

## **DMA Historian Report 2023**

Hello everyone. It is good to see everyone again. Sorry that I missed you last year. Unfortunately, early in the conference I came down with Covid and was isolated in my hotel room for the remainder of the convention. I want to thank Adrian Jones, Mister Dance 2020 for volunteering to helping me out. In my place, he was able to photograph the Miss/Mister Dance competition, the banquet, and work with the newly crowned Titleholders. I sincerely appreciate all of his help. I managed to make it make it to Teachers Training School (TTS) in Buffalo. After taking a few ballet classes, I perked right up.

Prior to last year's convention, I went through the DMA archives and researched the formation of DMA in its earliest years starting in 1883. I documented the results in a presentation called The History of Dance Masters of America, 1883 - 1926, Consolidation, and will be presenting it at the Town Hall meeting this week. Within the presentation, I included references to all of the material presented in case someone needs to find out where I discovered this material. I included a script so that someone besides me can present this material in the future. I also put together another presentation called "Did You Know ..." which includes some fun facts and trivia I discovered during my research. This will be displayed on the Wall of Legends.

This past year I picked up my research where I left off, after the consolidation in 1926. I reviewed material I previously acquired from Chapter 3, including the scrapbooks from DMA President Mrs. Monte Beach. This material covered her reign as DMA President in the 1930s.

Next I reviewed the Convention Minutes and Proceedings that I have (1929, 1930, 1934, 1940, 1941, 1944, 1947, Summer Dance Programs 1934, 1935, and 1936) up until 1948. I chose this point in time as a cutoff for this year's research, as this is when the Dancing Masters of America changed its name to Dance Masters of America. I also reviewed the few DMA Bulletins that I had for this time period, around 20 or so.

When I received the DMA Archives from Beth Gaynes years ago, they included several hundred dance magazines dated from the 1930s to the 1980s. The earliest of these were of The American Dancer Magazine (1934), which was the earliest version of today's Dance Magazine. It turns out that DMA had its own section in the monthly magazine allocated for the DMA Bulletin. This is providing valuable information on DMA's activities, particularly in the formation of the Affiliation Plan and Affiliation Chapters in 1934/1935. From what I have reviewed so far, I was able to find the origins of Chapters 1 through 25, and have some dates and reasons for the discontinuation of some of these chapters. The current plan to review the other American Dancer Magazines which I have available (up until 1942), at which point I will consolidate all of my notes and start to put together a number of follow-on presentations (e.g. Affiliation, Convention, Normal School, Presidents, etc.).

In closing, please talk to your Chapter's members and ask them to contact me prior to discarding your older or unwanted DMA items. You may have something that we are missing and could use. My email address, [pjanusz@optonline.net](mailto:pjanusz@optonline.net). I prefer having you contact me by email as I work faster this way, and I can have a record of what we discussed. And please let me know if you would like to help me out with the research.

Sincerely,

Paul Janusz  
DMA Historian