



The New York Public Library
Billy Rose Theatre Division

Guide to the

Anthony Quinn letters to Bertha Case

1963-1976

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Summary

Creator: Quinn, Anthony, 1915-2001

Title: Anthony Quinn letters to Bertha Case

Date: 1963-1976

Size: .25 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Purchase, 2008

Abstract: First Mexican-American actor to win an Academy Award, Anthony Quinn's most notable film roles were the title character in *Zorba the Greek* for which he received his fourth Oscar nomination and the circus strongman in Fellini's *La Strada*. He had a prolific career on film playing especially villains and a wide variety of ethnic types. On Broadway he replaced Marlon Brando in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and played opposite Laurence Olivier in *Thomas Becket*. Quinn was also a painter and writer. Lengthy letters by Quinn to his literary agent Bertha Case focus on the writing of his autobiography, but also discuss his busy film career. Also includes a few photos of Quinn including Christmas card portraits with his family and a published copy of his *The Original Sin*: A self-portrait, inscribed to Case.

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>

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Creator History

First Mexican-American actor to win an Academy Award, Anthony Quinn's most notable film roles were the title character in *Zorba the Greek* for which he received his fourth Oscar nomination and the circus strongman in Fellini's *La Strada*. He had a prolific career on film playing especially villains and a wide variety of ethnic types. On Broadway he replaced Marlon Brando in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and played opposite Laurence Olivier in *Thomas Becket*. Quinn was also a painter and writer.

Scope and Content Note

Lengthy letters by Quinn to his literary agent Bertha Case focus on the writing of his autobiography, but also discuss his busy film career. Also includes a few photos of Quinn including Christmas card portraits with his family and a published copy of his *The Original Sin*: A self-portrait, inscribed to Case.

Key Terms

Occupations

Actors

Authors

Subjects

Motion picture actors and actresses

Names

Quinn, Anthony, 1915-2001

Case, Bertha