

Helen Delano Willard was born in Chicago, but was raised and received her early education in the town of Stoughton, Wisconsin. She earned a bachelor's degree in English Literature at the University of Wisconsin. Subsequently, she taught at the high school level for several years in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Her lifetime interest in art developed in part from a position she held for a number of years as Assistant to the President at University Prints where sets of works of art were published for use as teaching aids. In 1943 she came to the Fogg Art Museum where she distinguished herself as secretary to the Curator of the Department of Drawings, and was soon made Assistant to the Curator. She became a staff member of the Department of Prints and Drawings at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts in November 1956, where she worked until 1959. Her special interest in drawings led her to publish a small book on the Museum's William Blake watercolors at the time of an exhibition of his work in 1957. From 1959 to 1960 she travelled and studied in Japan.

In July 1960 she became Curator of the Harvard Theatre Collection at the Houghton Library. She not only maintained the Theatre Collection's vast range of holdings, the oldest in this country and one of the best in the world, but also expanded it selectively in ways designed to enhance its strengths. Coming in as she did after an earlier period of understaffing and underfunding, she also began to impose order upon the collection. Her efforts made material that does not easily lend itself to ordinary cataloguing methods more available to both faculty and students. Her contacts with theatre figures, producers, designers, and collectors, not only in this country but abroad, were wide-ranging; and her love of her work and devotion to the collection entrusted to her were factors in persuading many donors either to regard the Harvard Theatre Collection as the most fitting repository for their treasures or to give funds to enable her to make purchases for it that would not otherwise have been possible.

She retired on June 30, 1972, but remained active in artistic and cultural pursuits, as well as community affairs. She travelled widely in several foreign countries and throughout the United States and Canada. Her several visits to England nurtured a love of that country and its people, many of whom became her close friends.

Helen was known by all for her kindness and consideration. She frequently assisted those in need of special attention. She was loved by a large and diverse number of people. All, and especially children, responded to her warm interest and affection. She was known through the years as "Aunt Helen" by many, both in and outside her family. She will be missed by her family, friends, community, and associates throughout the world, all of whom were enriched by her life.

## Libraries, Archives, Research Centers, Institutions

The Library of Congress' and Kennedy Center's **Performing Arts Library** hosted the opening reception for the American Dance Guild's annual meeting in Washington, D.C. on June 14. Head Librarian Peter Fay welcomed guests who had the opportunity to explore and use the Center. Featured in the library was a small exhibition of rare manuscripts from the Main Building of the Library of Congress which accentuated the Kennedy Center's novel concert exploration of "The Romantic Epoch." Lectures, films, concerts, dance, and theater using all the concert facilities in the Kennedy Center complex, showcased great masterworks of French Romanticism in a two-month season, May through June. Visiting artists were: The Stuttgart Ballet, Comedie Française, Orchestre de Paris, the National Symphony, and the Washington Choral Arts. G.S.

**The Smithsonian Institution's Division of Performing Arts** includes several dance events for the 1979–1980 Smithsonian Concert Series. The World Explorer programs has presented two dance concerts paired with lecture-demonstrations: Chinese opera dancer, *Hu Hung-Yen* November 2, 1979 and Korean dancers *A-AK* December 4. Two more are scheduled: Balinese dancer *I Made Bandem* January 13 and the *Royal Musicians and Dancers of the Kingdom of Bhutan* March 5 in their first United States tour. Discovery Theater, home of the Children's Series, will present dancing along with singing, acting, and clowning. Schedules and subscription information can be obtained by writing to the Division of Performing Arts, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. 20560.

"Prints and Personalities: The American Theater's First Hundred Years," an exhibition at the Smithsonian's National Collection of Fine Arts, attracted summer audiences until September 9. Curator Janet Flint has prepared a list of prints exhibited, including dancers Lola Montez and Fanny Elssler, which can be obtained from her by writing c/o National Collection of Fine Arts, Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C. 20560. G.S.

**Ethnographic Museum Receives Grant for Film on Dance:** The Greater Cleveland Ethnographic Museum was established to collect, preserve and interpret aspects of traditional culture as maintained in Cleveland's ethnic communities. Growing out of a Bicentennial project, the Museum's staff works within the city's many ethnic communities.

The Museum was awarded \$20,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Ohio Arts Council to produce a film on ethnic dance in Cleveland. Dance has remained a cultural expression in most groups transplanted in America. What the general public is aware of is costumed, choreographed ethnic dance. This film examines informal social dance in the context of community picnics and festivals. In doing this it relates the maintenance of these dances to community life. Divided into three sections the film looks at set dancing in the Irish community, circle dancing in the Greek community and couple/polka dancing among the Slovenians. All filming took place in the Greater Cleveland metropolitan area.