

IN MEMORIAM

Gertrude Lawton Lippincott

(born 29 June 1913 in St. Paul, Minnesota—
died 2 June 1996 in Minneapolis, Minnesota after a brief illness)

Gertrude Lippincott studied at the University of Chicago with Marion van Tuyl in dance and graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1935. Lippincott unfailingly gave her support and guidance to dancers and the world of dance from then on.

Lippincott studied with the greats of American modern dance at the celebrated Bennington School of Dance in 1937 and 1938 where she performed in Eleanor King's *Ode to Freedom*. In New York, she was an audition award winner and performer at the 92nd St. Y in the spring of 1944 and again in 1946; she was a member of Doris Humphrey's Choreography Group and received a Masters of Arts in Dance from New York University in 1943 under Martha Hill. She also studied with Martha Graham and Louis Horst. From 1943-1946 she was assistant professor and director of the Dance Program at Mt. Holyoke College in Massachusetts, and in Minnesota she was adjunct professor in the Department of Theatre Arts from 1965-1972.

In 1934, Lippincott married the late Benjamin Lippincott, professor of Political Science at the University of Minnesota. Robert Moulton, the late University of Minnesota Theatre professor, was her dance partner for fifteen years from 1949-1964. Often with Moulton (father of dancer/choreographer Charlie Moulton), she gave concerts and master classes at more than 250 colleges and universities during some forty years of touring the country. Lippincott had the first modern dance company in Minneapolis; founded in 1937, the Modern Dance Group was known as the only modern dance performing group between Chicago and San Francisco. Lippincott claimed it was the only integrated one at the time.

In addition to her performing and teaching, she was an associate editor and then an editor of the *Dance Observer* magazine from 1945-1955, and contributed articles to a wide variety of dance publications. Lippincott was a founding member of the Congress on Research in Dance and was involved in several national organizations including the Dance Critics Association, the American Dance Guild, the National Dance Association and the Society of Dance History Scholars. A special Lippincott Fund has just been announced in her memory, from which annual awards will be made by the Society of Dance History Scholars. There is also a scholarship in her name in the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance at the University of Minnesota.

A generous gift of \$50,000 to national and Minnesota dance institutions has been awarded from the estate of Gertrude Lippincott. The recipients of the gift include: The Dance Collection, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts Library at Lincoln Center; Congress on Research in Dance (CORD); The Society of Dance History Scholars (SDHS); Walker Art Center of Minneapolis; The Minnesota Dance Alliance; Ballet Arts Minnesota; and the Nancy Hauser Dance Company and School of Minneapolis. An additional gift will go to the dance program of the University of Minnesota. Lippincott's papers, costumes and original scores are being housed at the Minnesota Historical Society with copies at Lincoln Center.

Gertrude Lippincott's awards include the Heritage Award from the National Dance Association, the Distinguished Teacher Award from the American Dance Guild, and the Outstand-

ing Achievement Award from the University of Minnesota.

She had a home in Chatham, Massachusetts and in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The only survivor is her brother, Kirk Lawton of Green Valley, Arizona, and devoted nieces and nephews. A memorial service for Lippincott was held in Minneapolis on 29 June 1996.

Judith Brin Ingber
Minneapolis, Minnesota