

John Willis

A Preliminary Inventory of His collection of Ted Shawn at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Willis, John, 1916-2010
Title: John Willis Collection of Ted Shawn
Dates: 1966-1971
Extent: 1 document box (.42 linear feet)
Abstract: Correspondence and newsletters from dancer and choreographer Ted Shawn to John Willis, editor of *Dance World*.
Call Number: Performing Arts Collection PA-00403
Language: English
Access: Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition: Purchase, 2016 (16-09-011-P)
Processed by: Elizabeth E. Preston, 2016
Repository: [Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin](#)

Scope and Contents

The John Willis Collection of Ted Shawn consists of over sixty letters from American dancer and choreographer Ted Shawn to John Willis, editor of the annual publication *Dance World*. The letters contain information about Jacob's Pillow Dance, the dance festival and school Shawn founded and operated in Massachusetts, Shawn's travel between his Florida and Massachusetts homes, and his health. The correspondence is warm and personal, and spans the last few years of Shawn's life. Also included are three editions of the annual newsletter Shawn produced and sent to friends and supporters. The newsletters are long narratives recounting the previous year of Shawn's personal and professional life.

Related Material

The Malcolm Pitt Papers at the Ransom Center contain material from Ted Shawn and Jacob's Pillow Dance.

Correspondence, 1966-1971

Container 1.1-3

Newsletters, 1968, 1970-1971

Container 1.4-6