

Collection #
M 1206

ROBERT HULL PENN
LETTERS, 1936–1985

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Processed by

Paul Brockman
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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 manuscript boxes.

COLLECTION DATES: Inclusive, 1936–1985; bulk, 1941–1945

PROVENANCE: Edie Smith, Nashville, Indiana, September, 2015

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2015. 0246

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Robert Hull Penn (1918–2006) was born in Kokomo, Howard County, Indiana and graduated from Indiana University in 1940. A short time later, he married Betty (Elizabeth) J. Kreutzinger (1918–?) from Speedway, Indiana. Penn entered the U. S. Navy in 1944 and was stationed aboard the destroyer USS *Willmarth* (DE 638) in the Pacific, 1944–1945. After the war, the Penns relocated to Elkhart, Elkhart County, Indiana.

Sources:

Information in collection.

Ancestry, Library Edition, accessed 5 November 2015.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of approximately six hundred letters exchanged between Bob and Betty Penn, their families, and their friends. The majority of the letters were written while Bob was serving in the U. S. Navy during World War II, April, 1944–January, 1946, and contain general information about family and activities both at home and on board the USS *Willmarth*.

There also are several letters written by Bob to Betty while at Indiana University, 1936–1940 and letters from Bob's mother written to them in Elkhart after the war, 1978–1985. In addition to both sets of parents (Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Penn and Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Kreutzinger,) family correspondence include Bob's sister, Billy (Willette,) a nursing student at Indiana University in Indianapolis and his aunt, Buzzy (Mrs. Henry Penn,) who resided in Tampa, Florida. The majority of Bob's friends who wrote to him were also serving in the military during World War II.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Letters Written By Robert H. Penn (Bob,) 1936–September, 1945

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Bob's Letters to Betty, 1938–Aug., 1944	Box 1, Folder 1
Bob's Letters to Betty, Sep.–Oct., 1944	Box 1, Folder 2
Bob's Letters to Betty, Nov.–Dec., 1944	Box 1, Folder 3
Bob's Letters to Betty, Jan.–Feb., 1945	Box 1, Folder 4
Bob's Letters to Betty, Mar.–May, 1945	Box 1, Folder 5
Bob's Letters to Betty, Jun.–Jul., 1945	Box 1, Folder 6
Bob's Letters to Betty, Aug.–Sep., 1945	Box 1, Folder 7
Bob's Letters to Betty, Oct.–Dec., 1945	Box 1, Folder 8
Bob's Letters to Parents, ca, 1938; May–Dec., 1944	Box 1, Folder 9
Bob's Letters to Parents, Jan.–May, 1945	Box 1, Folder 10
Bob's Letters to Parents, Jun.–Oct., 1945	Box 1, Folder 11
Bob's Letters to In-Laws, Sep., 1944–Sep., 1945	Box , Folder 12
Bob's Letters to His Kids, 1944; 1945	Box 1, Folder 13

Series 2: Letters Written Elizabeth J. Kreuzinger Penn (Betty,) 1936; January, 1944–January, 1946

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Betty's Letters to Bob, Jun.-Jul., 1944	Box 2, Folder 1
Betty's Letters to Bob, Aug., 1944	Box 2, Folder 2
Betty's Letters to Bob, Sep., 1944	Box 2, Folder 3
Betty's Letters to Bob, Oct., 1944	Box 2, Folder 4
Betty's Letters to Bob, Nov.–Dec., 1944	Box 2, Folder 5

Betty's Letters to Bob, Jan.–Feb., 1945	Box 2, Folder 6
Betty's Letters to Bob, Mar.–Apr., 1945	Box 2, Folder 7
Betty's Letters to Bob, May–Jun., 1945	Box 2, Folder 8
Betty's Letters to Bob, Jul., 1945	Box 2, Folder 9
Betty's Letters to Bob, Aug., 1945	Box 2, Folder 10
Betty's Letters to Bob, Sep., 1945	Box 2, Folder 11
Betty's Letters to Bob, Oct., 1945–Jan., 1946	Box 2, Folder 12
Betty's Letters to Parents, 1936; Jan.–May, 1944	Box 3, Folder 1
Betty's Letters to Parents, 1949–1963	Box 3, Folder 2

Series 3: Letters Written by Family and Friends,

CONTENTS

Letters to Bob from Parents, Jun.–Aug., 1944	Box 3, Folder 3
Letters to Bob from Parents, Sep.–Oct., 1944	Box 3, Folder 4
Letters to Bob from Parents, Nov.–Dec., 1944	Box 3, Folder 5
Letters to Bob from Parents, Jan.–Mar., 1945	Box 3, Folder 6
Letters to Bob from Parents, Apr.–Jun., 1945	Box 3, Folder 7
Letters to Bob from Parents, Jul.–Aug., 1945	Box 3, Folder 8
Letters to Bob from Parents, Sep.–Dec., 1945	Box 3, Folder 9
Letters from Bob's Mother, 1978–1983	Box 3, Folder 10
Letters from Bob's Mother, 1984–1985	Box 3, Folder 11
Letter to Betty from Mother, 3 Apr. 1944	Box 3, Folder 12
Letters to Bob from In-Laws, Aug., 1944–Sep., 1945	Box 3, Folder 13
Letters from Family, June, 1944–Aug., 1945	Box 3, Folder 14
Letters to Bob from Friends, Jul.–Dec., 1944	Box 3, Folder 15

CONTAINER

Letters to Bob from Friends, Jan.–Apr., 1945	Box 3, Folder 16
Letters to Bob from Friends, May, 1945–Jan. 1946	Box 3, Folder 17
Letters to Bob from Churches, Aug., 1944–Jan., 1946	Box 3, Folder 18
S. V. Singh, Exporter, Fiji, 1945	Box 3, Folder 19

