

# Guide to the Eric Knight Papers

YCAL MSS 40



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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
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**CALL NUMBER:** YCAL MSS 40

**CREATOR:** Knight, Eric, 1897-1943

**TITLE:** Eric Knight papers

**DATES:** 1908-1990

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 15.25 linear feet (24 boxes + 1 art, 1 record album storage)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers contain writings and other papers documenting the literary career of Eric Knight, as well as personal papers, many of which concern his support of the Allied cause in World War II and his military service.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.knight>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.knight>.

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Jere Knight Lindtner, 1948, 1986, 1990.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 24 (record album storage): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Eric Knight Papers are the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Eric Knight Papers. Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## ERIC MOWBRAY KNIGHT (1897-1943)

Eric Mowbray Knight was born on April 10, 1897 in Leeds, the third son of Frederick Harrison and Hilda Creasser Knight. Frederick Knight, a wholesale jeweller, died in the Boer War, leaving his family in poverty. Hilda Knight went to St. Petersburg as governess to the children of Princess Xenia, and later to America, while her sons were distributed among various relatives. Eric Knight was raised by an uncle and aunt in Yorkshire.

Knight began work at twelve, as a bobbin doffer in a Leeds mill, and over the next three years was employed in mills, an engine-works, a sawmill, and a glass factory. In 1912 he joined his mother and his two remaining brothers in Philadelphia, where he became a copy boy for the *Philadelphia Press*. Soon, however, he was sent back to school, first to Cambridge Latin, then to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and the National Academy of Design.

During World War I, Knight went to Toronto, joined the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, and served in France as a signaler. Both of his brothers, enlisted in the Pennsylvania 110th Artillery, were killed in France on June 30, 1918. Hilda Creasser Knight died not long after.

Knight served as a captain of artillery in the U. S. Army Reserve until 1926, attempted to paint, and reported for several newspapers in Connecticut, New York, and Pennsylvania. Between 1926 and 1934 he was drama critic and movie critic for the *Philadelphia Public Ledger*, and during 1930 reviewed movies for the short-lived *Town Crier* magazine.

He sold his first short story, "The Two-Fifty Hat," to *Liberty* in 1930, and began contributing to various popular magazines, including *Cosmopolitan*, *Esquire*, *MacLean's*, and the *Saturday Evening Post*. In 1934 his first novel, *Invitation to Life*, appeared, and he moved to Hollywood as a script writer. His contract was not renewed. Determined to write full time, he designed and built a house in Southern California with the help of his second wife, Jere. In 1936 he published his second novel, *Song on Your Bugles*, which is set in a poor mining area in Yorkshire and describes the adolescence of an artistic young man.

In 1937 the Knights returned east, settling on a farm in Croton-on-Hudson. Knight's first real success was the publication of his novella, "The Flying Yorkshireman," in an anthology by the same title in 1938. During the later 1930s Knight also taught at the Boulder Writer's Conference and traveled again to Yorkshire, where his observation of the misery among the unemployed inspired his next novel, *The Happy Land*, a critical but not a popular success. Impoverished Yorkshire was also the setting for his most famous book, *Lassie Come-Home* (1940), which was a Junior Literary Guild Selection.

At the outbreak of World War II, Knight volunteered his services to the British Ministry of Information. His last novel, *This Above All*, was set in the Battle of Britain and acclaimed as "the first great novel to come out of the Second World War." It was an immediate best seller in both the United States and England and was made into a 1942 movie starring Joan Fontaine and Tyrone Power.

Knight arrived in England in October 1941 to begin work on the Ministry of Information's film *World of Plenty*. He also lectured and delivered radio talks on America for the British audience. In 1942, he returned to the United States, became an American citizen, and was commissioned as a captain in the Special

Services Division. Knight contributed to many war information films and worked on the military pocket guides to several countries.

In January 1943 Knight was promoted to major and ordered to proceed to Cairo for "temporary duty." On January 13, 1943, he was killed when his transport plane crashed in Dutch Guiana. He received the Legion of Merit posthumously.

Eric Knight was married on July 28, 1917, to Dorothy Hall of Boston. The couple had three daughters: Betty Knight, Winifred Knight Mewborn, and Jennie Knight Moore. They were divorced in 1932.

On December 2, 1932, Knight married Jere Brylawski, herself a writer and story editor, in Philadelphia.

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## Scope and Contents

The Eric Knight Papers document aspects of the life and literary career of author Eric Knight. The papers span the dates 1908-1944, but the bulk of the material dates from between 1930 and 1942.

The collection consists of two series: *Writings*, housed in Boxes 1-13, and *Personal Papers*, located in Boxes 14-15. Oversize material is located in Boxes 16-18.

Between 1930 and 1942, Eric Knight published six novels, a novella, a collection of short stories, and dozens of uncollected stories, articles, and reviews. [Series I, Writings](#), holds typescripts, galleys, and other materials related to these works. The series is divided into two sections, the first devoted to full-length works (Books) and the second to shorter works. Material in Books is arranged alphabetically by title, while Shorter Works have been subdivided into "Articles," "Motion Picture Originals," "Plays," and "Short Stories," with each section alphabetically arranged.

Folder 46 contains the only two items in the collection to mention Knight's first novel, *Invitation to Life*, a work with an American setting published in 1934. Folders 88-121 contain typescripts, galleys, and a magazine condensation of *Song on Your Bugles*, which appeared in Great Britain in 1936. The novel was also published in the United States in 1937, with some alterations in the dialect passages.

In his next novels, Knight drew on his experiences of Hollywood. Box 9, folders 186-95 contains the setting typescript of *You Play the Black and the Red Comes Up*, which appeared in 1938 under the pseudonym Richard Hallas and was marketed as "hard-boiled" and in the "style of James M. Cain." The typescript of the never-published *Rose Without Warning* also dates from this period; the novel concerns a young girl's climb from marathon dance halls to stardom and her complex relationship with her mother. A corrected typescript is located in Boxes 3-4, folders 73-82.

Knight returned to his Yorkshire subject matter in his next two works, *The Happy Land* (published in Great Britain as *Now Pray We for Our Country*), and *Lassie Come-Home*, both of which were published in 1940. *The Happy Land* details the disintegration of a mining family under the pressures of unemployment and the British dole system, which Knight despised. Typescripts of various drafts and the setting typescript are located in folders 1-43.

Knight's most famous work is *Lassie Come-Home*, which first appeared in a shorter version in the *Saturday Evening Post* in December of 1938. (See Box 16, folder 362.) It also is set in impoverished Yorkshire. The collection contains a variety of materials related to this work, including typescripts of what appear to be several drafts, the setting typescript for the longer version, and three folders of fan mail, mostly from schoolchildren. The book was a selection of the Junior Literary Guild, translated into thirteen languages, and made into a successful motion picture starring Roddy McDowall. (See Box 18, folder 387.)

Knight's most popular novel was also his last. *This Above All* (1941), a tragic love story set during the Battle of Britain, also explores the ambivalence and bitterness of its working-class hero toward English society. It was a Book of the Month Club Main Selection, sold over 35,000 copies in Great Britain alone by the end of 1941, and was translated into several languages. Boxes 6-8 contain various drafts, carbons, and the setting typescript of this work. Box 16, folders 364-65 hold two publicity articles for the film version of *This Above All*, which mention the changes in plot requested by the Hays Office of movie censors.

The fan letters found in folders 182-85 demonstrate the enthusiastic response of Knight's readers, many of whom referred to "the approaching war" and stressed their support of the British cause. Several English readers praised the novel's "frank criticism" of the worst elements of English life.

Knight's last full-length publication was a collection of stories about his popular Yorkshire hero Sam Small. The setting typescript for *Sam Small Flies Again* is located in Box 4, folders 83-87.

The shorter works of Eric Knight can be found in Boxes 10-13. The subsection "Articles" consists of nonfiction magazine pieces, alphabetically arranged. These include miscellaneous pieces on travel, writing, and the movie industry. "Britain's Black Ghosts," published in 1938, describes Knight's firsthand look at the results of the dole in Yorkshire, an experience that led to his novel *The Happy Land*. The typescript of an interview with Leopold Stokowski, accompanied by a Stokowski letter, is located in Box 10, folder 212.

At least eight articles reflect Knight's strong support of the Allied cause during World War II. Box 10, folder 215, for example, contains the text of "They Don't Want Swamps or Jungles," an extremely popular talk first given by Knight on the Canadian Broadcasting Company. Research files for his article on the Polish general Sikorski can be found in folder 216.

"Motion Picture Originals" is Knight's own title for a file of scenarios and fully developed scripts. All are undated, but they were probably written during his tenure in Hollywood in the mid-1930s. The scripts, all apparently unpublished, have been placed in alphabetical order in Box 10, folders 217-26.

Knight spent much of his early career as a movie reviewer, and this aspect of his work is partially documented in Box 11. The collection contains a complete run of his reviews for the *Town Crier* between February and September 1930. In addition to criticism of specific films, the columns discuss a variety of related subjects, including his dislike of poorly written dialogue in the new "talkies," favorite actors and actresses, and the arbitrary ways of the Pennsylvania movie censors.

Knight published numerous short stories throughout his career. His first story, "The Two-Fifty Hat" (Box 13, folder 292), appeared in *Liberty* in June of 1930. By the late 1930s his stories were appearing frequently in popular fiction magazines, including *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Esquire*, and *Collier's*, sometimes after first being published in the little magazine *Story*. Typescripts, printed copies, and adaptations of these works can be found in Boxes 12-13, folders 260-95.

Many of these stories are also set in Yorkshire, and several involve the "typical Yorkshire hero" Sam Small. Knight's first major success as an author was the publication of his Sam Small novella, "The Flying Yorkshireman," in a 1938 anthology. In addition to several serializations of the work, the collection contains a copy of the *Reader's Digest* condensation, a high school parody, and a typescript of "Things Is Lookin' Up." Located in Box 12, folder 266, "Things" is a proposal for a musical comedy version which would present the Smalls "just as Eric Knight made them, except that they are now residents of East Sebago, Maine, instead of Yorkshire, England." "The Flying Yorkshireman" was also filmed by Hollywood.

Other stories of interest include "The Marne," which was included in the O. Henry anthology for 1936, and "Never Come Monday," which was broadcast as a radio play in the United States, Great Britain, and South Africa.

[Series II, Personal Papers](#), fills Boxes 14-15 and contains a variety of materials, including artwork, certificates, interviews, lecture notes, and photographs. There are two folders of correspondence, consisting almost entirely of brief personal notes received by Knight during spring and summer of 1941. One letter from Knight to "McCormick," located in folder 315, includes a discussion of Knight's novels and his personal aesthetics.

Knight had planned to become an artist, and examples of his sketches and cartoons are found in Box 14, folders 297-310. These include an early sketchbook, self-portraits and portraits, sketches of Yorkshire characters, and animal studies. Box 14, folder 296 contains architectural drawings by Knight of the house he designed and built in Southern California.

Photographs are located in folders 328-42. In addition to ten folders of photographs of Knight himself, there are portraits of his uncle E. Vernon Creasser, his brothers Edmund and Frederick Knight, and film personalities Joan Fontaine, Roddy McDowall, Lassie, Peri, Mary Pickford, and Anna Mae Wong.

Box 15, folders 343-61 contain material related to Knight's service during World War II. Most of these papers were found in Knight's musette bag after his death in Dutch Guiana in January of 1943. They include five folders of orders, beginning with his initial rejection by the Selective Service in early 1942; a report on "Morale and Special Services"; two folders of notes on Africa; and examples of the pocket guides on which Knight worked. Folder 344 holds Paul Horgan's text of Knight's Citation for the Legion of Merit.

[Oversize](#) material is located in Boxes 16-18. The papers have been arranged in series order, and include oversize copies of Knight's writings, memorial scrolls for his two brothers, and large-format photographs.

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## **Arrangement**

Organized into four series: I. Writings, 1930-1944, undated. II. Personal Papers, 1908-1943, undated. III. 1986 Acquisition, circa 1940. IV. 1990 Acquisition, 1920-1990, undated.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Writings

## BOOKS

*The Happy Land*

b. 1, f. 1-14	Draft typescript, corrected	1939, n.d.
b. 1, f. 15-17	"Excluded pages"	n.d.
b. 1, f. 18-23	Typescript carbon, corrected	n.d.
b. 2, f. 24-26	Typescript carbon, corrected	n.d.
b. 2, f. 27-43	Setting typescript	[1940]
b. 2, f. 44	Dialect list	n.d.
b. 2, f. 45	Excerpt: "Medal for a Hero"	n.d.

*Invitation to Life*

b. 2, f. 46	Book review: <i>Kosmos</i>	n.d.
b. 2, f. 46	Mention	n.d.

*Lassie Come-Home*

[See also: Oversize, Box 16, folder 362](#)

b. 2, f. 47-48	Typescript carbon, incomplete	n.d.
b. 2, f. 49	Typescript carbon: short version	n.d.
b. 3, f. 50-58	Setting typescript	n.d.
b. 3, f. 59-64	Typescript and carbon, incomplete	n.d.
b. 3, f. 65	Book cover	n.d.
b. 3, f. 66	Publicity	n.d.

## Reviews

b. 3, f. 67	<i>Horn Book</i>	1940 Sep-Oct
b. 3, f. 68	<i>Young Wings</i>	1940 Jul
b. 3, f. 69	School report: Passer Grammar School	n.d.
b. 3, f. 70-72	Fan mail	1941, n.d.

[See also: Oversize, Box 16, folder 363](#)

*Now Pray We for Our Country*

[See: \*The Happy Land\*, Box 1, folder 1](#)

*Rose Without Warning*



## BOOKS &gt; Rose Without Warning (continued)

b. 3, f. 73-79	Typescript and carbon, corrected	1935-36
b. 4, f. 80-82	Typescript and carbon, corrected	1935-36
<i>Sam Small Flies Again</i>		
b. 4, f. 83-87	Setting typescript	n.d.
<i>Song on Your Bugles</i>		
b. 4, f. 88	"Early beginnings"	[1931?]
b. 4, f. 89-98	"First draft--Revisions": typescript carbon, corrected	1936 Jun
b. 4, f. 99-106	"Second draft": typescript and carbon	1936 Jul-Nov
b. 5, f. 107	"Extra copy--third carbon" incomplete	n.d.
b. 5, f. 108-17	"American edition--Setting typescript"	1937
b. 5, f. 118-19	Galley proofs, corrected	1937 May
b. 5, f. 120	Advertising proofs	n.d.
b. 5, f. 121	Condensation: <i>Books in Brief</i>	1937 Nov
<i>This Above All</i>		
b. 6, f. 122-24	Research notes	n.d.
b. 6, f. 125-28	Pages from early draft	n.d.
b. 6, f. 129	Working outline	n.d.
b. 6, f. 130-33	"Odd pages": early draft, carbon	n.d.
b. 6, f. 134	"Prentiss sequences": carbon	n.d.
b. 6, f. 135	"Old Hamish sequences": carbon	n.d.
b. 6, f. 136-42	Typescript carbon, incomplete	n.d.
b. 7, f. 143-44	Typescript carbon, incomplete	n.d.
b. 7, f. 145-59	Setting typescript	n.d.
b. 7, f. 160-62	Setting typescript, carbon	n.d.
b. 8, f. 163-79	Setting typescript, carbon	n.d.
b. ART, f. 179a	Display model for Harper & Brothers edition	[ca. 1941]
b. 8, f. 180	Publicity for the Portuguese translation	n.d.
b. 8, f. 181	Condensation: <i>Reader's Digest</i>	1941
b. 8, f. 182-85	Fan mail	1941, n.d.

## BOOKS &gt; This Above All (continued)

Movie publicity

See: [Oversize, Box 16, folders 364-65](#)*You Play the Black and the Red Comes Up*

b. 9, f. 186-95                      Typescript, corrected                      [1937?]

## SHORTER WORKS

## Articles

b. 10, f. 196	"Altogether a Great Book": commentary on <i>And Quiet Flows the Don</i> , <i>Soviet Russia Today</i>	1941 Oct
b. 10, f. 197	"The Art of Charles Laughton": <i>Merry-Go-Round</i>	1933 Dec
b. 10, f. 197a	[Birthday verses to Paul Horgan], typescripts with drawings by Paul Horgan, with ANS by Paul Horgan	1938
	"Britain's Black Ghosts": <a href="#">See: Oversize, Box 16, folder 366</a>	
	"The British Eat to Win": <a href="#">See: Oversize, Box 16, folder 367</a>	
b. 10, f. 198	"Cinema Music": <i>The Musical Record</i>	1933 Mar
b. 10, f. 199	"An Englishman Looks at Canada": <i>The Monetary Times</i>	1942 Mar 7
b. 10, f. 200	"Friendly Smiles are Current Coin in Five Kinds of Mexico": <i>Aqui</i> <i>Steamship News</i>	1933 Mar
b. 10, f. 200	"The Funny Men": <i>New Mexico</i>	1941 Jun
b. 10, f. 201	"The Hollywood of Tomorrow": <i>Motion Picture</i>	1942 Sep
b. 10, f. 202	"How NOT to Ride a Horse": <i>Merry-Go-Round</i>	1934 Apr
b. 10, f. 203	"Humor in Writing": <i>The Writer</i>	1940 Jun
b. 10, f. 204	"I Write as I Feel": <i>Quill and Quire</i>	1942 Apr
b. 10, f. 205	"The Independent Film-maker": <i>Cinema Quarterly</i>	1933 Autumn
b. 10, f. 206-07	"Moving Picture Goals": typescript carbon, corrected, and <i>Theatre Arts</i> <i>Monthly</i>	n.d.
b. 10, f. 208	"My Life as Queen of Egomania": <i>Merry-Go-Round</i>	1934 Jun
b. 10, f. 208	"My Navajo and the Bluebells of Yorkshire": <i>Story</i>	1944 Jul-Aug
b. 10, f. 209	"Of All the World's Great Heroes": <i>Merry-Go-Round</i>	1934 Mar
b. 10, f. 210	"One Remembers": <i>Talks</i>	1942 Oct
b. 10, f. 211	"Our Allies": <i>Hemisphere Reel News</i>	1942 Aug

## SHORTER WORKS &gt; Articles (continued)

b. 10, f. 212	[Stokowski interview]: typescript, corrected by Stokowski, with ALS to Knight by Stokowski	1932
b. 10, f. 213	"The Stricken Areas": typescript	n.d.
b. 10, f. 214	"They Don't Want Swamps or Jungles": pamphlet, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation	1942
b. 10, f. 215	"To Build a World": typescript, carbon, and <i>Britain</i>	1943 Sep, n.d.
b. 10, f. 216	"Will Peace Bring a United States of Eastern Europe?" Research files and draft <a href="#">See also: Oversize, Box 16, folder 368</a>	1942
"Motion Picture Originals"		
b. 10, f. 217	"The Bandit Governor"	n.d.
b. 10, f. 218-19	"The Braintruster"	n.d.
b. 10, f. 220	"A Future in Hollywood"	n.d.
b. 10, f. 221	"The Hypothetical Murderer"	n.d.
b. 10, f. 222	"In the Room at the Inn"	n.d.
b. 10, f. 223	"The Magnificent Liar"	n.d.
b. 10, f. 224	"We're to Be Married To-morrow"	n.d.
b. 10, f. 225-26	[Untitled typescripts]	n.d.
Plays		
b. 10, f. 227	"Nothing But Dig, Dig, Dig"	[1942?]
Reviews		
b. 11, f. 228	<i>Profile</i>	1934 Jul
<i>The Town Crier</i> [Philadelphia]		
b. 11, f. 229-41	"The Movies" [column]	1930 Feb-May
b. 11, f. 242-59	"The Talkies"	1930 May-Sep
Stories		
b. 12, f. 260	"All Sergeants Are Alike": <i>Cosmopolitan</i>	1942 Sep
"All Those Beautiful Things" <a href="#">See: Oversize, Box 16, folder 369</a>		
b. 12, f. 261	"All Yankees Are Liars": typescript <a href="#">See also: Oversize, Box 16, folder 370</a>	n.d.
"Bison Bill and Johnny Bill": <a href="#">See: Oversize, Box 16, folder 371</a>		

## SHORTER WORKS &gt; Stories (continued)

b. 12, f. 262	"A Bit of a Do": <i>The Listener</i>	1940 Feb 1
b. 12, f. 263	"Cockles for Tea": <i>Good Housekeeping</i>	1939 May
	"The Flying Yorkshireman" <i>Maclean's</i> <a href="#">See: Oversize, Box 16, folder 372</a>	
	<i>The Passing Show</i> <a href="#">See: Oversize, Box 16, folders 373-75</a>	
	<i>Story</i> <a href="#">See: Oversize, Box 16, folder 376</a>	
b. 12, f. 264	Condensation: <i>Reader's Digest</i>	1940 Jul
b. 12, f. 265	Parody: <i>The Narrator</i> , Springfield High School Literary Magazine	1939 Dec
b. 12, f. 266	"Things Is Lookin' Up": notes for a musical comedy version, by Luther Davis and John Cleveland, typescript	n.d.
b. 12, f. 267	Fan mail	1941
b. 12, f. 268	"Homesick": <i>Cosmopolitan</i> and fan letter  "I Knew They'd Never Make It": <a href="#">See: Oversize, Box 16, folder 377</a>	1941 Nov
	"In a Small Way" <a href="#">See: Oversize, Box 16, folder 378</a>	
b. 12, f. 269	"The Lad Who Made His Fortune": typescript and carbon	n.d.
b. 12, f. 270-71	"Lambkin and the Constable": typescript and carbon	n.d.
b. 12, f. 272	"Leff, Clown": typescript	[1930]
b. 12, f. 272	"The Marne": <i>Story</i>	1936 Jul
b. 12, f. 273	"Mary Ann and the Duke": typescript <a href="#">See also: Oversize, Box 17, folder 379</a>	n.d.
b. 12, f. 274	"Meet Me in the Shadows": typescript, carbon, and <i>Story</i>	1935 Dec, n.d.
b. 12, f. 275-76	"Mr. Poots and the Ugly Tyke": typescript carbon and <i>Strand Magazine</i> <a href="#">See also: Oversize, Box 16, folder 380</a>	1941 Sep, n.d.
	"Never Come Monday" <a href="#">See also: Oversize, Box 17, folder 381</a>	
b. 12, f. 277	Typescript fragment	n.d.
b. 12, f. 278-79	<a href="#">Radio script by Stephen Fox, mimeograph, Columbia Broadcasting Corporation and South African Broadcasting Corporation</a>	1938, 1939

## SHORTER WORKS &gt; Stories &gt; "Never Come Monday" (continued)

b. 12, f. 280	Radio Script by T. Thompson, typescript carbon, British Broadcasting Corporation	1939
b. 12, f. 281	"The Old General": <i>Story</i>	1941 May-Jun
b. 12, f. 281	"Rain on Market Street": typescript	[1930]
b. 12, f. 282	"The Rifles of the Regiment": typescript, corrected <a href="#">See also: Oversize, Box 17, folder 382</a>	n.d.
	"Sam and His Yankee Allies" <a href="#">See: Oversize, Box 17, folder 383</a>	
	"Sam Small's Better Half" <a href="#">See also: Oversize, Box 17, folder 384</a>	
b. 12, f. 283	"Original version": typescript	n.d.
b. 12, f. 283	"First draft": typescript	n.d.
b. 12, f. 284	<i>Story</i>	1941 Mar-Apr
	"Sam Small's Tyke"	
b. 12, f. 285	<i>Story</i>	n.d.
b. 12, f. 286	Radio script, WHN, mimeograph	1940 Aug
b. 13, f. 287	"Strong in the Arms": typescript <a href="#">See also: Oversize, Box 17, folder 385</a>	n.d.
b. 13, f. 288-91	"The Ten Gallon Hat": typescript drafts <a href="#">See also: Oversize, Box 18, folder 386</a>	n.d.
b. 13, f. 292	"The Two-Fifty Hat": <i>Liberty</i>	1930 Jun 28
b. 13, f. 293	"That Damfool, Josephine": <i>Argosy</i>	1938 May 21
	"Time for the Pieman" <a href="#">See: Oversize, Box 18, folder 387</a>	
b. 13, f. 294	"The Truth About Rudolf Hess": typescripts	n.d.
	"The Yorkshireman Flies Again" <a href="#">See: Oversize, Box 18, folder 388</a>	
b. 13, f. 295	"War News--Secret": <i>New Yorker</i>	1941 Mar 29

**Series II: Personal Papers**

Architectural drawings		
b. 14, f. 296	House designed by Eric Knight	1935
Artwork		
b. 14, f. 297-301	Cartoons	1929-30, n.d.
b. 14, f. 302	Christmas cards	n.d.
b. 14, f. 303	Miscellaneous studies	1933, n.d.
b. 14, f. 304-08	Portraits	1910-35, n.d.
b. 14, f. 309	Sketchbook	n.d.
b. 14, f. 310	"Sketches of Yorkshire characters-- Sam Small"	n.d.
Certificates		
b. 14, f. 311	Birth certificate	1928
b. 14, f. 312	Labour certificate	1910
b. 14, f. 313	Naturalization certificate	1942
b. 14, f. 314	Swimming certificates	1908-09
Correspondence		
b. 14, f. 315	Broadhurst, Ian	1941 May 18
b. 14, f. 315	Clemens, Cyril	1941 Apr 28
b. 14, f. 315	Darbyshire, Percy W.	1941 Apr 9
b. 14, f. 315	Hanbridge, W. D.	1941 Jun 11
b. 14, f. 315	Hanson, Aquilla B.	1941 Jun 4
b. 14, f. 315	Hegone, Wanda	1941 Apr 21
b. 14, f. 315	Jackson, Ethel	n.d.
b. 14, f. 315	McCormick,---	1936 Feb
b. 14, f. 316	"Percy"	1941 Jul 2
b. 14, f. 316	Pilkington, Walter	1941 Apr 7
b. 14, f. 316	"Stina"	1941 Aug
b. 14, f. 316	Wheeler, Margaret	1941 Jul 23
Interviews and quotes		
b. 14, f. 317	[ <i>Iowa City Gazette</i> ]	[1941?]

## Interviews and quotes (continued)

b. 14, f. 318	<i>The Monetary Times</i>	1942 Mar 14
	<i>The New York Times Book Review</i> <a href="#">See: Oversize, Box 18, folder 389</a>	
b. 14, f. 319	Quote	1942 Aug 3
b. 14, f. 320	<i>Soviet Russia Today</i>	1941 Nov
b. 14, f. 321	<i>The Wellesley Review</i>	1941 Oct
	Knight, Edmund	
b. 14, f. 322	Appointment as sergeant	1917
b. 14, f. 322	Death notice	1920
	Memorial scroll <a href="#">See: Oversize, Box 18, folder 390</a>	
	Knight, Frederick	
	Memorial scrolls <a href="#">See: Oversize, Box 18, folders 391-392</a>	
	Lectures and teaching	
b. 14, f. 323	Columbia University Extension, Film Study: "The History of the Motion Picture, lecture 4"	1938 Oct 25
b. 14, f. 324-25	Iowa Writer's Workshop: notes, quizzes, and student work	1941
b. 14, f. 326-27	Miscellaneous papers	1926-42, n.d.
	Photographs	
b. 14, f. 328-29	Creasser, E. Vernon <a href="#">See also: Oversize, Box 18, folder 393</a>	n.d.
b. 14, f. 330	Fontaine, Joan	n.d.
b. 14, f. 331	"Hilda"	1942
b. 14, f. 332	Knight, Edmund and Frederick Knight	[1918?]
b. 14, f. 333-35	Knight, Eric <a href="#">See also: Oversize, Box 18, folders 394-395</a>	1917-42, n.d.
b. 15, f. 336	Knight, Eric: publicity stills	n.d.
b. 15, f. 337	Knight, Eric, with dogs	n.d.
b. 15, f. 338	Knight, Eric, with horses	n.d.
b. 15, f. 339	Knight, Eric and Jere	1935
b. 15, f. 340	Knight, Eric and friends	1942, n.d.

## Photographs (continued)

b. 15, f. 341	Knight, Frederick <a href="#">See also: Oversize, Box 18, folder 396</a>	n.d.
	McDowall, Roddy, and Lassie <a href="#">See: Oversize, Box 18, folder 397</a>	
b. 15, f. 342	Reri [Chevalier, Anne]	1932
b. 15, f. 342	[Pickford], Mary	n.d.
b. 15, f. 342	Wong, Anna Mae	n.d.
World War II		
b. 15, f. 343	Application to Army	1940
b. 15, f. 344	Citation for Legion of Merit: text by Paul Horgan	n.d.
"Contents of musette bag"		
b. 15, f. 345	"Africa Film Footage, New York"	n.d.
b. 15, f. 346	African history notes	n.d.
b. 15, f. 347	Chart of Special Services Operation	1942 Aug
b. 15, f. 348	"Hints on Pronouncing Arabic"	n.d.
b. 15, f. 349	Letter of introduction	n.d.
b. 15, f. 350-51	Miscellaneous papers	1942, n.d.
b. 15, f. 352	"Morale and Special Services"	1942 Nov 2
b. 15, f. 353-57	Orders	1942-1943 Jan
b. 15, f. 358	Photographs	n.d.
b. 15, f. 359	Pocket guides: England and Egypt	n.d.
b. 15, f. 360	Services of Supply directories	1942
b. 15, f. 361	Poem: "Major Eric Knight," by Lucille Coleman, in <i>Matrix</i> , Little Book 1	1943 Fall
b. 15, f. 361a	Military orders	1943
Other		
b. 15, f. 361b	Bookplates for The Eric Knight collection	undated



## Oversize

## WRITINGS

b. 15, f. 362	"Lassie Come-Home": <i>Saturday Evening Post</i>	1938 dec 17
b. 16, f. 363	Scroll honoring <i>Lassie</i>	1943
b. 16, f. 364	<i>This Above All</i> movie publicity: <i>Illustrated</i>	1942 Feb 14
b. 16, f. 365	<i>This Above All</i> movie publicity: <i>Life</i>	1942 Jan 26
b. 16, f. 366	"Britain's Black Ghosts": <i>Saturday Evening Post</i>	1938 May 28
b. 16, f. 367	"The British Eat to Win": <i>Saturday Evening Post</i>	1942 May 16
b. 16, f. 368	"Will Peace Bring a United States of Europe?" <i>Saturday Evening Post</i>	1942 Aug 8
b. 16, f. 369	"All Those Beautiful Things": <i>Collier's</i>	1942 Sep 19
b. 16, f. 370	"All Yankees Are Liars": <i>Saturday Evening Post</i>	1938 Jan 15
b. 16, f. 371	"Bison Bill and Johnny Bull": <i>Esquire</i>	1940 Nov
b. 16, f. 372	"The Flying Yorkshireman": <i>Maclean's</i>	1939 Jun 15
b. 16, f. 373-75	"The Flying Yorkshireman": Serialization in <i>The Passing Show</i>	1938 Aug 13-27
b. 16, f. 376	"The Flying Yorkshireman": <i>Story</i>	1937 Jul
b. 16, f. 377	"I Knew They'd Never Make It": <i>Esquire</i>	1939 Aug
b. 16, f. 378	"In a Small Way": <i>Town and Country</i>	1938 Jun
b. 17, f. 379	"Mary Ann and the Duke": <i>Esquire</i>	1937 Dec
b. 17, f. 380	"Mr. Poots and the Ugly Tyke": <i>Collier's</i>	1941 Apr 5
b. 17, f. 381	"Never Come Monday": <i>Esquire</i>	1938 Mar
b. 17, f. 382	"Rifles of the Regiment": <i>Collier's</i>	1942 Aug 15
b. 17, f. 383	"Sam and His Yankee Allies": <i>Saturday Evening Post</i>	1943 Feb 27
b. 17, f. 384	"Sam Small's Better Half": <i>Maclean's</i>	1940 Jun 1
b. 17, f. 385	"Strong in the Arms": <i>Esquire</i>	1938 Apr
b. 18, f. 386	"The Ten Gallon Hat": <i>Maclean's</i>	1939 Oct 1
b. 18, f. 387	"Time for the Pieman": <i>Esquire</i>	1938 Jun
b. 18, f. 388	"The Yorkshireman Flies Again": <i>Saturday Evening Post</i>	1941 Dec 20
PERSONAL PAPERS		
b. 18, f. 389	<i>The New York Times Book Review</i>	1942 Apr 5
b. 18, f. 390	Knight, Edmund: Memorial scroll	n.d.

## PERSONAL PAPERS (continued)

b. 18, f. 391-92	Knight, Frederick: Memorial scrolls	n.d.
b. 18, f. 393	Creasser, Vernon	n.d.
b. 18, f. 394-95	Knight, Eric	1934, n.d.
b. 18, f. 396	Knight, Frederick	n.d.
b. 18, f. 397	McDowall, Roddy	n.d.
	McDowall, Roddy, with Lassie	n.d.

### **Series III: 1986 Acquisition, circa 1940**

*(1 folder)*

This series consists of one letter from Eric Knight to his wife Jere regarding *Lassie Come-Home*.

Former call number: Uncat ZA File 164

b. 19, f. 398

Typescript letter from Eric Knight to Jere Knight with pencil notes concerning  
Lassie on the verso

circa 1940

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**Series IV: 1990 Acquisition, 1920–1990***5 linear feet (6 boxes)*

This series consists of writings, clippings, scrapbooks, artwork, personal and professional correspondence of Eric Knight, and papers related to Paul Rotha's book about Knight, *Portrait of a flying Yorkshireman: letters from Eric Knight in the United States to Paul Rotha in England*, as well as personal papers and sound recordings.

Former call number: Uncat ZA MS 146

Organized into five subseries: Writings, Correspondence, Paul Rotha Papers, Personal Papers, and Audiovisual Media.

**Writings**

This subseries contains clippings of Knight's film reviews, primarily for the *Philadelphia Public Ledger*, and materials related to *Lassie Come-Home*, such as correspondence, drafts, and original artwork.

Organized under two subheadings: Film Criticism and Articles, and *Lassie Come-Home*.

**Film Criticism and Articles**

b. 19, f. 399	Misc. clippings	1920s
b. 20	Scrapbook of <i>Public Ledger</i> columns by Knight	1930s
b. 21 (Oversize), f. 470	Clippings of <i>Public Ledger</i> columns by Knight	1930s
b. 21 (Oversize), f. 471	Misc. clippings	1931–1933
b. 19, f. 400	EK - film criticism	1932–1934
b. 22, f. 472	"The Films by Eric M. Knight 1932 Public Ledger Van. R. Tindall, Guide" notebook of clippings	1932
b. 22, f. 473	"The Films Other Interesting Articles by Eric M. Knight"	1932
b. 19, f. 401	Film [typescripts and clippings]	1934–1979
b. 19, f. 402	Other films by EK	1943–1946
b. 19, f. 403	Inventory - daily clippings	undated
b. 19, f. 404	Inventory - Sunday columns	undated
<b><i>Lassie Come-Home</i></b>		
b. 22, f. 474	"Lassie Come-Home" in <i>Saturday Evening Post</i> , with autograph manuscript corrections	1938
b. 22, f. 475	<i>Lassie Come-Home</i> notes on changes for book edition	1938
b. 22, f. 476	Lassie clippings, photograph, typescripts	1938–1990
b. 22, f. 477	Lassie correspondence	1939–1940

## Writings &gt; Lassie Come-Home (continued)

b. 22, f. 478	Lassie pencil sketches	1940
b. 22, f. 479	Lassie pencil and ink sketches	circa 1940
b. 22, f. 480	["Lassie licking injured paw"] pen and ink drawing on board	undated
b. 22, f. 481	Pencil study for "Lassie licking injured paw"	undated
b. 22, f. 482	50th anniversary article	1988

## Correspondence

This subseries contains original or copied correspondence of Knight and other writers, among them Witter Bynner, e. e. cummings, Max Eastman, and Hudson Strode, artists Marguerite McBey and Grant Wood, composer George Antheil, Yale University professor Norman Holmes Pearson, and Eleanor Roosevelt. Also included are fan mail, and film-related correspondence from studio and theater executives, conductor Leopold Stokowski, and actors such as Katharine Hepburn, Anna May Wong, and Roddy McDowell, star of the movie "Lassie Come Home," as well as a number of letters from novelist and actor Elissa Landi. The subseries further contains letters to Knight from Upton Sinclair regarding Sergei Eisenstein's film "Que Viva Mexico," which Sinclair financed and released in the United States as "Thunder Over Mexico."

Arranged alphabetically by correspondent, with subject-based folders filed at the end of the sequence.

b. 19, f. 405	Correspondence inventories	undated
b. 19, f. 406	Antheil, George	1932-1962
b. 19, f. 407	"B" General	1938
b. 19, f. 408	Bement, Douglas	1939-1941
b. 19, f. 409	Bynner, Witter	1941-1943
b. 19, f. 410	"C" General	1932-1942
b. 19, f. 411	Campbell, Gerald	1941
b. 19, f. 412	Clouete, Stuart	1941
b. 19, f. 413	cummings, e. e., typed copies of letters dated 1936-1941	1949
b. 19, f. 414	"D" General	1933-1943
b. 19, f. 415	Dehn, Adolf	1941
b. 19, f. 416	Eastman, Eliena and Max	1940-1942
b. 19, f. 417	Engle, Paul	1938-1942
b. 19, f. 418	"F" General	1937-1941
b. 19, f. 419	"H" General	1938-1966
b. 19, f. 420	Hurd, Peter, typed copies of letters dated 1935-1943	undated

## Correspondence (continued)

b. 19, f. 421	Hurd, Peter, typed copies of letters and other materials related to Hurd biography	1976
b. 19, f. 422	"J" General	1939-1941
b. 19, f. 423	"L" General	1943
b. 19, f. 424	Lynch, John W.	1942-1944
b. 19, f. 425	"M" General	1940-1941
b. 19, f. 426	MacArthur, Charles	undated
b. 19, f. 427	Maltz, Albert	1939-1940
b. 19, f. 428	McBey, Marguerite and James	1941-1942
b. 19, f. 429	Miles, Dorothy and Gilbert	1941-1942
b. 19, f. 430	"P" General	1937
b. 19, f. 431	Pearson, Norman Holmes	1947
b. 19, f. 432	"R" General	1933-1942
b. 19, f. 433	Roosevelt, Eleanor	1941-1942
b. 19, f. 434	"S" General	1937-1942
b. 19, f. 435	"T" General	1937-1939
b. 19, f. 436	"V" General	1942
b. 19, f. 437	Van Doren, Carl	1939-1940
b. 19, f. 438	"W" General	1937-1942
b. 19, f. 439	Winkelman, Barnie	1934-1941
b. 19, f. 440	Wood, Grant, and Park Rinard References social activities like Wood's meeting with Utagawa Kuniyoshi.	1940-1942
b. 19, f. 441	Unidentified	1939-1941
b. 19, f. 442	Correspondence - film-related	1928-1942, 1979-1980
b. 19, f. 443	Correspondence with Janet Graves	1931-1937, 1983
b. 19, f. 444	Culbert, etc. [David Culbert correspondence with Jere Knight]	1976-1980
b. 19, f. 445	Film connection - "Betty Boop"	1934, 1987
b. 19, f. 446-447	Helen Kendall - 1930-31, "Fan" Primarily letters from Helen Kendall, and a few other readers of Knight's column, including Major General Logan Feland.	1928-1933
b. 19, f. 448	Lectures - film etc.	1933-1938

## Correspondence (continued)

b. 19, f. 449	Museum of Modern Art Film Library	1937-1983
b. 19, f. 450	Temple Univ. film repository	1982-1987
b. 19, f. 451	"Viva Mexico," Best Maugard, Upton Sinclair, etc.	1932-1933
<p><b>Paul Rotha Papers</b></p> <p>This subseries contains original correspondence between Rotha and Knight and draft typescripts of <i>Portrait of a flying Yorkshireman: letters from Eric Knight in the United States to Paul Rotha in England</i>, a book published by Rotha after Knight's death. Knight's letters address his writings and experience in Hollywood; farming; the Depression and policies of Roosevelt; the onset of World War II in Europe; and his travels through New Mexico, where he visited the Rio Grande Basin and Santo Domingo (now Kewa) Pueblo. Topics of Rotha's letters include his work and technical aspects of filmmaking; his experience directing <i>Contact</i>, a documentary about British Imperial Airways, on location in South Africa; colleagues in the film industry such as directors John Grierson and Sergei Eisenstein, and actors Paul Robeson and Madeleine Carroll; support for fascism in England in the 1930s; and conditions in London during World War II. Rotha also describes visiting the hospital where injured soldiers were being treated by plastic surgeon Sir Harold Gillies. Additionally included are materials related to Rotha's documentary <i>World of Plenty</i>, on which Knight served as a writer and narrator.</p> <p>Arranged in chronological order.</p>		
b. 19, f. 452-455	Rotha to EK letters [includes letter to Jere Knight and clipping about 1979 biography of John Grierson] Certain letters are enclosed with negative strips, most likely from "Contact" and another documentary by Rotha, "Shipyard."	1932-1947, 1979
b. 19, f. 456	<i>World of Plenty</i> duplicate press clippings	1943
b. 19, f. 457-458	Rotha-Knight book of letters [primarily correspondence and corrections to manuscript]	1943-1979
b. 19, f. 459	EK to PR corresp. 9/1932-6/1940 (typed by Rotha's wife)	circa 1951
b. 19, f. 460-461	Chronology of letters Eric Knight to Paul Rotha	1951?
b. 19, f. 462-465	<i>Portrait of a Flying Yorkshireman</i>	1951
<p><b>Personal Papers</b></p> <p>This subseries includes materials related to posthumous projects about Knight, a portrait of his wife, Jere Knight, a scrapbook, and a sculpture of Lassie by an unknown artist.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by folder title.</p>		
b. 19, f. 466	Biography, inventory, film misc.	1983
b. 22, f. 483	"It Happened One Night in Wayne," scrapbook for Knight discussion on "The Movies of the Future," created by Arthur Edrop	1934
b. 19, f. 467	Mrs. [Jere] Knight portrait	undated
b. 19, f. 468	[Richard] Griffith film project	1968-1971
b. 19, f. 469	Richard Griffith re: EK film project	1933-1969

## Personal Papers (continued)

b. 23	"Lassie" figurine	undated
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## Audiovisual Media

This subseries consists of two sound recordings by Knight.

Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Arranged in chronological order.

b. 24, f. 484	Eric Knight, "For my great-grandchildren" (phonograph record)	1942
b. 24, f. 485	"Happy Land," excerpt read by Eric Knight (phonograph record)	undated

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## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Dogs in literature  
Dogs in motion pictures  
Film criticism  
Motion pictures -- Reviews  
World War, 1939-1945 -- England  
World War, 1939-1945 -- Literature and the war

### **Geographic Names**

England, Northern  
Great Britain -- Economic conditions --  
1918-1945  
Great Britain -- Social conditions -- 20th  
Century

### **Occupations**

Authors  
Moving-picture critics

### **Genres / Formats**

Audiovisual materials  
Figurines

### **Names**

Knight, Eric, 1897-1943

### **Corporate Bodies**

United States. Army (History World War,  
1939-1945)  
United States. Army (Information services)