

## EDITORIAL

### The Margot Fonteyn Archives

One of the most interesting museums I have ever seen was housed in an unpretentious shack in a small provincial town. Its collection consisted of odds and ends originally assembled by a private collector at a negligible cost. There were 'bus and tram tickets, 1914-1918 War ration books, advertising leaflets and all the bits and pieces that illustrated the social life of the town since the turn of the century. Trivial originally but now of priceless value.

The famous Gabrielle Enthoven collection of programmes was started in a similar way; to-day it is invaluable to students of the theatre.

The Royal Academy of Dancing needs archives and a museum of the dance. It should become a centre of study and research. It has started with a sizeable collection of photographs, posters and programmes which are now being mounted and filed. This collection is to be known as *The Margot Fonteyn Archives*.

Many of our readers will have tucked away in some drawer programmes of the Empire and Alhambra period, of Pavlova seasons,

Diaghileff, de Basil, Festival, Rambert, Wells, International, Metropolitan and so on. They may have photographs, drawings, sketches of scenery, romantic lithographs and the like. It would surely be possible to gather the nucleus of a collection worthy of the Academy in a comparatively short time.

If any reader has any items that she thinks are of interest, would she drop a line to the office marked "Archives" on the envelope. It is safer than sending the item immediately as naturally with limited space we wish to avoid too much duplication.

From time to time the *Gazette* will publish lists of items received so that members can watch the collection grow. Now especially is the time to record in such a fashion the exciting history of the rapid development of ballet in the Dominions. In a short time these early records will be completely dispersed. It should be possible to have a complete record now of Ballet in Australia and Canada.

Large collections that the owner does not wish to part with at present may be left to the Academy.