



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Mary Pickford-Buddy Rogers correspondence

1943-1976

*T Mss 1992-024

Processed by Mary Ellen Rogan.

Summary

Creator: Shield, Blanche

Title: Mary Pickford-Buddy Rogers correspondence

Date: 1943-1976

Source: Purchase, Charles Apfelbaum Rare Books & Collections, 07/29/1992

Abstract: The Mary Pickford and Buddy Rogers Correspondence consists of letters sent by them and their secretaries to Blanche Shield, long time friend and correspondent. The letters contain information on the personal and professional lives of Mary Pickford and Buddy Rogers.

Access: Some collections held by the Dance, Music, Recorded Sound, and Theatre Divisions at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts are held off-site and must be requested in advance. Please check the collection records in **the NYPL's online catalog** for detailed location information. For general guidance about requesting offsite materials, please consult:
<https://www.nypl.org/about/locations/lpa/requesting-archival-materials>

Conditions Governing Access:

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Conditions Governing Use: For permission to publish contact the Curator, Billy Rose Theatre Division

Preferred citation: [Identification of item], Mary Pickford and Buddy Rogers Correspondence, *T Mss 1992-024, Billy Rose Theatre Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts.

Processing note: Processed by Mary Ellen Rogan.

Creator History

Mary Pickford, America's Sweetheart, was a star of both stage and film. Born in Toronto, Canada in 1893 she is best known as a star of silent films. Her first film was with Biograph studio where she was

taken on by D. W. Griffith. Among her films are *The Little American* (1917), *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm* (1917), *Little Lord Fauntleroy*(1921), and *Rosita* (1923). Her career in sound films was short-lived and included an Oscar winning performance in *Coquette*(1929), and *The Taming of the Shrew* (1929). She was married to Owen Moore, Douglas Fairbanks and Charles "Buddy" Rogers. She died in 1979.

Charles "Buddy" Rogers was born in Olanthe, Kansas in 1904. A leading man in early Hollywood films, Rogers appeared opposite Mary Pickford in *My Best Girl* (1927). Other films include *Wings* (1927), *Abie's Irish Rose* (1928), and *The Road to Reno*(1931) to name a few. He married Mary Pickford in 1935 and was her husband until her death in 1979.

Custodial History

The Mary Pickford and Buddy Rogers Correspondence was purchased by The Billy Rose Theatre Division from Charles Apfelbaum Rare Books and Collections in July 1992. Material arrived in good condition and was processed immediately.

Scope and Content Note

The Mary Pickford and Buddy Rogers Correspondence consists of letters written by Ms. Pickford, Mr. Rogers and their secretaries to long time friend of Mary Pickford, Blanche Shield. The letters span the years 1943 - 1976 and include information on the personal and professional lives of Mary Pickford, Buddy Rogers and their two children. Most of these letters were prompted by gifts sent to Pickford and Rogers by Blanche Shield for Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries and Easter.

Arrangement: The Mary Pickford and Buddy Rogers Correspondence is arranged in four series. They include: Series I. Mary Pickford Correspondence Series II. Secretary Correspondence Series III. Buddy Roger Correspondence Series IV. Photographs

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Correspondence

Subjects

Motion picture actors and actresses

Names

Shield, Blanche

Pickford, Mary, 1892-1979

Rogers, Buddy

Rogers, Buddy, 1904-

Van Valen, Diane

Container List

Series I - Mary Pickford Correspondence 1943-1976 (41 letters)

The Mary Pickford Correspondence Series consists of letters typed or handwritten and signed personally by Mary Pickford to Blanche Shield. Many of the letters contain information on her personal life and activities.

Arranged chronologically.

- b. 1 f. 1 Pickford, Mary 1943-1948 (5 letters)
- b. 1 f. 2 Pickford, Mary 1950-1955 (7 letters)
- b. 1 f. 3 Pickford, Mary 1956-1959 (9 items)
- b. 1 f. 4 Pickford, Mary 1960-1962 (6 letters, 9 pages)
- b. 1 f. 5 Pickford, Mary 1963-1965 (6 letters, 8 pages)
- b. 1 f. 6 Pickford, Mary 1966-1969 (4 letters, 5 pages)
- b. 1 f. 7 Pickford, Mary 1970-1976 (4 letters)

Series II - Secretary Correspondence 1945-1968 (30 letters)

The Secretary Correspondence Series consists of letters written by Mary Pickford's secretaries to Blanche Shield. Included in these letters are those written by Jean Patriquin, Diane Van Valen and Esther Helm. The letters appear to be written by the secretaries when Mary Pickford was out-of-town. A friendly correspondence grew between Blanche Shield and Diane Van Valen and some of these letters contain information primarily about Ms. Van Valen's personal and professional life.

Arranged chronologically.

- b. 1 f. 8 Patriquin, Jean 1945-1947 (4 letters)
- b. 1 f. 9 Van Valen, Diane 1947 (9 letters)
- b. 1 f. 10 Van Valen, Diane 1948 (9 letters)
- b. 1 f. 11 Van Valen, Diane 1948-1949 (4 letters, 6 pages)
- b. 1 f. 12 Van Valen, Diane 1955 (2 letters)
- b. 1 f. 13 Helm, Esther 1967-1968 (2 items)

Series III - Buddy Rogers Correspondence 1965-1976 (30 letters)

The Buddy Rogers Correspondence Series consists of notes and letters written by Buddy Rogers. They contain almost no personal information and consist mainly of quick holiday greetings and thank you's for gifts.

Arranged chronologically.

- b. 1 f. 14 Rogers, Buddy 1965-1967 (5 letters)
- b. 1 f. 15 Rogers, Buddy 1968-1969 (5 letters)
- b. 1 f. 16 Rogers, Buddy 1970-1971 (9 notes)
- b. 1 f. 17 Rogers, Buddy 1972-1974 (7 notes)
- b. 1 f. 18 Rogers, Buddy 1975-1976 (4 items)

Series IV - Photographs (3 items)

This series contains color and black and white photographs of Mary Pickford and Buddy Rogers in their home, Pickfair. They are Christmas greeting cards.

- b. 1 f. 19 Christmas Greetings