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A Century of Russian Ballet: Documents and Eyewitness Accounts, 1810-1910

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This collection of original documents, many appearing in English for the first time, presents a compelling picture of a century of Russian ballet. The documents, which include the printed libretti of Didelot, Taglioni, Perrot, St-Lon, Petipa, and Fokine, convey an accurate outline of balletic conventions in nineteenth-century Russia, and describe techniques of stagecraft, the social setting of ballet, the rise of criticism, and the life of ballet artists. The work of nineteenth-century Russia's principal ballet historians is also represented and the author's commentaries elucidate the documents' relevance and historical connections. The book will be an invaluable source for anyone interested in ballet or Russian culture.