

DEERFIELD ACADEMY
ARCHIVES



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**John Gunther Jr. Collection, 1943-2001:
Finding Aid**

Summary Information

Location: Deerfield Academy Archives, Deerfield, MA

Title: John Gunther Jr. Collection. 1943-2001

ID No.: MSS004

Creator: Gunther, John, Jr., 1929-1947

Quantity: 3 boxes, 1.5 linear ft.

Abstract: Collection of material related to Deerfield student, class of 1947. Contains newspaper articles, research materials, correspondence, schoolwork, and photographs.

Administrative Information

Processing Information: Processed by Anna Newman, 2011

Acquisition: The John Gunther Jr. Collection was transferred to the Academy Archives in various stages over time.

Access: Access to these papers is governed by the rules and regulations of the Deerfield Academy Archives. The collection is open to research without restrictions.

Preferred citation: [Identification of item], [Box #, folder #], in John Gunther Jr. Collection, Deerfield Academy Archives, Deerfield, MA.

Use Restrictions: Deerfield Academy holds copyright on some, but not all, of the material in our collections. Researchers are responsible for identifying and contacting the persons or organizations who hold copyright. Deerfield Academy cannot provide permission to publish or distribute materials when it is not the copyright holder.

Historical Note

John “Johnny” Gunther Jr. entered Deerfield Academy in the fall of 1943. In 1946, he was diagnosed with a brain tumor and underwent several operations. A motivated student particularly interested in math and science, Johnny kept up with his schoolwork during his recuperation and hoped to study at Harvard. He even sent one of his ideas to Albert Einstein and received an encouraging letter in response. Johnny returned to campus in 1947 to graduate with his class, but only two weeks later, he died. His father, journalist and author John Gunther Sr., immortalized his son’s memory in his short memoir, *Death Be Not Proud*, which was made into a movie in 1974.

Scope and Content

The John Gunther Jr. Collection consists of correspondence, schoolwork, and other documentation concerning John Gunther Jr.’s life and studies at Deerfield Academy. It also includes correspondence and research materials that show the impact of the publication of *Death Be Not Proud*—and the subsequent film—on the school, and documents the long-lasting relationship between John Gunther Sr. and Frank L. Boyden. This collection may be useful to anyone studying the effects of a serious illness on adolescents and their parents. This collection is organized into four series:

- SERIES I. Historical/Biographical, 1945-2001
- SERIES II. Correspondence, 1943-2001
- SERIES III. Schoolwork, 1943-1946
- SERIES IV. Photographs, 1945-1998
- SERIES V. Addenda, 1943-1946

Additional Index Terms

The following entries represent persons, organizations, and topics documented in this collection.
THIS IS NOT AN INDEX.

People

Gunther, Frances Fineman

Gunther, John, 1901-1970

Gunther, John, Jr., 1929-1947

Boyden, Frank L. (Frank Learoyd), 1879-1972

Einstein, Albert, 1879-1955

Eisner, Henry

Stulman, Steven

Organizations

Deerfield Academy

Subjects

Death be not proud

Science--Study and Teaching (Secondary)

Related materials

[Frances Fineman Gunther Papers, 1915-1963](#)

Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute
Cambridge, MA. 02138

[John Gunther Papers, 1935-1967](#)

Special Collections Research Center
University of Chicago Library
Chicago, IL 60637

Container List

SERIES I. Historical/Biographical, 1945-2001

BOX-FOLDER	Contents	
1-1	Ready Reference File	1945-1988
1-2	Scroll Articles	1946-1974
1-3	<i>Death Be Not Proud</i> Movie Photos and Materials	1975
1-4	Excerpts from John Gunther Biography, <i>Inside</i>	1992
1-5	Exhibit File #1	1987-1999
1-6	Exhibit File #2	1949-2001

SERIES II. Correspondence, 1943-2001

1-7	Correspondence - Mr. Boyden (includes Einstein letter)	1944-194
1-8	Correspondence - Mr. Boyden and John and Frances Gunther #1 **Confidential**	1943-1946
1-9	Correspondence - Mr. Boyden and John and Frances Gunther #2 **Confidential**	1947-1950
1-10	Correspondence - Mr. Boyden and John and Frances Gunther Sr. **Confidential**	1950-1973
1-11	Correspondence - Reader's Digest Article	1949-1952
1-12	Correspondence - Stulman, Steven	1947-1949
1-13	Correspondence - Eisner, Henry	1946-2001
1-14	Correspondence requesting information	1953-2002

SERIES III. School Work, 1943-1946

BOX 2

2-1	Biology #1	[n.d.]
2-2	Biology #2	[n.d.]
2-3	Biology #3	1944-1945, [n.d.]
2-4	Themes #1	[n.d.]
2-5	Themes #2	1944; [n.d.]
2-6	Geology/Weather/Chemistry/Physics #1	[n.d.]

BOX 3

3-1	Geology/Weather/Chemistry/Physics #2	1943; [n.d.]
3-2	Geology/Weather/Chemistry/Physics #3	1945; [n.d.]
3-3	Math and chemistry notes	1946; [n.d.]
3-4	Physics and chemistry notebooks and exams	[n.d.]
3-5	Miscellaneous writings	1941

SERIES IV. Photographs, 1945-1998

3-6	Photos	1945-1947
3-7	Digital photo printouts	1998

SERIES V. Addenda, 1943-1946

BOX-FOLDER

Contents

4-1	Biology #1 photocopies, 1943-1946	[n.d.]
4-2	Biology #2 photocopies, 1943-1946	[n.d.]
4-3	Biology #3 photocopies, 1943-1946	[n.d.]
4-4	Themes #1 photocopies, 1943-1946	[n.d.]
4-5	Themes #2 photocopies	1944; [n.d.]
4-6	Geology/Weather/Chemistry/Physics #1 photocopies	[n.d.]
4-7	Geology/Weather/Chemistry/Physics #2 photocopies	1943; [n.d.]
4-8	Geology/Weather/Chemistry/Physics #3 photocopies	1945; [n.d.]
4-9	Math and chemistry notes photocopies	1946; [n.d.]
4-10	Physics and chemistry notebooks and exams photocopies	[n.d.]
4-11	Miscellaneous writings photocopies	1941