



Guide to the Eleanor Elliott Papers, 1768-2006 and undated, bulk 1951-2006

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Summary

Collection Title:

Eleanor Elliott papers, 1768-2006 and undated (bulk 1951-2006)

Creator:

Elliott, Eleanor Thomas, 1926-2006

Source:

Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture

Abstract:

Eleanor "Elly" Elliott was a women's rights activist, a board member of NOW's Legal Defense and Education Fund, a Barnard College Board Member, served on the National Advisory Council on Women's Educational Programs and was an editor at Vogue magazine. These materials consist of personal papers from the Elliott family and administrative files from Elliott's work in various women's rights organizations and philanthropic activities. It also includes photographs, scrapbooks and some audio/visual materials.

Extent:

55 Linear Feet

Language:

Material in English

Collection ID:

RL.00358

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1004s>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Eleanor Elliott Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

These papers consist of personal materials from the Elliott and Thomas families as well as administrative files from Elliott's work in various women's rights organizations and philanthropic activities.

The collection includes some material regarding Elly's husband, Jock Elliott, former chairman of the Ogilvy and Mather advertising firm. Included in the Thomas family materials is a series on Eleanor's mother, Dorothy Q. Thomas. In the legal and financial papers series, there are materials pertaining to the divorce and child support matters of Elliott's brother, James A. Thomas Jr.

The collection contains scrapbooks and photographs, as well as reel-to-reel audiotapes that require reformatting before use.

Biographical/Historical

Eleanor Thomas "Elly" Elliott was a women's rights advocate who is best-known for successfully fighting Columbia University's attempt to take over Barnard College in the early 1970s. She served on the Barnard Board of Trustees for over 40 years beginning in 1959. She was President of the Board from 1973 to 1976. In the early 1950's, she served as the social secretary to the U.S. Secretary of State and her cousin, John Foster Dulles. In the 1970s she began serving on the board of directors of the Celanese Corporation. She was also a board member of the National Organization for Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund. In the 1980s, she served on the National Advisory Council on Women's Educational Programs. In the early 1990s, she was chairwoman of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. She was a Life Trustee of New York-Presbyterian Hospital and a Life Overseer of Weill Cornell Medical College. She received an honorary doctorate of letters from Duke University in 2002 for her "advocacy for women in health and education."

She was born Eleanor Lansing Thomas, April 26, 1926, in Manahattan. Her husband of 48 years, Jock Elliott, was a former chairman of the advertising firm Ogilvy and Mather. Eleanor Thomas Elliott died December 3, 2006.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library.

Acquisition Information

The Eleanor Elliott Papers were received by the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library as a gift in 2007-2018.

Processing Information

Processed by Alexandra Krensky and Megan Lewis, February 2011

Encoded by Alexandra Krensky and Megan Lewis, February 2011

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Related Materials

Related Material

Materials related to Elliott's husband, Jock, can be found in the **Jock Elliott Papers**. Materials related to Elliott's father, James A. Thomas, can be found in the **James Augustus Thomas Papers**.

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Names and Subjects

- Scrapbooks
 - Photographic prints
 - Women's health services -- New York (State) -- New York
 - Women in higher education -- New York (State) -- New York
 - Feminists -- New York (State) -- New York
 - Elliott, Jock
 - NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund
 - United States. National Advisory Council on Women's Educational Programs
 - Barnard College. Board of Trustees
 - Celanese Corporation
 - Barnard College -- Alumni and alumnae
 - Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation
 - Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture
-

Collection Inventory

Dorothy Q. Thomas Series, 1768-2004

Physical Description: 7 boxes

Scope and Contents note

These materials document Eleanor Elliott's family of origin. Much of the material pertains to her mother, Dorothy Q. Thomas.

Files are arranged by subject, and by alphabetical, then chronological arrangement within those subjects.

Correspondence - 1922-2004 and undated	Box 1
Correspondence - Birth of Eleanor Elliott, 1926	Box 1
Correspondence - Death of James A. Thomas, 1940 (3 folders)	Box 1
Correspondence - Death of Dorothy Q. Thomas, 1987-1988 (3 folders)	Box 1
Estate papers - 1936-1988 (2 folders)	Box 2
Estate papers - Thomas Family Genealogy, 1976-1977	Box 2
Estate papers - Dorothy Q. Thomas U/A Seventh of the Will, 1987	Box 2
Estate papers - Christie's Estate Sale, 1988 (4 folders)	Box 2
Photos - 1920-1980 and undated (2 folders)	Box 3
Scrapbooks and memorabilia - 1910-1958 (4 folders)	Box 3
Scrapbooks and memorabilia - 1950-2000 and undated (3 folders)	Box 4
Scrapbooks and memorabilia - John Foster Dulles Oral History Project, 1964-1966 (2 folders)	Box 4
Scrapbooks and memorabilia - Death of Dorothy Q. Thomas, 1987	Box 4
Oversize - San Francisco Chronicle, April 18, 1906 and 1956 (2 folders)	Box 5
Oversize - Photograph of Dorothy Q. Thomas at wedding of her daughter Eleanor Thomas and Jock Elliott, 1956	Box 5

Genealogical material, 1768-1972 and undated Dulles Oral History, 1956-1973	Box 47
Columbia University Oral History plus other writings and draft memoir	Box 48

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Professional Series, 1951-2005

Physical Description: 18 boxes

Scope and Contents note

This series contains material documenting Eleanor Elliott's work with various organizations as well as her philanthropic activity.

This series is divided into three subseries: Correspondence, Research Files, and Writings and Speeches.

Professional Correspondence, 1951-2006

Board hassle, 1973	Box 6
Barnard correspondence, 1990-2006	Box 6
Barnard current, 1990-1992	Box 6
Foundation for Child Development correspondence, 2003-2006	Box 6
New York Hospital Correspondence, 1991-2006 (2 folders)	Box 6
Woodrow Wilson Correspondence, 1994-2006 (2 folders)	Box 7
Miscellaneous professional correspondence, 1951-2003	Box 7

Research Files, 1971-2005

Altschul, Mr. Arthur G-Chairman, Board of Trustees-Barnard, 1977-1979	Box 7
Barnard College - Bill McGill, undated	Box 7

Barnard College - Board of Trustees, 1974-1975	Box 7
Barnard College Board of Trustees, 2006	Box 7
Barnard College By-Laws, 1975-1977	Box 7
The Campaign for Barnard, 1993	Box 7
Barnard College Centennial, 1988-1989	Box 7
Barnard College Centennial, 1988-1989	Box 8
Development background material, 1966	Box 8
Development, 1970s-1990s (4 folders)	Box 8
Eleanor Thomas Elliott Hall dedication, 1992 (3 folders)	Box 8
Barnard College - Eleanor Thomas Elliott Scholarship recipients, 1999	Box 8
Barnard College Executive Committee, 1976-1977	Box 9
Feminism, 1969	Box 9
Finance salaries, 1975-1976	Box 9
Funds and grants, 1976-1978	Box 9
Fund raising, 1971	Box 9
Long range planning, 1969-1976	Box 9
Miscellaneous, 1975-1976	Box 9
Missions and goals, 1976	Box 9
Nominating committee, 1974-1979 (3 folders)	Box 9
Inauguration of President Mattfield, 1976	Box 9
President Jacqueline A. Mattfield, 1976-1981	Box 9
Barnard College - Operational budget, 1975-1977 (2 folders)	Box 10

Barnard College personnel, 1975-1978	Box 10
Barnard College reunions and anniversaries, 1993-2002	Box 10
Barnard residence halls, 1988-2002	Box 10
Barnard Presidential search committee, 1975-1980	Box 10
Barnard College Student Affairs Committee, 1975-1976	Box 10
Barnard College students, 1975-1979	Box 10
Barnard College talks, 1976	Box 10
Barnard College Women's Center background, 1970-1971	Box 10
Barnard-Columbia relations, 1970s (7 folders)	Box 11
Barnard-Columbia relations, 1970s-1990s	Box 12
Celanese reports, 1974-1985 (3 folders)	Box 12
Duke visit, 2002	Box 12
Feminism, 1970-1983 (3 folders)	Box 12
Feminism, 1976-1983	Box 13
Foundation for Child Development - Brim, Dr. Orville G., Jr., 1977-1980	Box 13
Grant FDN matter, 1978-1979	Box 13
Miscellaneous, 1975-1978	Box 13
National survey, 1976-1977	Box 13
Personal manual, 1977-1981	Box 13
Chronological files, 1995-1999 (3 folders)	Box 13
Helen Reid biography, 1990-1993	Box 13
John Foster Dulles, undated	Box 13

Miscellaneous, 1968-2006 (2 folders)	Box 14
NACWEP correspondence, 1982-1983	Box 14
New York Hospital Bylaws, 1953-1971	Box 14
Cornell Union Joint Agreement, 1977	Box 14
Files, 1987	Box 14
New York State Republican Women Legislators Action Network, 1979	Box 14
NOW/Feminism, 1984-1987 (2 folders)	Box 14
Saint Margaret's Chapel Project, 1980-2006	Box 14
Scudder, Stevens and Clark Correspondence, 1975-1979	Box 14
Sulzberger biography, 1992-1993	Box 14
United Way of New York City, 1992-1993	Box 14
Women in business, 1976-2005 and undated	Box 15
Women's Health Symposium, 1987-1995 (3 folders)	Box 15
Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, 1982-1990	Box 15
Woodrow Wilson Foundation, 1991-1994 (3 folders)	Box 15
Woodrow Wilson Foundation, 1991-2002	Box 16-18
Woodrow Wilson Foundation, 1998-1999	Box 19
Woodrow Wilson Foundation 50th anniversary, 1995	Box 19
Woodrow Wilson Foundation visiting fellows, 1983-1984	Box 19
Zissner, 1998-1999	Box 19

Barnard College, 1973-1998	Box 49
Celanese Corporation, 1974-1976	Box 49
CIT Directorships, 1978	Box 50
Duke Honors, 2002	Box 50
Foundation for Child Development, 1979-2004	Box 50
National Advisory Council on Women's Educational Programs, 1981-1984	Box 50
New York Hospital, 1982-1994	Box 51
NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund, 1990	Box 51
Oggi Magazine, September 1953	Box 51
V.S. Marines, 2004-2005	Box 51
Chronological files, 1973-2005 (3 folders)	Box 51
Chronological files, 2002-2005	Box 52

Writings and Speeches, 1953-2006

Scope and Contents note

Eleanor Elliott's writings consist of published pieces in *Glamour*, *Vogue*, *Town and Country* and by the Feminist Press. They also include files from an unpublished memoir. Speeches were given at the following institutions and events, among others: The National Conference of Christians and Jews, The National Association of Fund Raising Executives, Colony Club, New York Association for the Blind, Columbia Graduate School of Business, International House of New York, Women's Forum Meeting, Forum for Women Directors, New York Junior League, Planned Giving Group of New York, Center for the Study of Philanthropy, Women and Money Conference, New York Hospital, St. Nicholas Society, United Hospital Fund, Women's Health Symposium, Meeting of Women and Foundations-Corporate Philanthropy; Celanese Forum for Women Directors.

Box 52

Elly writing, 1953-2003	Box 19
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Glamour, April 1960 and Vogue, September 1961	Box 19
Vogue, June 1973 and Town and Country, 1975	Box 19
Speech notebook, undated	Box 19
Barnard College, 1970s	Box 20
Speeches, 1971-1985 (5 folders)	Box 20
Memoir files, 1934-2006 and undated (6 folders)	Box 21
Speeches by others, 1971-1979	Box 21
Speeches, 1977-2006	Box 22-23, 52

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Scrapbook Series, 1851-1978

Physical Description: 21 boxes

Scope and Contents note

Bound scrapbooks are arranged in original order, with original numbering noted in Roman Numerals by their creators. Scrapbooks missing from the Roman Numeral sequence were not received as part of this collection. Loose materials intended to be mounted in the scrapbooks is included in Box 37. Materials include clippings, photographs, correspondence, programs and miscellaneous printed items.

Scrapbook I - Eleanor Elliott, 1944-1950	Box 24
Scrapbook II - Thomas Family, 1923-1928; Scrapbook X - Read Family clippings, 1851-1892	Box 25
Scrapbook IV - Eleanor Elliott, 1932-1941	Box 26
Scrapbook V - James A. Thomas, 1890-1920	Box 27
Scrapbook VI - James A. Thomas, 1930-1939	Box 27A
Scrapbook VII - James A. Thomas, 1890-1920	Box 28

Scrapbook XI - Eleanor and Jock Elliott, 1956-1959	Box 29
Scrapbook XIV - James A. Thomas, 1930-1938, including dedication of Duke University's Thomas Room; Scrapbook XXIV - Eleanor Elliott, 1956-1978	Box 30
Scrapbook XVI - James A. Thomas, 1920-1929	Box 31
Scrapbook XVII - Eleanor Elliott, 1951-1952	Box 32
Scrapbook XX - Eleanor Elliott, 1948-1956	Box 33
Scrapbook XXII - Eleanor Elliott, Washington, D.C., 1953	Box 34
Scrapbook XXVIII - Eleanor Elliott, 1958-1960	Box 35
Scrapbook XXVIII - Eleanor Elliott, debut year, 1943-1944	Box 36
Scrapbook documenting Duke University's Thomas Room, 1942	Box 37
Loose materials, 1940-1941	Box 37
Loose materials from Scrapbook I, 1941-1948	Box 37
Loose materials, 1949-1965 (2 folders)	Box 37
Clippings, 1973-1997	Box 37
Photographs of young Eleanor Elliott, undated	Box 37
Scrapbook IX - Snapshots and portraits, 1920s-1940s	Box 41
Scrapbook XI - 1890s-1900s, James A. Thomas, Sr. tobacco	Box 42
Scrapbook XII - Dorothy Q. Thomas	Box 43
Scrapbook XIII - James A. Thomas, Sr., 1920s-1930s	Box 44

Scrapbook XXV - Jock and Eleanor wedding album, 1956	Box 45
Jock Elliott tribute scrapbook	Box 46

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Legal and Financial Series, 1920-2006

Physical Description: 5 boxes

Scope and Contents note

Legal and Financial papers of the Elliott and Thomas families including estate papers, wills, appraisals of property, and legal correspondence regarding the estates of the two families.

Also included are the legal and financial documents and correspondence pertaining to the divorce, custody, and child support matters of Elliott's brother, James A. Thomas Jr. and his wife Anne Macdonald Thomas.

Legal and financial papers, 1920-2006	Box 53-56
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Legal papers, 1963-1976	Box 93
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Physical Description: 14 folders

Scope and Contents

James A. Thomas, Jr. divorce and child support proceedings

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Memorabilia Series, 1960-2006

Physical Description: 14 boxes

Memorabilia and ephemera	Box 39
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Memorabilia and ephemera from various family events, travel itineraries and journals, and articles about Eleanor Elliott and Jock Elliott, among other items	Box 57-66
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New York Hospital Life Governor Award, 1996	Box 87
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Recipes	Box 88
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Jock Elliott memorabilia from Apollo 11 launch	Box 89
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Correspondence Series, 1922-2007 and undated

Physical Description: 14 boxes

Scope and Contents note

Correspondence is divided into four subseries: Personal, Jock and Eleanor Elliott, Family, and Funeral and Sympathy. Within these subseries, correspondence is arranged in rough chronological order, unless otherwise specified.

Personal Correspondence, 1935-2006 and undated

Scope and Contents note

Noted correspondents include Richard Rogers, David Ogilvy and Louis Auchincloss.

1935-1970s (9 folders)	Box 67
1974-2006 (9 folders)	Box 68
Eleanor Elliott's 75th birthday, 2001 (5 folders)	Box 69

Correspondence between Jock and Eleanor Elliott

Correspondence between Eleanor and Jock Elliott, June-July 1956	Box 40
Wedding correspondence, 1956	Box 40
Assorted correspondence, 1988-2004 and undated	Box 40
Correspondence between Jock and Elly, 1948-1989 and undated (5 folders)	Box 70
Correspondence between Jock and Elly, 1950-2005 and undated (6 folders)	Box 71
Jock and Elly's 10th and 30th anniversary correspondence and photos (6 folders)	Box 72
Correspondence to Jock Elliott from Elly, 1949-2005 and undated	Box 73

Letters between Jock and Eleanor Elliott,
1956-2005 and undated Box 73

Family Correspondence, 1951-1995

Letters from Germany, France and England,
1951 Box 38

Eleanor and Jock Elliott's letters from Italy,
1958 Box 38

Assorted personal correspondence, 1951-1993 Box 38

Family correspondence, 1980-1995 (3 folders) Box 38

Thomas Family - James A. Thomas, Jr.,
1937-1970s Box 74

Thomas Family, 1940-2007 and undated (2
folders) Box 74

Thomas Family, Eleanor F. Lansing to Dorothy
Q. Thomas, 1922-1933 (3 folders) Box 74

Funeral and Sympathy Correspondence, 2000-2006

Scope and Contents note

Includes correspondence to Eleanor Elliott's family after her death, as well as correspondence written to Eleanor Elliott after the passing of her husband, Jock and her brother, James A. Thomas, Jr.

2006-2007 (4 folders) Box 75

Funeral programs and memorabilia, 2006 (2
folders) Box 76

Funeral planning, 2006 Box 76

Jock Elliott funeral and sympathy, 2005 Box 76

James A. Thomas, Jr. funeral and sympathy,
2000 Box 76

Jock Elliott condolences, A-H (8 folders) Box 76

Jock Elliott condolences, I-W (12 folders) Box 77

Jock Elliott condolences, X-Z Box 78

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Photographs series, 1870-2007

Physical Description: 10 boxes, 1 folder

Photographs are arranged in rough chronological order unless otherwise indicated.

1870-1950s (4 folders)	Box 78
1950s	Box 79
Jock and Eleanor Elliott wedding photos, London, 1956	Box 79
1960s	Box 79
1970s	Box 79
1980s and 1990s and undated	Box 80
1984-1985	Box 80
Dedication of Staffa, 1986	Box 80
1990s and undated	Box 80
1992	Box 80
2000s and undated	Box 81
75th birthday party, Saint Regis Hotel, NYC, April 26, 2001 (2 folders)	Box 81
Portraits, 1930s-1990s (3 folders)	Box 81
Misc. photos	Box 82
Images from Christmas book, undated	Box 82
Photo negatives	Box 82
Elly and Jock photo album	Box 82

2000s photo album	Box 82
Remembering Elly - February 28, 2007, Barnard College	Box 82
Celebrating the birth of Eleanor Lansing Thomas	Box 82
1980s and 1990s snapshots	Box 83-84
2000s snapshots	Box 85
Photo album of Jock and Eleanor in Kinloch, Scotland	Box 85
Elly, c. 1960	Box 87
Oversize photos, 1930s-2000s	Box 90
Oversize photos	Oversize-folder 1

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Audiovisual Materials Series, 1964-2007

Physical Description: 1 box

Reel to reel tapes, c. 1964 containing interviews with various family members	Box 86
DVD - Lifetime achievement award presented to Elly and Jock at the 2007 New York Red Cross Ball	Box 86
DVD - Foundation for Child Development Annual Dinner, 2007	Box 86

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Barnard College Series, 1974-2000

Papers regarding the resignation of Martha Peterson, Barnard College President, 1975	Box 91
Barnard College Board of Trustees, 1974-1975	Box 91
Census of Barnard College Alumnae, 1962	Box 91

Blanche Graubard correspondence, 1975-2000	Box 91
	Box 91
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Statistical profile of Barnard College faculty, 1974	Box 91
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Absorption of Barnard by Columbia, 1975-1976	Box 91
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Correspondence regarding new Barnard president, 1975	Box 91
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Marsteller/Plimpton correspondence, 1975	Box 91
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Memos, correspondence, 1978-1981	Box 92
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Evaluation of Barnard College for the Middle States Association - March 6-9, 1960	Box 92
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Barnard's New Chapter: A Three-Year Report	Box 92
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Faculty Letters - 1975	Box 92
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Resignation of Martha Peterson, Barnard College President - 1975	Box 92
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Notebook Diary Entry - July 25, 1975	Box 92

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