

Highlights

We're Back	1
Ann Hutchinson Guest Honored	1
Spotlight	1
1999 in Philadelphia	1
On The Road	2
Passing the Torch	2
The Library	2
Muriel Topaz, Guggenheim Fellow	2
Extension News	2
The New Elementary Labanotation Study Guide is Now Available	

We're Back

This is the revival of the DNB's newsletter, with a new volume number series to reflect the new title. It is your forum as well as a source of news from the DNB in New York and the Extension at Ohio State. We hope you will send in reports from the field to new Board member Senta Driver, who will edit the Bulletin from the New York office.

Ann Hutchinson Guest Honored

The Congress on Research in Dance will present an award to Ann Hutchinson Guest for Outstanding Contribution to Dance Research at its conference in Tucson, AZ November 1, 1997. DNB Executive Director Ilene Fox and Board member Dawn Lille Horwitz are among the DNB representatives expected to attend. Guest, one of the four founders of the DNB in 1940, has published many works about notation as well as books which include full notation scores. She received the DNB's own Lifetime Achievement award in 1991. We append below our special *révérence*.

Spotlight

A regular feature on a current DNB project

Notating Revelations

Under a grant to the DNB from the National Endowment for the Arts, Ray Cook is at work on the score of Alvin Ailey's great signature work *Revelations*, only the second Ailey work to be notated (after *Lark Ascending*, written by Sandra Aberkals in 1993). Cook worked during the mounting of the dance on the Ailey II company in the summer of 1997. First performed in 1960, this dance has been treasured by audiences all over the world.

Ilene Fox, Executive Director, said, "I am so pleased we are able to document this seminal work so that future generations can enjoy it as much as I do."

1999 in Philadelphia

Planning is underway for World Dance 2000, Celebration of the Millennium, a three-year series of events around the world. In 1999 an Assembly and Festival addressing "Heritage" will be sponsored in 1999 in Philadelphia by the World Dance Alliance Americas. You are encouraged to propose performances of works, especially those restaged from score, or workshops and papers, that illustrate the legacy of dance's past. A formal call will go out shortly to all DNB members. This event is a wonderful opportunity to show how notation supports a living legacy for dance. Proposals and questions may be directed to Ruth Abrahams, President, WDA Americas c/o Janney, 433 W. 34th Street, #8L, New York, NY 10001.

On The Road

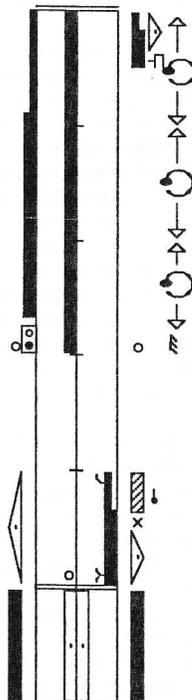
Executive Director Ilene Fox has been travelling extensively in the last five months. In June she went to Vancouver for the World Dance Alliance Americas Assembly, and spoke on a panel about the DNB's role in dance documentation. August found her in Hong Kong for the biennial meeting of the International Council of Kinetography Laban (ICKL). This conference, the first held in Asia since the organization was founded in 1959, attracted participants from Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea and the Phillipines in addition to delegations from the West. The

DNBulletin
Dance Notation Bureau
31 West 21st St
New York NY 10010
phone : 212/807-7899
fax: 212/675-9657
e-mail:
notation@mindspring.com
website: www.dance.ohio-
state.edu/files/dnb/index.html

Executive Director : Ilene Fox
Librarian: Peggy Domer
Notators: Sandra Aberkals,
Robin Hoffman
Director of Restaging: Leslie
Rotman
Administrative Assistant:
Beverly Jensen

Dance Notation Bureau
Extension for Education and
Research, The Ohio State
University Director: Sheila
Marion

Editor: Senta Driver



breadth of the Asian representation reflects the influence of Carl Wolz in raising interest in Labanotation in Asia. Fox serves on the ICKL Research panel.

By September Fox stretched her itinerary halfway around the globe, arriving in Essen, Germany for the Executive Council meeting of the World Dance Alliance's three present constituents: Asia/Pacific, Americas and Europe. Her travelling illustrates both the reach of Labanotation in the world today and the role the DNB plays internationally in dance.

Passing the Torch

Notator Siân Ferguson has retired from her position, a joint one with the DNB and the Paul Taylor Dance Company, after three and a half years, to move to Ireland, where her husband has joined the faculty of the University College of Dublin. Siân plans to finish her work on a CD-ROM entitled *Twenty Dances*, which carries information on works in the DNB library available for staging and will be a valuable marketing tool. She will be missed. Among the Taylor works she has notated are *Moonbine* and *Eventide*.

Siân has been succeeded by Robin Hoffman, who begins work in November. The assignment places Hoffman notating exclusively for the Taylor Company. Through this partnership with the DNB 27 Taylor dances have been recorded. Hoffman danced with the Louisville Ballet before leaving to develop her interest in Labanotation in New York and to dance with the Joffrey Ballet and the Metropolitan Opera Ballet. She is currently working with Dennis Diamond on a videodance project with a notation component, using choreography by Peter Pucci. She was awarded the Ben Sommers Scholarship for Notator Training at the DNB in 1992.

Dance Notation Bureau
31 West 21st Street
New York, NY 10010

The Library

Work proceeds on the enormous task of cataloguing the Library holdings in a way that will serve both DNB members and researchers from around the world. Peggy Domer is charged with adapting computer software made for commercial use into an instrument flexible enough to describe the complex Library holdings - including both theatrical and non-theatrical scores - and precise enough to match the formats standardized by the Library of Congress and the Dance Heritage Coalition, which acts as the clearing house for all dance collections.

Since the DNB collection is of interest to dancers and writers beyond those who plan to restage a work, its materials must be easy to find. The key is the comprehensiveness and clarity of the citation used in on-line listing. Since her arrival at the DNB in March, Domer has been working to service the requests that come in daily while maintaining the painstaking long-term work of developing the appropriate new instrument. Actual entering of Library items is the easy part, once the right format meshes the usages of three constituencies: dancers and restagers, the dance library world, and the general library world.

Book and manuscript collections are always ravenous for space. Domer is also culling the DNB stacks of journals and magazines to retain those with notation-related articles and put the remainder up for adoption. She has been successful in locating universities and dance schools with a need for these masses of back issues, which helps both students and the crush in the two-room DNB Archive where the original 'family jewels' and master copies of an increasing number of scores are protected.

Muriel Topaz, Guggenheim Fellow

Board member, former Executive Director, holder of numerous staff positions for some forty years - Muriel Topaz has been in the DNB office almost as long as we've had one. She is back now using the DNB library resources to research a new biography of Antony Tudor under a 1997-98 Guggenheim Fellowship. Topaz proposed to draw upon

her years of close work with Tudor, for whom she was a student, an assistant with his touring group, restager of many works and notator. That there are so many scores to consult is her doing: she persuaded Tudor to seek National Endowment for the Humanities funding for the project that recorded six of his major works.

Extension News

Lucy Venable reports that LabanWriter 4.0 is at the stage of beta testing. But not yet ready to be released. The long requested "undo" has just been implemented. It is more flexible for the notator, offering more accessible menus and new fonts which should improve the printing, translation to other programs and the resizing of the non-stretchable symbols.

Sheila Marion is working with Will Smith on LabanReader, a program that will help students look at a score as a trained reader does. The program can zero in on, for example, the support columns, with the rest of the information grayed down. This encourages reading in through-lines and the student can return to examine other columns in turn, without initial distraction from dense writing. Marion and Smith demonstrated LabanReader at ICKL.

Internet conversations about notation are now possible through LabanTalk: a recent topic was notation of improvisational movement. Contact: listserv@lists.acs.ohio-state.edu and type in *subscribe LabanTalk First name Last name*.

▶▶▶ The New Elementary Labanotation Study Guide is Now Available

Elementary Labanotation: A Study Guide by Muriel Topaz (\$25.95) has been available for just over a year from Princeton Book Company (1-800-220-7149). Replacing the old study guide, this new, expanded text includes more extended reading examples in different dance styles. The final chapter, by Odette Blum, explores motif description with sample lessons showing its presentation and use. Get your copy today!