

Guide to the Ffolliott "Fluff" LeCoque Papers

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Summary Information

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| Repository: | University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives. |
| Creator: | LeCoque, Fluff |
| Title: | Ffolliott "Fluff" LeCoque Papers |
| ID: | MS-00826 |
| Date [bulk]: | approximately 1930-2015 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1879 to 2015 |
| Physical Description: | 2.56 Cubic Feet (4 oversized boxes, 3 boxes, 1 flat file) |
| Physical Description: | 8.77 Linear Feet |
| Language of the Material: | English |
| Abstract: | Collection is comprised of Ffolliott "Fluff" LeCoque's professional and personal papers (1879-2015), documenting her life and career working as a dancer and later as company manager for Las Vegas entertainment productions; most notably the long-running <i>Jubilee!</i> show produced by Donn Arden for the MGM Grand and Bally's Hotel-Casinos. Materials include personal letters, drawings, professional papers, newspaper clippings, photographs, magazines, commercially produced sheet music, and related ephemera. |

Preferred Citation

Ffolliott "Fluff" LeCoque Papers, 1879-2015. MS-00826. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Ffolliott "Fluff" LeCoque (1923-2016) was born Ffolliott Charlton in Butte, Montana in 1923 where her father was a miner. She grew up in Seattle, developing an early interest in acting and dance. LeCoque attended the University of Washington, actively participating in a sorority before graduating with a degree in theater. Before moving permanently to Las Vegas, Nevada, LeCoque danced for 18 months in *Hollywood Extravaganza*, a Donn Arden & Ron Fletcher production in

Paris, France. She then moved on to another Arden-Fletcher production at the Lookout House, a "Syndicate" club in Covington, Kentucky, and then to California where she spent a decade as both dancer and company manager at the Moulin Rouge in Los Angeles.

In 1947, LeCoque was hired as a singer with the Chuck Gould Orchestra, performing on a six-week contract at the Last Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada for \$35 a week. The following year, Donn Arden asked LeCoque to join his company as a dancer in *Lido in Paris* at the newly opened Thunderbird Hotel; she was soon named "Miss Thunderbird" and became the show's principal dancer.

LeCoque worked for Arden for the remainder of her performing career, as both a dancer and company manager, retiring from the stage at the age of 43. In 1973, Arden asked LeCoque to serve as company manager for his new show, *Hallelujah Hollywood!*, at the MGM Grand Hotel-Casino. This was the beginning of a new career that spanned the next four decades. As Arden's company manager, LeCoque auditioned thousands of showgirls and dancers over the years to appear in Arden shows, particularly the long-running *Jubilee!*

"Fluff" LeCoque retired for a second time in 2012 at the age of 87, and passed away in her Las Vegas home in December 2015 at the age of 92.

Sources:

Katsilometes, John. "'Jubilee' icon Fluff LeCoque dies at age 92," Las Vegas Sun (Las Vegas, NV), December 10, 2015.

Archuleta, Jon. "Las Vegas 'Jubilee' dancer, manager Fluff LeCoque dies at 92," Fox5, February 19, 2016, <http://www.fox5vegas.com/story/30726471/las-vegas-jubilee-dancer-manager-fluff-lecoque-dies-at-92>.

Clarke, Norm. "Vegas entertainment pioneer LeCoque dies," Las Vegas Review Journal (Las Vegas, NV), December 10, 2015.

LeCoque, F., Marshall, J., Las Vegas Women in Gaming Entertainment Oral History Project, & Women's Research Institute of Nevada. (1998). *An interview with Fluff LeCoque : An oral history*. Las Vegas, Nev.]: University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

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Scope and Contents Note

The collection (1879-2015) is comprised of newspapers, magazines, commercial sheet music, photographs, and documentation primarily relating to Ffolliott "Fluff" LeCoque's career as a dancer and stage manager in Las Vegas, Nevada. These materials offer insight into Las Vegas's entertainment industry, particularly as it relates to stage productions involving showgirls, and significant historical documentation on the production *Jubilee!* as well as LeCoque's involvement with the show. Additional materials document aspects of LeCoque's high school and college life

and include personal sketches and drawings, magazine headshots of Hollywood actors, a sequined jacket, and an oil-painting, painted by LeCoque, of her mother.

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Arrangement

Materials are arranged roughly by theme.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2016 by Diane Palm; accession number 2017-002.

Processing Note

A rough inventory of the accession was created by Maggie Bukowski and Tammi Kim in 2017. To prepare the inventory, the described materials were reviewed to create a contents list, estimate dates, and identify materials. In 2017, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Melise Leech and Chris Bruce rehoused and arranged the materials, and revised the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Donn Arden Photographs, approximately 1920-1989. PH-00328. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Tom Hansen Collection on the *Jubilee!* Stage Show, 1995-2012. MS-00106. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Nevada, Nevada.

LeCoque, Fluff, Interview, 1978 March 03, OH-01090. Ralph Roske Oral History Project on Early Las Vegas, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Nevada, Nevada.

LeCoque, Fluff, Interview, 1992 May 05 and May 21, OH-01091. Oral History, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Nevada, Nevada.

LeCoque, Ffolliott "Fluff", Interview, 1997 May 05, OH-02269. Las Vegas Women in Gaming and Entertainment Oral History Project, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Nevada, Nevada.

LeCoque, Ffolliott "Fluff", Interview, 2012 September 24, OH-02270. African Americans in Las Vegas: a Collaborative Oral History Project, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Hello, Hollywood, Hello!
- photographs
- Showgirls -- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Entertainment -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Arden, Donn, 1917-1994
- Riviera Hotel & Casino (Las Vegas Strip, Nev.)
- Thunderbird Hotel and Casino (Las Vegas, Nev.)
- Hallelujah Hollywood
- Jubilee! (Las Vegas, Nev.)

Collection Inventory

| Title/Description | Containers |
|--|------------|
| Personal materials | |
| Photographic negatives - "Fluff" LeCoque - head shots and lock of hair, approximately 1945-1955 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photographic negatives - "Fluff" LeCoque - head shots, 1945-1955 (view online) • Lock of hair from "Fluff" LeCoque (view online) | box 01 |
| Photographs, candid - "Fluff" LeCoque, family, and co-workers, 1960s-2000s (view online) | box 01 |
| Photographs, professional and candid - "Fluff" LeCoque - includes portraits taken by Maryanne Billham, approximately 1980-2015 (view online) | box 01 |
| Photographs, souvenir - Hollywood head shots of actors and actresses, approximately 1930-1940 (view online) | box 01 |
| Photographs, autographed - Jerry Lewis, Eddie Fisher, Patti Page, Donald O'Connor, approximately 1939-1959 (view online) | box 01 |
| Cards and letters to "Fluff" LeCoque, approximately 1980s-1990s (view online) | box 01 |
| Personal papers, including funeral program for Joe Bellomo and speech notes, approximately 1935-2000 (view online) | box 01 |
| Magazines with articles featuring "Fluff" LeCoque, 1951-1997 (view online) | box 01 |
| Small tambourine signed, 1931-1932 (view online) | box 01 |
| Professional materials | |
| Las Vegas Dreams publication autographed by Jim Bickford, 2006 (view online) | box 02 |
| Siegfried and Roy at the Mirage program, autographed, 1992 (view online) | box 02 |
| Bally's Winner - promotional publications; Bally's Update and Bally High - Employee focused publications, 1990-1997 (view online) | box 02 |
| Reminder list of eligible releases for Oscars, 1995 (view online) | box 02 |
| Photographic negatives of "Fluff" LeCoque in Paris, 1950s (view online) | box 02 |
| Photos of "Fluff" LeCoque at Ballys and MGM Grand, 1990s (view online) | box 02 |
| Programs for Golden Rainbow '89 - "A Salute to the Musicals", 1989 (view online) | box 02 |
| Lion Television correspondence, 1997-1998 (view online) | box 02 |

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| Programs for MGM Grand - "Hallelujah Hollywood!", undated (view online) | box 02 |
| Programs for "Jubilee!", 1985-1996 (view online) | box 02 |
| Jubilee! - Sequins of Events, 1990 (view online) | box 02 |
| Programs for Pzazz '70 and all that Jazz Baby, 1970 (view online) | box 02 |
| Letters from David Letterman and Barry Sand, 1987 May 28 (view online) | box 02 |
| The Playbill for the Plymouth Theater, 1943 (view online) | box 02 |
| Seattle repertory play house, 10th Anniversery, 1927-1937 (view online) | box 02 |
| The Butterfly Ball Jubilee - Program in support of Nathan Adelson Hospice, 1986 February 8 (view online) | box 02 |
| Physical Description: 2 Files | |
| Scripts for character roles in plays | |
| Folder that housed plays, undated | box 03 |
| Birthday of the Infant, undated | box 03 |
| Common Clay by George M. Cohen, undated | box 03 |
| Plays by Noel Coward, undated | box 03 |
| The First Lady, undated | box 03 |
| Hedda Gabler, undated | box 03 |
| The Garter, undated | box 03 |
| Golden Boy, undated | box 03 |
| The Goose Hangs High, undated | box 03 |
| Guest in the House, undated | box 03 |
| The Importance of Being Earnest, undated | box 03 |
| The Laboratory by Robert Browning, written in Middle English, undated | box 03 |
| Ladies in Retirement, undated | box 03 |
| Lysistrata by Aristophanes, undated | box 03 |
| Never too Old, undated | box 03 |
| Night Must Fall, undated | box 03 |
| Outward Bound, undated | box 03 |
| Personal Appearance, no author, undated | box 03 |
| Personal Appearance (part of Carole), undated | box 03 |
| Plays, single scenes, undated | box 03 |
| Pygmalion, undated | box 03 |

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| Susan and God, undated | box 03 | |
| Taming of the Shrew and Richard III by William Shakespeare, undated | box 03 | |
| To Meet the Prince, undated | box 03 | |
| When Ladies Meet, undated | box 03 | |
| Layouts for "Jubilee!" posters, approximately 1980s (view online) | oversized box 04 | |
| Pastel fashion sketches and figure drawings by "Fluff" LeCoque, approximately 1938-1943 (view online) | oversized box 04 | |
| Pastel drawings by "Fluff" LeCoque, approximately 1928-1943 (view online) | oversized box 04 | |
| Stage direction for Jubilee!, 1980s (view online) | oversized box 04 | |
| Scrapbooks, magazines, newspaper articles about "Fluff" LeCoque | | |
| Phi Omega Sorority Pledge Book, with notes and photos of pledges, 1941 (view online) | oversized box 05 | |
| Cast humor book for "Fluff" LeCoque, 1966 December (view online) | oversized box 05 | |
| Newspaper clippings relating to "Fluff" LeCoque and Jubilee!, J.R. William's cartoon Out Our Way (1931), and Good Housekeeping cover (1931) kept by Fluff LeCoque, 1931-1992 (view online) | oversized box 05 | |
| "Fluff as Nails" in Personalities-Special Report, 1991 November-1992 January (view online) | oversized box 05 | |
| "Las Vegas" in Look, November 4, 1952 (view online) | oversized box 05 | |
| "Jubilee! Vegas Special Effects Favorite" in Fun & Gaming, 1991 January 4-10 (view online) | oversized box 05 | |
| The Callback articles, 2001 (view online) | oversized box 05 | |
| Las Vegas Entertainment Today article, 1986 (view online) | oversized box 05 | |
| Las Vegas Review-Journal and Las Vegas Sun articles relating to "Fluff" LeCoque, 1981-1997 (view online) | oversized box 05 | |
| "Jubilee!" advertisements from various publications, and articles relating to "Fluff" LeCoque from the Seattle Times and Christian Science Monitor, 1955-1981 (view online) | oversized box 05 | |
| Popular commercially printed sheet music for piano, 1879-1939 Physical Description: 25 Sheets | oversized box 06 | |
| "Fluff" LeCoque's family tree, birthday card to "Fluff" LeCoque from "Jubilee!" cast, undated | oversized box SH-073 | flat file 07 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluff LeCoque's family tree, undated (view online) | | |

- Birthday card to "Fluff" LeCoque from "Jubilee!" cast, undated ([view online](#))

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| "Tango Argentine" music scores, composers J. Tim Brymn and M. Sarrablo, 1913 | oversized box SH-073 | flat file 07 |
| Silk jacket, 1980s-2000s | oversized box 08 | |
