

# Guide to the Elizabeth Harriet Thomson papers

MS 1623



compiled by Bella Z. Berson

July 1992

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New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1623

**CREATOR:** Thomson, Elizabeth Harriet, 1907-

**TITLE:** Elizabeth Harriet Thomson papers

**DATES:** 1945-1990

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 1.75 linear feet (4 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers are composed of correspondence and project files which document Elizabeth Thomson's research and writing on the history of medicine. Additional material concerns her editorial and administrative work for John Fulton in the Yale University Department of the History of Medicine.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1623>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1623>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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 Ruth Judge, 1992 and 1994.

## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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## Preferred Citation

Elizabeth Harriet Thomson Papers (MS 1623). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Elizabeth Harriet Thomson was born on September 6, 1907, near Holland Patent, New York. After receiving her B.S. in 1911 from Simmons College, she worked as an editorial assistant at Mount Holyoke College and later at the National League of Nursing and in the Army Air Force. From 1945 until her retirement in 1972 she served as assistant in research at the Yale Medical Historical Library and then as research assistant and later research associate in the Yale University Department of the History of Medicine. Thomson helped John Fulton prepare a biography of Harvey Cushing and was his coauthor on *Benjamin Silliman, 1779-1864, Pathfinder in American Science*. In 1949, Thomson wrote *Harvey Cushing: Surgeon, Author, Artist*. She also served as editor of the *Journal of the History of Medicine*. Her biography of Fulton was unfinished at the time of her death on December 29, 1991.

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## Scope and Contents

The papers are composed of correspondence and project files which document Elizabeth Thomson's research and writing on the history of medicine. Additional material concerns her editorial and administrative work for John Fulton in the Yale University Department of the History of Medicine.

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## Arrangement

Arranged in two series: I. Correspondence and Personal Papers, 1945-1990, II. Projects, 1950-1981.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence and Personal Papers, 1945-1990

This series includes correspondence and personal papers of Elizabeth Thomson. The files are arranged alphabetically by record type.

Correspondence comprises the bulk of the series, though the correspondence itself is scattered. The files are arranged alphabetically and include exchanges with bibliophiles, students, family, and colleagues associated with John Fulton, which show the admixture of business and intellectual life with Thomson's social affairs. The letters from Fulton, William W. Francis of the Osler Library in Montreal, and Noel Poynter of the Wellcome Historical Medical Library in London are warmly personal but also relate to their work. There is also correspondence with Madeline Stanton and members of her family. Some writers, William W. Francis, for example, addressed letters jointly to Madeline Stanton and Thomson. These letters are divided between the Thomson Papers and the Madeline Stanton Papers (MS 1482).

The scant files of personal papers include biographical information in the form of tributes to Thomson on the occasion of her retirement and her obituary. There is also some family memorabilia.

Correspondence		
b. 1, f. 1	A	1950-1984
b. 1, f. 2	Abbott, Margaret	1957-1959
b. 1, f. 3	Adams, Leslie B.	1981-1983
b. 1, f. 4	B	1946-1986, undated
	Berg, Heather See: <a href="#">Folder 45</a>	
b. 1, f. 5	Booraem, Laura Fulton	1946, 1950-1952
b. 1, f. 6	C	1946-1982
b. 1, f. 7	D	1950-1982
b. 1, f. 8	E	1949-1984, undated
b. 1, f. 9	F	1950-1983, undated
b. 1, f. 10-11	Francis, William W.	1946-1959
b. 1, f. 12-13	Fulton, John Farquhar	1945-1959, undated
b. 1, f. 14-15	Fulton, Lucia Pickering	1945-1975, undated
b. 1, f. 16	Fulton family	1972
b. 1, f. 17	G	1964-1988

## Correspondence (continued)

b. 1, f. 18	Glenn, Frank	1979-1981
b. 1, f. 19	H	1948-1982, undated
b. 1, f. 20	I	1956-1957
b. 1, f. 21	J	1949-1950
b. 1, f. 22	K	1950-1978
b. 1, f. 23	Keele, Kenneth and Mary	1960-1980
b. 1, f. 24	L	1949-1981, undated
b. 1, f. 25	Light, Richard U.	1949, 1980-1986
b. 1, f. 26	M	1952-1986
b. 2, f. 27	Muirhead, Arnold and Dorothy	1953-1958, 1980-1981
b. 2, f. 28	N	1949-1983
b. 2, f. 29	Neale Watson Academic Publications	1973-1974
b. 2, f. 30	O	1957-1984
b. 2, f. 31	O'Malley, Donald and Frances	1950-1959
b. 2, f. 32	P	1950-1972
b. 2, f. 33-38	Poynter, Noel and Ruth	1953, 1956-1965, undated
b. 2, f. 39	Q	1953-1968
b. 2, f. 40	R	1946-1974
	Reid, Richard S. and Ruth See: <a href="#">Folder 45</a> .	
	Relf, Louise See: <a href="#">Folder 16</a> .	
b. 2, f. 41	Rose, John and Peg	1950-1958, undated
b. 2, f. 42	Rosencrantz, Esther	1948-1949
b. 2, f. 43	S	1948-1983, undated
b. 2, f. 44	Stanton, Madeline	1949-1958
b. 2, f. 45	Stanton family	1979-1980
b. 2, f. 46	Stevenson, Lloyd G.	1960-1985

## Correspondence (continued)

b. 2, f. 47	T	1949, 1983, undated
b. 2, f. 48	V	1981
b. 2, f. 49	W	1948-1990, undated
	Wagstaff, Dorothy, Joe, "Patrick" See: <a href="#">Folder 45</a> .	
	Weare, Florence See: <a href="#">Folder 16</a> .	
b. 3, f. 50	Weed, Lewis	1949-1950
b. 3, f. 51	Y	1972-1973, 1986
b. 3, f. 52	Unidentified	1950-1988, undated
	Personal papers	
b. 3, f. 53	Biographical information	1972
b. 3, f. 54	Memorabilia [family]	Undated

**Series II: Projects, 1950-1981**

Project files, which are arranged chronologically, include Thomson's writings as well as materials for her organizational work on various tributes, commemorations, and celebrations at the Yale School of Medicine and in its Historical Library. Her contributions to the second edition of John Fulton's *Selected Readings in the History of Physiology* and her efforts associated with Madeline Stanton's Smith College Alumnae Medal are documented. Files of her writings contain book reviews, obituaries, correspondence and publicity for *Harvey Cushing: Surgeon, Author, Artist*, and notes for a biography of John Fulton. Photocopies of some chapters of the incomplete biography are available at the Yale University Cushing/Whitney Medical Historical Library.

b. 3, f. 55	<i>Harvey Cushing: Surgeon, Author, Artist</i> English	1950
b. 3, f. 56	Fulton's Rosenbach lectures	1950-1951
b. 3, f. 57	Fulton commemorative volume of <i>Yale Biology and Medicine</i>	1955
b. 3, f. 58	Fulton's twenty-fifth anniversary dinner	1956
b. 3, f. 59	Christmas letter	1957
b. 3, f. 60	Fulton's sixtieth birthday party and volume: <i>The Making of a Library</i>	1959
b. 3, f. 61	Annual report of the Department of History of Science and Medicine	1960
b. 3, f. 62	Yale University on the Occasion of the Sesquicentennial Celebration of the School of Medicine [notes]	1960
b. 3, f. 63	History and Development...Department of History of Science and Medicine of Yale University	1960
b. 3, f. 64	Fulton issue (1962) of <i>Journal of Medicine and Allied Sciences</i>	1961-1962
b. 3, f. 65	"Early Manifestations of Bibliomania in Three Collectors: Harvey Cushing, Arnold Klebs, and John Fulton" English	1962?
	<i>Selected Readings in the History of Physiology</i> , 2nd edition Material related to the publication of this edition may have earlier dates.	1966
	Correspondence	1958
b. 3, f. 66	A-K	
b. 3, f. 67	L-Z	
b. 3, f. 68-70	Drafts, proofs, etc.	1958
b. 3, f. 71	1960-1963	1960-1963
b. 4, f. 72-73	1964 English	1964
b. 4, f. 74	1965 English	1965



## Selected Readings in the History of Physiology , 2nd edition (continued)

b. 4, f. 75	1966-1968, undated	1966-1968, undated
b. 4, f. 76	Second edition word count	Undated
b. 4, f. 77	M. E. Stanton's Smith College medal	1973
b. 4, f. 78	Book reviews, obituaries	1976
b. 4, f. 79-80	"Journal of William Tully," 1960-1961 English	1977
b. 4, f. 81	Obituaries	1977
b. 4, f. 82	"John Farquhar Fulton" in Dictionary of American Biography, 1975-1979 English	1979
b. 4, f. 83	Introduction to Cushing's The Life of Sir William Osler	1981
b. 4, f. 84	"Madeline Earle Stanton, Disciple, the Years 1920-1941" English	1981
b. 4, f. 85	Fulton biography: notes	Undated

## **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**

Medical historians  
Medicine -- History -- Study and teaching  
Women

### **Names**

Cushing, Harvey, 1869-1939  
Fulton, John F. (John Farquhar), 1899-1960  
Keele, Kenneth D. (Kenneth David), 1909-  
Light, Richard Upjohn, 1902-1994  
Poynter, F. N. L. (Frederick Noël Lawrence),  
1908-  
Stanton, Madeline E. (Madeline Earle)  
Thomson, Elizabeth Harriet, 1907-

### **Corporate Bodies**

Yale Medical Library. Historical Library  
Yale University. Department of the History of  
Medicine