



## Jacqueline Challet-Haas (1934 - 2022)

Fellow of the ICKL since 1961,  
Vice President of the ICKL since 2013,  
Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour in France) in 2011.

Jacqueline Haas began her long relationship with dance in the 1950s by studying classical dance with Atty Chadinoff, Olga Preobrajenska, Alexandra Balachova and Lioubov Iegorova.

She discovered Laban's Kinetography in a workshop with Diana Baddeley in March and December 1958, and in March 1959, while she was at the *École supérieure d'études chorégraphiques (ESEC)*, run by Théodore d'Erlanger. She was immediately seduced by this new field of research and her director encouraged her to go to Folkwang Hochschule, in Essen, Germany, where she followed Albrecht Knust's<sup>1</sup> summer classes. She continued taking private classes with him and, during her time in Essen, was introduced to modern dance by taking classes with Kurt Jooss. She developed her interest for different styles of dance by studying the Graham and Limón techniques as well as traditional dance.

She was involved with the International Council of Kinetography Laban (ICKL) as soon as it was created in 1959 and soon became a very active member due her involvement and knowledge and was a much appreciated French representative. She continued teaching dance but became more and more involved in writing movement and in producing texts on how to teach dance.

In regular contact with Albrecht Knust, she developed the first class dedicated to Laban's Kinetography at ESEC. In 1959 the Centre national d'écriture du mouvement (CNEM or National Centre for Writing Movement) was created in support of any activity related to Kinetography. This association developed the first full cursus in notation and in translating reference texts (such as the *Dictionary of Kinetography Laban* by Albrecht Knust) and produced new documents (such as *Grammar of Laban notation*) with assistance from Jean Challet, Jacqueline's husband, for translation and revision. Jacqueline Challet-Haas became the President of the CNEM from 1976-2019 and had her headquarters established at Crépy-en-Valois. In 1979, the CNEM organised the eleventh ICKL Conference, in France for the first time.

Later, Jacqueline created Kinetography classes at the universities Paris IV and Paris VIII and in response to Quentin Rouillier invitation created and ran the first higher education studies in Laban's writing and analysing movement at the Conservatoire national supérieur de musique et de danse de Paris (CNSMDP) in the recently created department of choreographic studies, established only the year before.

In 1980 she became a founding member of the European Seminar for Kinetography (ESK), led by the ethnologist, dance anthropologist and choreologist Roderyk Lange. She never stopped working for the development and propagation of notation, as can be seen through the many articles and collaborations she participated in (with the choreographer Mic Guillaumes or the teacher Hélène Leker, in notation with Noëlle Simonet and her faithful friend Yvette Alagna who copied an impressive number of scores over several decades).

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<sup>1</sup> Albrecht Knust (1896 – 1978), leader of the European branch of Kinetography Laban, is one of the four people Laban chose to insure the development of his system with Lisa Ullmann, Ann Hutchinson, and Sigurd Leeder.

Her meeting with Florence and Jean-Louis Paul and Ressouvenances Editions contributed to the propagation of Kinetography, especially with the republishing of reference texts (such as *Modern Educational Dance* by Laban) along with the newly accessible resources in French (such as Knust's *Dictionary*) or the creation of new texts. Her deep understanding of Laban's approach was enhanced by research in collaboration with Angela Loureiro<sup>CMA</sup> on Bartenieff Fundamentals<sup>TM</sup> and Body/Space Diagonals, in which Kinetography and Laban Movement Analysis (LMA) are constantly communicating. This attempt to bring Kinetography closer to other fields of Laban research was continued under the guidance of Noëlle Simonet who succeeded Jacqueline Challet-Hass at the head of the Notation Department at the Conservatoire de Paris.

In 2015 she received a research grant from the Centre national de la danse with Angela Loureiro applying to "Body/Space Diagonals". She continued this collaboration until 2022 with the ongoing project "Beyond Body/Space Duality", in which the dancer and notator Raphaël Cottin is also involved.

As the friend and collaborator of Laurent Sébillotte, the head of the multi-media library at the Centre national de la danse, Jacqueline Challet-Hass gave precious input over several years by helping to catalog the Albrecht Knust Archives, the CNEM Archives or specialised texts.

In 2011, Jacqueline Challet-Hass was nominated Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur for 53 years of service to Kinetography in France.

She remained very active these past few years, giving advice or sharing rare documents, writing several articles and reviewing her colleagues scores while having them over for a cup of tea...

## Bibliography

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## Papers

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