career biography, 1933   |
| f. 2    | Certificate, 1933   |
| f. 3    | <i>Dance Macabre: The Life and Death of Andreas Pavley</i> by Arthur Corey, no date |
| f. 4    | Correspondence, 1934-1979   |
| f. 5    | "Dance in St. Louis", 1983-1984   |
| f. 6    | Dance instruction, 1939-1941  |

- f. 7 Dance teaching materials, 1934-1938
- f. 8 Harikuda Israeli Dance Camp, 1959-1965
- f. 9 International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, 1936-1941
- f. 10 Music, no date
- f. 11 Newspaper clippings, 1921-1967
- f. 12 Pavley-Oukrainsky Dance School, 1922-1979
- f. 13 Performance programs, 1921-1960
- f. 14 Scrapbook, 1930-1942
- f. 15 Scripts, no date
- f. 16-19 Photographs
  - f. 16 Anna Agris, Andreas Pavley, Serge Oukrainsky, other unidentified and identified ballet dancers, 804.1-804.30 (29 photographs), 1920s-1940s
  - f. 17 Anna Agris, dancers with Pavley-Oukrainsky Dance Camp in Chicago, and Oak Park Playground Dance Group, 804.31-804.49 (18 photographs), 1920s-1940s
  - f. 18 Andreas Pavley and unidentified ballet dancers in costume, 804.50-804.93 (43 photographs), 1920s-1940s
  - f. 19 Anna Agris, Serge Oukrainsky, and unidentified ballet dancers, 804.94-804.100 (6 photographs), 1920s-1940s

**Index:**

| Index Term                   | Folder        | Image |
|------------------------------|---------------|-------|
| Agris, Anna, 1906-1986       | 1-19          | Yes   |
| Dance--Missouri--Saint Louis | 1-19          | Yes   |
| Oukrainsky, Serge, 1885-1972 | 12, 16, 19    | Yes   |
| Pavley, Andreas, 1892-1931   | 3, 12, 16, 18 | Yes   |