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Hist 1120-01

Research Paper Outline

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My research paper will focus on dance in Canada in the early- to mid- nineteenth century. More specifically, my research will regard famous performers and choreographers in that time period. I also intend to unveil the different types of dance that were most popular in that time period, as well as which country brought more European dance culture into Canada – whether it was France, Great Britain, or an entirely different European country. Throughout my paper, I will expand on these foreign forms of dance that were adopted by Canadians and the people that influenced their popularity. Along with styles of dance that are no longer implemented in society, I will highlight the styles that are still well-known today. Also, included in this paper will be my to depiction of the lifestyle of Canadians in that time period, basing my thesis on common dance activities in the nineteenth century.

I will bring forth evidence from books and journal articles. Some of the books I will derive my information from were written surrounding the music of the nineteenth century, but contain sections of Canadian dance culture from that time period in both social- and performance-style aspects. I will use a letter written by an Englishman as a primary source to explain the social dynamics included in dance. This particular letter written in the late 1790’s talks about the social activities partaken by Canadians – dance being one of them.

Bibliography

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Statement of Process

1. How did you choose your topic? Please explain in as much detail as possible.

I chose my topic because of my passion and knowledge of dance. Those reasons also fueled my interest in learning how dance was brought into Canada and who brought it into the country.

1. How did you choose your sources? Please explain your thinking that led you to choose the evidence you will use to interpret the topic.

I was not picky when I was choosing primary sources, because there was not much to choose from. When it came to secondary sources, I have not yet filtered through all of the books and articles I have collected, but since there was not many sources specifically for dance, I had to go a different route and look at publications surrounding the music culture in Canada in that time period.

1. What assumptions did you bring to your research? For example, what preconceived notions about the topic did you have before you began your research? Did your sources cause you to reconsider those ideas? Please explain in as much detail as possible.

Before I began my research, I knew styles of dance such as ballet and the waltz were brought to Canada in the nineteenth century, but I was unsure of who had introduced it to the country as well as where in Canada it was introduced (Upper or Lower Canada). My sources broadened my knowledge of the history of ballet and the waltz, as well as having taught me styles of dance I did not know existed.

1. How has your view of the past changed as a result of the research that you have done? What unanswered questions about this topic do you still have?

I wouldn’t necessarily say my view has changed, other than the idea that my knowledge of this portion of Canadian history has expanded. I was very interested in my research and found a very positive effect on my discoveries. After doing research on the people involved in introducing European dance styles to Canada, I now wish to find more out about the actual dancing that took place: where people danced, on what occasions, and for what reasons.

1. What will you do differently next time?

I think in my next research endeavour I will spread my work out more evenly, instead of doing a lot for a short period of time and then leaving it for a longer period of time. This may make it easier for me to comprehend information instead of having to go over everything every time I pick up the work. Other than that, I enjoyed my topic and my research.