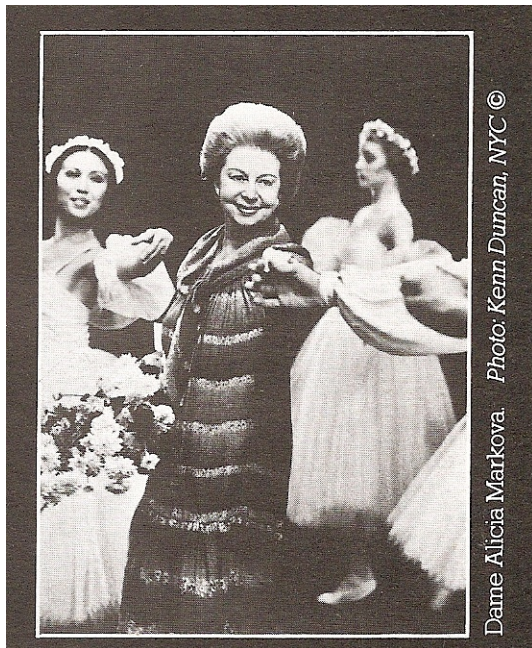


DAME ALICIA MARKOVA

A precocious ballerina, at 14 a principal dancer in the Diaghilev Russian Ballet, has had a lasting effect on Robert's career. As an advanced student at ARTS EDUCATIONAL TRUST, she selected Robert as a soloist in the ballets included in the Season of Italian Opera at the Colosseum Theater in London. His partner was the equally youthful Dame Monica Mason (later Emeritus director of The Royal Ballet). Their personal and professional relation continued over many years. During de Warren's long tenure as Artistic Director of Northern Ballet Theater, Dame Alicia accepted an artistic advisory association through which she shared her deep knowledge of the stylistic qualities needed to perform in *Giselle* and in *Les Sylphides* (having been cast by Michel Fokine in this beautiful creation).

Dame Alicia surprised Robert with a very special gift, this Russian cloisonné enamel box she herself had received from Anna Pavlova. It holds pride of place in my home.

Cover: Dame Alicia rehearsing Jenny Chiang and Piers Beaumont from Royal Ballet in *Les Sylphides* - Sitting: Peter Clegg, Ballet Master and Robert.



May 12th 1979
Dear Robert,
This box
belonged to Anna
Pavlova, then it
was mine + now
I give it to you
with all my
good wishes +
affection.
Alicia Markova

With ballerina Jenny Chiang in *Les Sylphides*

Dame Alicia Markova “Anna Pavlova box

