



Tribute to Ann Hutchinson Guest

Ann Hutchinson Guest (b. 1918), president of ICKL, passed away on 9 April 2022, at the age of 103. Our community of dance notators in the field of Kinetography Laban/Labanotation mourns the loss of an exceptional personality and creative mind.

Ann studied the Laban notation system at the Jooss-Leeder Dance School at Dartington Hall, Devon, England, in the late 1930s. She became one of the founders of the Dance Notation Bureau until 1961 while performing and teaching. She was one of the core members of the International Council of Kinetography Laban, with Albrecht Knust, Sigurd Leeder, and Lisa Ullmann, to whom Laban had entrusted the responsibility of guarding the system and overseeing its further development. She has served as President of ICKL since 1987.

Ann Hutchinson Guest is the author of four editions of *Labanotation*, the notation textbook introducing the overseas dialect of the system that, with translations, has largely contributed to the radiance of the Laban system all over the world. Beyond her many ICKL technical papers, she edited the journals *Kinetographer* and *The Labanotator*, directed many publications such as scores, theoretical and pedagogical books. She was an expert on other systems of dance notations, reconstructed the score *Afternoon of a Faun* after Nijinsky's manuscripts (1991), and published the first comprehensive history book on the subject, *Dance notation* (2010). She directed many other publications of scores, her latest publications being *A Selection from the Sigurd Leeder Heritage* (2017) and *The Charleston Ballet: Jerome Robbins* (2019), and released the series of the ten-volume *Advanced Labanotation*, the last volume of which, *Body Variations*, was finished just in the last year, at her age of 103.

Her inventive spirit and comprehensive knowledge of the Laban system of notation were unparalleled, and her open, charming personality influenced all who contacted her. She helped beginner and professional notators with great affection and sharply formulated thoughts without regretting the time needed—problems raised did not remain unanswered. She as the president of ICKL, her authority in the subject, ensured an academic level that we need to sustain and carry on.

We can say the same of her as has once already been said of Laban: she lived a life for dance.

April 2022,

János Fügedi, Chair of ICKL Board of Trustees

Marion Bastien, Secretary of ICKL Board of Trustees



Photo: Ann Hutchinson Guest, July 2017,
30th Biennial Conference of ICKL, Beijing Normal University.