

**MS
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HUGHES (Elizabeth) Papers

Papers contain letters written by Elizabeth Hughes (1907-1981) to her mother, Antoinette (Mrs. Charles E.) Hughes, describing her activities and giving information about her health and diabetic condition. Letters dating from August to November 1922 describe Elizabeth's experiences in Toronto where she was treated with insulin by F.G. Banting. Collection includes one letter written by Elizabeth's nurse, Blanche Burgess, enclosing a letter from Dr. F.M. Allen. 1921-1923. 53 letters.

Papers also include 22 photographs of Elizabeth Hughes and her family, dating from 1907 to 1951, and a commemorative medal struck by the Eli Lilly Company in 1995.

Total extent: 3 boxes (53 letters, 22 photos, 1 medal)

The letters were donated in 1996 to the Fisher Library by Elizabeth Hughes' husband, William T. Gossett, and their children: W. Thomas Gossett, Jr., Antoinette Carter (Gossett) Denning, and Elizabeth Evans (Gossett) Karaman. The original photographs were donated in 1996 by Theodore Hughes Waddell, a nephew of Elizabeth Hughes. Photographs of Elizabeth Hughes have also been copied from originals in the Supreme Court of the United States and in the Library of Congress, as indicated on the following listing. No reproduction of these copy photographs can be made without permission from the institution where the originals are held.

January 1998
K. Martyn

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Elizabeth Hughes (1907-1981) was the daughter of Antoinette and Charles E. Hughes. Her father was U.S. Secretary of State (1921-1925) and later Chief Justice of the United States (1930-1941). Elizabeth contracted severe diabetes in 1919 at age 11. She was treated initially by Dr. F.M. Allen at his special clinic, the Physiatrie Institute in Morristown, N.J. Dr. Allen put Elizabeth on a strict diet and continued to monitor her condition over the next three years while she lived at home with a private nurse.

By the winter of 1921/22 her health was deteriorating seriously. In January 1922 Elizabeth's family sent her, with her nurse, to Bermuda to enjoy a warmer climate in the hopes that she could regain her strength. She returned to Washington in June 1922, however, in a very weakened state. Her mother then contacted F.G. Banting in Toronto and managed to have Elizabeth accepted as one of his private patients.

Elizabeth came to Toronto with her mother and her nurse in August 1922 and began receiving insulin from Dr. Banting immediately. She stayed in Toronto until November 30, 1922, making excellent progress and becoming Dr. Banting's star patient. He wrote up her case in medical journals and kept in touch with her after she returned home to Washington.

Elizabeth's health continued to improve with continued insulin treatment. She returned to school in 1923 and eventually graduated from Barnard College in 1929. In 1930 she married William T. Gossett, a young lawyer in her father's law firm. They had three children: Antoinette, Elizabeth, and W. Thomas.

William Gossett became a vice-president and general counsel of the Ford Motor Company and served for some years as president of the American Bar Association. He and his family lived in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. Elizabeth Gossett was active in civic affairs in the Detroit area. She was a member of the board of trustees of Barnard College, one of the founding trustees of Oakland College, Rochester, a member of the Detroit Urban League, as well as a volunteer at the Merrill-Palmer Institute and at Michigan State University. She was best known, however, as the founder of the Supreme Court of the United States Historical Society in 1972 and served as its president until 1979.

HUGHES (ELIZABETH) PAPERS

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Elizabeth Gossett died of pneumonia on April 21, 1981 at the age of seventy-three. She had lived for fifty-eight years on insulin. Her life had been full and active and she believed that few of her friends or associates knew of her diabetic condition.

Elizabeth Gossett was interviewed by Michael Bliss in the course of his research for his book: *The Discovery of Insulin* (Toronto: 1982) and he quoted from several of her letters in that book. Elizabeth's story was also an important part of the Canadian television docudrama, *Glory Enough for All*. Her original letters remained with her family after her death until donated by her husband in 1996.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The letters fall into four groups: 12 letters from Glens Falls, N.Y., summer 1921; 22 letters from Bermuda, Jan.-June 1922; 18 letters from Toronto, Aug.-Nov. 1922; 1 letter from Glens Falls, N.Y., Sept. 1923.

There are 11 original photographs of Elizabeth Hughes as a child and young girl, donated by her nephew, Theodore Hughes Waddell. 11 others have been copied for the collection from originals in the C.E. Hughes Papers in the Library of Congress and in the Supreme Court of the United States.

Several later letters written by Elizabeth Hughes and her mother to Dr. Banting are in the Library's Banting Papers together with several photographs, clippings, and charts (Ms. Coll. 76, Box 8A; Scrapbooks).

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HUGHES (ELIZABETH) PAPERS

CONTAINER LIST

BOX 1

CORRESPONDENCE

Elizabeth Hughes, "Stillwater", Glens Falls, N.Y. To Antoinette Hughes, Washington, D.C. Aug. 12-Sept. 12, 1921.

Folders
1-12

12 A.L.S. with envelopes.

These letters describe Elizabeth's activities during holiday spent with family friends near Lake George. They contain almost no references to her diabetes.

Folders

Elizabeth Hughes, "Honeymoon Cottage", Hamilton, Bermuda. To Antoinette Hughes, Washington, D.C. Jan.8-June 7-15, 1922.

13-34

22 A.L.S. with envelopes (1 A.L.S. lacks envelope)

These letters describe Elizabeth's activities in Bermuda and her health during the winter and spring of 1922. There are many passages describing her diet and other details of her state of health. The letter of May 16, 1922 comments on a clipping which Elizabeth had received from her mother about a new treatment for diabetes (insulin).

Folder 35

Blanche Burgess, "Honeymoon Cottage", Hamilton, Bermuda. To Antoinette Hughes, Washington D.C. May 13, 1922

A.L.S. with envelope. (With enclosed T.L.S. from F.M. Allen)

Encloses a letter written to Blanche by Dr. F.M. Allen, Morristown, N.J.; dated May 13, 1922. Dr. Allen recommends that Elizabeth visit his Physiatrie Institute on her return from Bermuda so he can monitor her condition. Blanche endorses this suggestion in the light of the intestinal difficulties Elizabeth is experiencing.

Folders

Elizabeth Hughes, Athelma Apartments, 78 Grosvenor St., Toronto. To Antoinette Hughes, Washington, D.C. Sept. 24-Nov. 28, 1922.

36-53

18 T.L.S. (with ms. additions) with envelopes.

These extremely important letters describe Elizabeth's treatment with insulin and her excellent progress. There are many references to Dr. Banting. The letters also describe her activities in Toronto (concerts, books read, car trips, etc.).

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CONTAINER LIST

BOX 1 CORRESPONDENCE

Folder 54 Elizabeth Hughes, Glens Falls, N.Y. To Antoinette Hughes, Washington.
D.C. Sept. 9, 1923.
 A.L.S. with envelope.

 Describes her activities while on holiday visiting family friends.

BIOGRAPHICAL MATERIALS (PRINTED)

Folder 55 Lowell Eklund. "A Tribute to Elizabeth Hughes Gossett ...Christ Church
Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan ... April 28, 1981." [Memorial
service leaflet]

Folder 56 "The Elizabeth Evans Hughes Insulin Medal" in *Practical Diabetes*
International. Vol. 12, no.4 (Jul/Aug 1995)

Folder 57 Michael Bliss. "A sudden reprieve called Insulin" in *Saturday Night*, vol.
97, no.1 (Jan. 1982)

BOX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS

Collection includes original photographs, gift of Ted Wadell, 1996, and
copies of originals held in the C.E. Hughes Papers in the Supreme Court of
the United States and in the C.E. Hughes papers in the Library of Congress.
Titles and dates for the Wadell family photographs have been supplied by
Thomas Gossett. Additional photographs available in the F.G. Banting
Papers. See Elizabeth Hughes file in Box 8A and Scrapbook I.

1. "Mrs. Hughes holding daughter Elisabeth at Executive Mansion in
Albany" [1907] Copy of original in Supreme Court of the United
States.
2. [Hughes family group on veranda] "Helen, Catherine, Grandmother [i.e.
Antoinette Hughes], Grandfather [i.e. C.E. Hughes], Elizabeth,
Charlie. Summer 1909. Place unknown." Original. Gift of
Theodore Hughes Waddell, 1996.
3. "Elizabeth Hughes, ca. 1909." [Small child in rocking chair] Original.
Gift of Theodore Hughes Waddell, 1996.

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BOX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS

4. "Catherine, Elizabeth. 1911?" Original. Gift of Theodore Hughes Waddell.
5. "Elizabeth with her mother, ca. 1911." Original. Gift of Theodore Hughes Waddell.
6. "Catherine, Elizabeth, Grandmother [i.e. Antoinette Hughes]. Place: unknown. Date: summer 1912?" Original. Gift of Theodore Hughes Waddell.
7. "Hughes daughters: Helen, Elizabeth, & Catherine. Place: unknown. Date: ca. 1912." Original. Gift of Theodore Hughes Waddell.
8. "Catherine & Elizabeth Hughes. ca.1913." Original. Gift of Theodore Hughes Waddell.
9. "Elizabeth [with a chipmunk] ca. 1913 or 14." Original. Gift of Theodore Hughes Waddell.
10. "The Hughes family at Lake Sunapee, N.H., Summer 1914. From left: Catherine, Helen, Charles Jr., Grandmother [i.e. Antoinette Hughes], Elizabeth, Grandfather [i.e. Charles E. Hughes]." Original. Gift of Theodore Hughes Waddell.
11. The Hughes family: Charles E. Jr., Helen, Catherine, Antoinette, Charles E. Hughes, Elizabeth. 1916. Copy of original in Library of Congress.

Published in *New York World Pictures*, April 30, 1916 with caption: "A new interesting photograph of Justice Charles Evans Hughes and his family." C.E. Hughes was campaigning for Presidency in 1916. candidature for President at this time. Reproduced in *The Autobiographical Notes of Charles Evans Hughes*, edited by David J. Danelski and Joseph S. Tulchin (Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press, 1973).
12. "Elizabeth Hughes [with bicycle]" ca.1916? Copy of original in Library of Congress.

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BOX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS

13. "The Hughes family. 1916 summer. Charles E. Hughes, Elizabeth, Catherine, Helen, Antoinette C. Hughes, Charles Evans Hughes, Republican candidate for President, 1916." Original. Gift of Theodore Hughes Waddell.
14. "Elizabeth Hughes [standing by shrub]" 1916. Copy of original in Library of Congress.

Taken on same occasion as Hughes family group, summer 1916.
15. "C.E. Hughes & Elizabeth" 1916. Copy of original in Library of Congress.

Taken on same occasion as Hughes family group, summer 1916.
16. "Elizabeth with sister Catherine in Rye, N.Y. in summer of 1918." (Note on back of photo. "Mother & Elizabeth") Original. Gift of Theodore Hughes Waddell. (Photo. appears to be of Antoinette C. Hughes with Elizabeth, not her sister Catherine)
17. Elizabeth Hughes with tennis racquet. Mid 1920s? Copy of original in Library of Congress.
18. Elizabeth Hughes with her parents, C.E. Hughes and Antoinette Hughes. Mid 1920s? Copy of original in Library of Congress.
19. Elizabeth Hughes. Portrait by Underwood. Dated by Library of Congress to Nov. 5, 1924. Copy of original in Library of Congress.
20. "Elizabeth Hughes with friends at Amaryllis Show". Late 1920s? Titled by Library of Congress. Copy of original in Library of Congress.
21. Elizabeth Hughes Gossett on board ship. Dated by Library of Congress to Dec. 22, 1930. Copy of original in Library of Congress.

Elizabeth Hughes married Thomas Gossett Dec. 19, 1930. This photograph seems to have been taken on board ship as she left for her honeymoon in Bermuda.

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BOX 2 PHOTOGRAPHS

22. "C.E. Hughes with daughter Elizabeth at a cottage at Wianno Club, Cape Cod." Undated. Copy of original in the Supreme Court of the United States.
23. "Elizabeth Hughes Gossett's three children: Antoinette Carter Gossett ... Elizabeth Evans Gossett ... William Thomas Gossett ... 1951." Xerox of original in Thomas Gossett's possession.

BOX 3 MEDALS

Medal Insulin Cymru / Welsh Insulin Medal. 1995.

The verso of medal has an effigy of Elizabeth Hughes and the inscription: "Elizabeth Evans Hughes, 1907-1981, one of the first children to be treated with insulin in 1922."

Medal was created by the Eli Lilly Company for presentation to Welsh diabetics who had lived with the aid of insulin for fifty years or more.