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Graham Greene letters 4079892

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027

Business Number: (212) 854-5153

Fax Number: (212) 854-1365

rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Greene, Graham, 1904-1991
Title:	Graham Greene letters
ID:	4079892
ID:	MS#0518
Date [inclusive]:	1933-1990
Physical Description:	.42 linear feet 1 document box
Language of the Material:	Material is primarily in English with some French.
Abstract:	The collection consists primarily of letters and postcards from Graham Greene to his close friend Mercia Ryhiner Schwob Tinker Harrison, widow of actor Rex Harrison.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known);Graham Greene Letters ; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Biographical Note

Graham Greene was one of the most widely read authors, playwrights and literary critics of the twentieth century. Born in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, in 1904, Henry Graham Greene was the fourth of six children. Greene was first educated at the Berkhamsted School where his father was headmaster. He left the school at age 15, and moved on to study modern history at Balliol College in Oxford. It was there that Greene was able to hone in his interests in politics and writing, and worked as editor for *The Oxford Outlook*. After college, Greene converted to Roman Catholicism in 1926, partially under the influence of his future wife, Vivien Dayrell-Browning, whom he married in 1927. Greene's interests in Catholicism and international politics would continue to influence his work throughout his lifetime. Shortly after college, Greene moved to London and worked as a copy editor for *The Times* for 4 years, and upon

the success of his first novel, *The Man Within* (1929), he quit *The Times* and traveled for three years as a freelance journalist.

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Biographical Note

In 1941, Greene began working for the British Foreign Office, and was stationed at Freetown, Sierra Leone, for a good portion of World War II, which was the setting for his well known novel, *The Heart of the Matter* (1948; filmed 1953). *The Quiet American* (filmed 1958, 2002) also draws upon Greene's experiences as an agent in Sierra Leone and on his experiences in Saigon. Greene wrote many short stories, novels, and "entertainment pieces" (such as comedies and thrillers) throughout his lifetime; his travels and experiences as both an agent and journalist greatly influenced his writing. *The Lawless Roads* (1939) and *The Power and the Glory* (1940), for example, were written after Greene traveled to Mexico to witness religious purges.

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Biographical Note

In 1966, Greene became Companion of Honour, and in 1986 he received an Order of Merit. Greene's success as a writer enabled him to live comfortably in London, Antibes, and Capri, and he would continue to travel and write until old age prevented him from doing so. Greene died at the age of 86 in Vevey, Switzerland, on April 13th, 1991.

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Summary

This collection of correspondences consists almost entirely of letters to Greene's close friend, Mercia Ryhiner Schwob Tinker Harrison, from 1953 to 1990. The letters describe personal matters as well as events in Greene's career as a writer, playwright, and journalist. Most of the letters are correspondences describing Greene's whereabouts and his plans to visit Harrison; the letters briefly address Greene's literary pursuits and his personal relationship with Harrison. Four letters to Harrison from other people are included in this collection

as well. The collection also contains many postcards and Christmas cards from Greene to Harrison, spanning almost twenty years from the 1950s to 1969.

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Arrangement

Material is arranged into one series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

xml document instance created by Carrie Hintz EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2010-12-22 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located on-site.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Letters of Graham Greene: Source of acquisition--6555B (Samuels). Method of acquisition--Purchase; Date of acquisition--06/05/1996. Accession number--M-96-06-05.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Letters from Graham Greene to Mercia Harrison: Source of acquisition--6365B (Halsband). Method of acquisition--Purchase; Date of acquisition--07/26/1996. Accession number--M-96-07-26.

Processing Information

Letters of Graham Greene Cataloged HR 10/29/1996.

Processing Information

Papers Processed Robyn Hjermsstad, MSLIS, Pratt Institute, 2011 10/--/2010.

Processing Information

Finding aid Written Robyn Hjermsstad, MSLIS, Pratt Institute, 2011 10/--/2010.

Processing Information

Letters from Graham Greene to Mercia Harrison Cataloged HR 10/29/1996.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

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Related Materials

Selected Related Material-- at Columbia

[Dorothy Craigie Papers](#), Columbia University Rare Book & Manuscript Library

Selected Related Material-- at Other Repositories

Graham Greene papers, 1892-1999 (bulk 1950-1990), Burns Library, Boston College

Selected Related Material-- at Other Repositories

Gerald C. Walling-Graham Greene Collection, Burns Library, Boston College

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Controlled Access Headings

- English literature -- 20th century
- Christmas cards
- Postcards
- Authors, English
- Novelists
- Greene, Graham, 1904-1991
- Harrison, Rex

Collection Inventory

Series I: Graham Greene Letters, 1933-1990, undated

Scope and Contents

This collection is arranged in a single series, and contains 3 folders: Graham Greene Letters to Mercia Ryhiner Schwob Tinker Harrison, 1933-1990, undated; Letters to Mercia Ryhiner Schwob Tinker Harrison, 193-1990; and Postcards, 1950's-1969.

Title/Description	Instances	
Graham Greene Letters to Mercia Ryhiner Schwob Tinker Harrison, 1933-1990, undated	box 1	folder 1

Scope and Contents

Folder 1, Graham Greene Letters to Mercia Ryhiner Schwob Tinker Harrison, contains the personal letters from Greene to Harrison spanning almost 70 years (1933-1990). The letters describe their personal relationship as well as Greene's literary pursuits and his thoughts on various dramatizations of his written works. A memorandum of an agreement concerning the dramatization of Greene's *A Man Within* (1929) is also located in this folder.

Letters to Mercia Ryhiner Schwob Tinker Harrison, 1953-1976, 1990

box 1

folder 2

Scope and Contents

Folder 2 contains 10 personal letters to Mercia Ryhiner Schwob Tinker Harrison from various other persons, from 1953-1990, including medical researcher Albert Sabin, American cartoonist Hank Ketcham, and others.

Postcards, 1953-1969

folder 3

Scope and Contents

Folder 3 contains postcards from Graham Greene to Harrison from the 1950's-1969. The postcards came to Harrison from many places around the world, including Italy, Spain, Singapore, Capri, and London.

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