
Finding aid for the Erica Gunter papers 6069

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Language of Material: English

Contributing Institution: USC Libraries Special Collections

Title: Erica Gunter papers

creator: Gunter, Erica

Identifier/Call Number: 6069

Physical Description: 0.42 Linear Feet1 box

Date (inclusive): circa 1945-1949

Abstract: Collection of letters and photographs collected by Erica (Ricky) Gunter. The bulk of the letters (including telegrams) are from Richard (Dick) Paxton. Gunter was a German Jew who fled Nazi Germany with her brother. She met Paxton in 1944 or early 1945 while serving as a camera operator creating military training films. Dick Paxton was a regular character actor in a number of films.

Preferred Citation

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Acquisition

Purchased from The Bookshop, April 21, 2014.

Scope and Content

Collection of letters and photographs collected by Erica (Ricky) Gunter. The bulk of the letters (including telegrams) are from Richard (Dick) Paxton. Also included are letters from Paxton's brother and mother, other servicemen, a CBS executive, and a 20th Century Fox executive; 4 postcards; and 28 photographs.

Historical note

Erica Gunter was a German Jew who fled Nazi Germany with her brother. She met Richard (Dick) Paxton in 1944 or early 1945 while serving as a camera operator creating military training films. Dick Paxton was a regular character actor in a number of films, beginning in 1940 with *Third Finger, Left Hand* starring Myrna Loy. He moved to California as a teen and met Mickey Rooney at a high school party. The two became close friends and Paxton served as his stand-in on a number of Rooney's early films.

Subjects and Indexing Terms

Soldiers -- United States -- 20th century -- Archival resources

Soldiers -- 1939-1945 -- Photographs

Photographs

Correspondence

Paxton, Richard -- Correspondence

Gunter, Erica -- Archives

Gunter, Erica

Box 1, folder 1

Fox Studios to Erica Gunter 1942 20 October

Scope and Contents

Item is a typed letter from Twentieth Century Fox Studios to Erica Gunter. Gunter is told that Mr. Lubitsch would not be able to assist her in joining motion pictures because he does not work with actresses from outside the studio.

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- Box 1, folder 2 **Letter to Erica Gunter 1944 9 January**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a handwritten letter to Erica from a service man of the military. He writes to her and said he was very pleased to receive a letter from her. He goes on to write about his interests such as dancing and music.
- Box 1, folder 3 **Letter to Erica Gunter from Art 1944 11 March**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a handwritten letter from Arthur to Erica Gunter. He starts off his letter by telling her that the letter that she sent him was one of the nicest that she has received. He tells her that he would like to go visit her. He tells Gunter that her personality shows up in a great deal of letters. He ends his letter by telling Gunter that he would like to hear more from her.
- Box 1, folder 4 **Letter from Gordon to Erica Gunter 1944 25 March**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a handwritten letter from Gordon to Erica Gunter. He starts off his letter by apologizing for writing. He tells her that she looks so different. Gordon goes on to write about the life at sea.
- Box 1, folder 5 **Letter from Paxton to Gunter 1945**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a handwritten letter from Paxton Richard Dick, to Erica Gunter. Paxton begins to tell her about their next idea for filming and says it will revolutionize the war with the "Japs". He apologizes to Erica for not getting an offer from CBS. He goes on to write about his future plans with Erica and how he will save every cent so they can be married.
- Box 1, folder 6 **Letter from Arthur to Gunter 1945 8 January**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a handwritten letter from Arthur W. Rangeler. Rangeler makes sure to tell Gunter that he has not forgotten her despite what she thinks. He tells Erica that he still has her picture and took it all the way to New Guinea. He ends his letter by telling her that he has been very busy and that he hopes that she will understand.
- Box 1, folder 7 **Letter to Erica Gunter 1945 26 January**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a short letter addressed to Erica Gunter from an acquaintance of Dick Paxton, Mrs. John D. She mentions in her letter that she has included a photograph of Paxton. She ends her letter by telling Gunter that she is very excited to meet her.
- Box 1, folder 8 **Letter Paxton to Gunter 1945 5 February**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a handwritten letter from Dick Paxton to Erica Gunter. He starts off his letter by letting her know that he arrived back home safely. He tells Gunter that he wished that she were not so nice to him because he is not deserving of it. Paxton tells Gunter that he cannot wait to marry her.
- Box 1, folder 9 **Letter Paxton to Gunter 1945 6 February**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a typed letter from Dick Paxton to Erica Gunter. He tells Gunter that he looks forward to going home, however, if the work day is long, he might not be able to make it. He tells her that they will start a new picture sometime during the week. Paxton ends his letter by telling Gunter that he feels like his job is easier because he knows that she is waiting for him back home.
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- Box 1, folder 10 **Letter Paxton to Gunter 1945 12 February**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a handwritten letter from Richard Dick Paxton to Erica Gunter. Paxton writes a Valentine's Day poem to Gunter.
- Box 1, folder 11 **Letter Gunter to Paxton 1945 14 February**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a handwritten letter from Erica Gunter to Dick Paxton. Gunter begins her letter by telling Paxton that a blizzard has set in. The letter was written the morning of Valentine's Day and Gunter expresses her love for Paxton. She tells him to take phone money and to call her Saturday. She ends the letter by telling Paxton that the crew has arrived.
- Box 1, folder 12 **Letter Paxton to Gunter 1945 27 February**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a handwritten letter from Dick Paxton to Erica Gunter. Paxton starts off his letter by telling Gunter that the day was a bit rough because he had to film in the rain. He says that he hopes to be with her on during the weekend. Paxton says he will not worry about train reservations and will just take a chance. He closes his letter by telling Gunter that he must go to class.
- Box 1, folder 13 **Letter Paxton to Gunter 1945 10 March**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a handwritten letter from Dick Paxton to Erica Gunter. Paxton starts off his letter by writing about the warm weather. He says that he has been having a great time and that he wished that she was there. Paxton writes that there isn't much to do in town, however, he is staying busy. He ends his letter by telling her that he loves and misses her.
- Box 1, folder 14 **Letter from Paxton to Gunter 1945 11 March**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a handwritten letter.
- Box 1, folder 15 **Letter from Johnny to Erica Gunter 1945 5 June**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a handwritten letter from Johnny to Erica Gunter. Johnny starts of his letter by telling Gunter that there is something different about her and that she seems more mature than before. He tells her that he remembered that she is supposed to graduate this month.
- Box 1, folder 16 **Western Union Telegram 1945 8 July**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a Western Union telegram from Dick Paxton to Erica Gunter.
- Box 1, folder 17 **Letter from Paxton to Gunter 1945 9 July**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a handwritten letter from Dick Paxton to Erica Gunter. Paxton starts off his letter by telling Gunter that he has been very busy. He tells her that he should be back home by the first of the month. He tells her that he wasn't able to get much sleep the night before. Paxton closes his letter by telling Gunter that he loves her.
- Box 1, folder 18 **Colombia Broadcasting to Gunter 1945 11 July**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a handwritten letter from Colombia Broadcasting System to Erica Gunter. Ray from Colombia writes to tell her that it has been a while since he had been captivated by a Jewish girl. He invites her to a broadcast with him and provides her with his home phone number.
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- Box 1, folder 18 **Estes Park postcard 1945 8 August**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a postcard from Mildred and Jack Paxton of The Stanly Hotel in Estes Park. Postcard addressed to Richard Paxton and Erica Gunter.
- Box 1, folder 20 **Francis Scott Key Hotel postcard 1945 9 August**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a postcard addressed to Erica Gunter from Dick Paxton of the Francis Scott key Hotel in Maryland.
- Box 1, folder 21 **Letter from Paxton to Gunter 1945 11 August**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a handwritten letter from Dick Paxton to Erica Gunter. He starts off by telling Gunter that he loved hearing her voice over the phone. He tells her that he was currently at the Virginia Military Institute. Paxton tells Gunter that he will not mail any letters after Monday of the following week because he expects to be home by then. He ends the letter by telling her that as soon as it is all over, they will be married and go on vacation.
- Box 1, folder 23 **Letter to Gunter and Paxton from E. Paxton 1945 14 August**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a short letter from E. Paxton, addressed to Erica Gunter and Dick Paxton. The person writing the letter thanks them both for a purse. She closes the letter by telling Gunter that Paxton has spoken very highly of her.
- Box 1, folder 22 **Letter from Paxton to Gunter 1945 13 August**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a handwritten letter from Dick Paxton to Erica Gunter. He starts off the letter by telling Gunter that they announced V-J Day. He lets her know that things have been running smoothly and that he has been buying himself a steak dinner every night. He says they have a very interesting place and that he will tell her all about it once he is back home. Paxton writes that there are several camera men, however, most of the job was turned on to him. He ends his letter by telling Gunter that he hopes to be back home by the end of the week.
- Box 1, folder 24 **Dream Lake postcard 1945 29 August**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a postcard from Dick Paxton to Erica Gunter of Dream Lake in Virginia.
- Box 1, folder 25 **Letter to Dick Paxton 1945 29 August**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a handwritten letter for Dick Paxton.
- Box 1, folder 26 **Letter to Erica Gunter and Dick Paxton 1945 31 August**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a handwritten letter to Erica Gunter and Dick Paxton from
- Box 1, folder 27 **Western Union Telegram 2 1945 12 September**
 Scope and Contents
 Item is a Western Union Telegram from Dick Paxton to Erica Gunter.

Box 1, folder 28

Letter from Paxton to Gunter 8 March

Scope and Contents

Item is a handwritten letter from Dick Paxton to Erica Gunter. Paxton starts off his letter by letting Gunter know that he has arrived safely to his destination. He tells Gunter that he misses her and that he is miles away from any woman so she need not worry. Paxton goes on to write about the camera crew. He ends his letter by telling Gunter that he hopes that his letter reaches her soon.

Box 1, folder 29

Letter from Mildred & Jack to Gunter 10 May

Scope and Contents

Item is a typed letter from Mildred and Jack, letter is addressed to Erica Gunter. Jack lets Gunter know that her husband speaks very foundly of Gunter when they do talk. He gives her good news and says he is very happy to inform her that in order to be eligible to be discharged, he would only need a total of 85 points. He tells her that he is very happy that the war is coming to an end. He closes his letter by asking her what she has been doing lately.

Box 1, folder 30

Letter from Paxton to Gunter 5 July

Scope and Contents

Item is a handwritten letter from Dick Paxton to Erica Gunter. He starts off his letter by telling Gunter that he is in St. Louis. He tells Gunter that he hated to leave her and that she is the sweetest girl on earth. He tells her that he has been thinking about them getting married and that he can't wait. He ends his letter by telling her that he cannot wait to get back because he cannot be without her much longer.

Box 1, folder 31

Letter from Paxton to Gunter 12 July

Scope and Contents

Item is a handwritten letter from Dick Paxton to Erica Gunter. Paxton starts off his letter by telling Gunter that her letters really keep him going because his place is so dead. He goes on to tell her that he hopes that his job is not extended more than 30 days. He goes on to write about how much he loves Gunter. He ends his letter by telling her that soon they will take a trip to Colorado to visit his grandparents.

Box 1, folder 32

Letter from Paxton to Gunter 30 August

Scope and Contents

Item is a handwritten letter by Dick Paxton. During this letter Paxton tells Gunter a little bit about his filming and says he is very busy.

Box 1, folder 33

Western Union Telegram to Erica Gunter from Carl H. Wilson undated

Scope and Contents

Item is a telegram to Erica Gunter from Carl H. Olsson, wishing her a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Box 1, folder 34

Letter Paxton to Gunter Thursday undated

Scope and Contents

Item is a handwritten letter from Rick Paxton to Erica Gunter. Paxton starts off his letter by telling Gunter that his work has been very interesting but also very tiring. He tells Gunter that he will give her a full report of everything as soon as he sees her. He ends his letter by telling her how much he loves her and that he can't wait until they are married.

Box 1, folder 35	<p>Letter from Johnny to Erica Gunther undated</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Item is a typed letter from Johnny to Erica Gunther. Johnny addresses Gunther's doubts about him. He expressed his jealousy when Gunther dated others. Johnny makes sure to tell her that he does not have a long list of other women that he calls. Johnny ends his letter by telling Gunther that if he is financially fit, he will visit her in California.</p>
Box 1, folder 36	<p>Letter from John H. Macaulay to Gunter undated</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Item is a typed letter from John H. Macaulay to Erica Gunther. Johnny tells Gunther that she is having such a good time in California and that he is starting to worry. He tells her that he has started to attend school again. He ends the letter by telling Gunther that her picture that she sent doesn't do her justice and that he will send her one of himself.</p>
Box 1, folder 37	<p>Note to Dick undated</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Item is a short list of things to tell Dick Paxton.</p>
Box 1, folder 39	<p>Letter from Paxton to Gunter undated</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Item is a handwritten letter from Dick Paxton to Erica Gunter. He gives Gunter a brief description of what he has been doing and tells her that he can't wait to be home with her.</p>
Box 1, Folder 39	<p>Letter from Albie to Erica Gunter undated</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Item is a handwritten letter from Albie to Erica Gunter. He starts his letter by telling her that he received the package with cookies and a photograph. He tells Gunter that she has changed a lot and is much more glamorous. He asks her how Christmas went for her. Albie asks her when she will return to New York from California.</p>
Box 1, folder 40	<p>Erica Gunter Headshot 1 undated</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Item is a black and white headshot of Erica Gunter.</p>
Box 1, folder 41	<p>Erica Gunter Headshot 2 undated</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Item is a black and white headshot of Erica Gunter which she had sent to Twentieth Century Fox Studios. The headshot was returned after she was informed that she would be not able to receive assistance to become an actress.</p>
Box 1, folder 42	<p>Ralph Photograph 1 undated</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Black and white image of soldier.</p>
Box 1, folder 43 Box 1, folder 44	<p>Photograph 2 undated</p> <p>Photograph 3 undated</p> <p>Scope and Contents</p> <p>Item is a black and white image of soldier.</p>
Box 1, folder 45	Photograph 4 undated
Box 1, folder 46	Photograph 5 undated
Box 1, folder 47	Photograph 6 undated
Box 1, folder 48	Photograph 7 undated
Box 1, folder 49	Photograph 8 undated

Box 1, Folder 50 **Photograph 9 undated**
Box 1, folder 51 **Photograph 10 undated**
Box 1, folder 52 **Photograph 11 undated**
Box 1, folder 53 **Photograph 12 undated**
Box 1, folder 54 **Photograph 13 undated**
Box 1, Folder 55 **Photograph 14 undated**
Box 1, folder 56 **Photograph 15 undated**
Box 1, folder 57 **Photograph 16 undated**
Box 1, folder 58 **Photograph 17 undated**
Box 1, folder 59 **Photograph 18 undated**
Box 1, folder 60 **Photograph 19 undated**
Box 1, Folder 61 **Photograph 20 undated**
Box 1, folder 62 **Photograph 21 undated**
Box 1, folder 63 **Photograph 22 undated**
Box 1, envelope 1 **Miscellaneous Envelope undated**

Scope and Contents

Item is an envelope with miscellaneous items.

Box 1, folder 64 **Photograph 23 undated**