



Inventory

Acc.6721

The Walter Elliot Papers

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Correspondence and papers, including series of speeches and scrapbooks, of Walter Elliot Elliot, PC, CH, MC, LLD (1888-1958). After graduating from Glasgow University and war service, 1914-18, as a Medical Officer with the Royal Scots Greys, Walter Elliot (WE in list, below) was Conservative MP for Lanark, 1918-23, Glasgow Kelvingrove, 1924-1945 and 1950-58, and the Scottish Universities, 1946-50. He was Under-Secretary and Under-Secretary of State for Health in Scotland, 1923-4 and 1924-9, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, 1931-2, Minister of Agriculture, 1932-6, Secretary of State for Scotland, 1936-8, and Minister of Health, 1938-40, resigning with the fall of the Chamberlain government in May. He was a member of the Conservative Shadow Cabinet, 1946-51, but did not take office when the Conservatives returned to power in that year. He was appointed a Companion of Honour in 1952 and was Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 1956-7.

Walter Elliot had a life-long interest in medical science, and was much involved with forwarding the nutritional work of the Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen, directed by his friend, John Boyd Orr, the later Nobel peace prize winner and Baron Boyd-Orr of Brechin (1880-1971). A Conservative with strong interest in social reform, he was one of the best-known Scottish politicians of his age, and one with a high profile in British politics, and a popular broadcaster, speaker and lecturer on topics reflecting his remarkably wide interests. His interests in foreign and colonial affairs were particularly focussed on the Middle East and Africa. He was a leading supporter of the Zionist cause, and, during his periods of office, its friend within government, encouraged by close friendships with Chaim Weitzmann (1874-1952), Lady Blanche ('Baffy') Dugdale (1880-1947) and the historian, Sir Lewis Bernstein Namier (1888-1960).

For correspondence of WE with Lady Blanche Dugdale, received in 2003, see. Acc.12698.

Presented by the Rt Hon Lady Elliot of Harwood CBE DBE, August 1976

The papers consist of ten boxes and thirty-eight cutting-books, numbered as follows:

1. F1 Folder of articles by WE, 6 Apr 1948 - 6 Apr 1949 (mainly cuttings and broadcast scripts, but some typescripts).
- F2 Miscellaneous articles 1934, 1946-8 (many duplicated press-cuttings).
- F3 File of wartime press-cuttings, articles and photographs. 1936-44.
- F4 File marked 'Letters – WE'. Correspondents include Robert Birley, Brendan Bracken, R A Butler, Winston Churchill, Anthony Eden, Gerald Kersh, Eric Linklater, Oliver Lyttelton, Gilbert Murray; also acknowledgements of *Long Distance*, General Assembly Address (1956), etc.

2. F1 Correspondence, articles, etc, re Robert Louis Stevenson centenary, 1949-50.
- F2 Glasgow University fifth centenary celebrations, mainly 1950-51: principally MSS and typescripts of speeches, but with some correspondence.
- F3 Drafts, typescripts and correspondence re WE's presidential address to the Sir Walter Scott Club of Edinburgh, 1951.
- F4 Correspondence, drafts and script of Don Lecture, St Andrews, 1953; correspondence re Dundee/St Andrews controversy, 1946-53.
- F5 Correspondence, drafts and press cuttings re WE's speech at unveiling of London memorial to Wallace, 1956.
3. A large file of cuttings, pamphlets and correspondence (ca. 1920-55, but mainly of early 1930s) collected together for a volume projected by WE on "The Twentieth Century State", largely printed material but with a few MS. notes.

A small quantity of correspondence with publishers, post-war, on a possible collection of articles and addresses by WE, or a book on the Scots.
4. F1 File of miscellaneous speeches, essays, etc, with some associated correspondence (all post-war). Includes letters to WE re Roxburghshire Deputy Lieutenancy, 1945, and acknowledgements of TLS review of Knox's *History of the Reformation*, 1950.
- F2 Archaeological press-cuttings and a little correspondence of WE, 1949-54.
- F3 Introduction to James Veitch, *George Douglas Brown*, and related correspondence.
- F4 File of press-cuttings and photographs, WE, 1939-40.
- F5 File of xerox copies of letters from WE to Dr Chaim Weizmann, Chairman of the Jewish Agency, London, and first President of the State of Israel, with copies of a few replies; 1929-49.
- F6 File of briefs for WE's tours as Minister of Health, 1938-9.
5. Parcel labelled by Miss Lees: "Material arranged in Sections as Colonel Elliot suggested, with indications as to where additional or other material can be found, 23.5.71". Articles suggested for a proposed book of essays - largely typescripts or mounted cuttings of material to be found elsewhere in the

collection. Detailed lists of individual sections pasted to fronts of constituent files.

6. F1 Four envelopes of miscellaneous press-cuttings, collected for interest to use in speeches.
- F2 Miscellaneous printed items: Kelvingrove election address, 1951; *Scots Pictorial*, 17 Aug 1918 (picture of WE); 'The English' (TLS 1948); Russian visit, 1945, etc.
- F3 Envelope of miscellaneous letters to WE, with Katherine Elliot's notes for Sir Colin Coote; includes WE speech after Munich, 1938; at opening of Broadcasting House, Glasgow, 1938, etc.
- F4 Miscellaneous envelope, including address on "The Next Million Years" ("quarry speech for various purposes"), and printed material mainly on post-war agriculture.
- F5 File of miscellaneous press-cuttings, election addresses (1946, not WE), etc.
- F6 Envelope mainly, of printed items re trips to Kenya, 1954, Rhodesia and Nyasaland, 1954, etc. Correspondence re WE's parliamentary question on Queen's title, 1953, etc.
7. F1 Folder of typed extracts of letters from WE to his wife, 1934-40, 1945 (copied by Miss Lees for Sir Colin Coote).
- F2 Two folders of Sir Colin Coote's correspondence for the biography, with notes on WE's early life, genealogical materials etc.
- F3 Envelope of WE election addresses 1935-55, with addresses by opponents and some related material (a few letters of congratulation, etc).
- F4 Four periodicals containing articles by WE, assembled for Coote: 'Food and Farming' (*Farming Digest*, Sept. 1946); 'An Agriculturist's View of Economics' (*Jul. Farmers' Club*, 1947); 'East Wind - West Wind: Stevenson, Scotland and the South Seas' (*Geographical Magazine*, Dec. 1950); 'Public Enterprise' (*Future*, 1954); also Report on 25 Years' Work, WVS, 1963.
- F5 Miscellaneous file. Typescript of WE 'The Delaying Power of the House of Lords' (*Parliamentary Affairs*, Sept. 1953); correspondence re visit to Paris, 1955; Harold Macmillan's letter to Katherine Elliot, 4 Mar 1958, re Kelvingrove by-election.
- F6 Envelope of notes, correspondence and cuttings re Scottish church history.

8. F1 Folder of typed extracts of letters from WE to his wife, Nov 1940 to Sep 1942 (copied by Miss Lees for Sir Colin Coote).
- F2 Sir Colin Coote's file, "Material for after 1947", including letters to him from Katherine Elliot, his own biographical notes, and letters to WE from Churchill, Smuts, Lord Dunglass, Sir Jacob Epstein, etc.
- F3 File of typescripts, pamphlets, agenda and correspondence relating to British visit to Russia, 1945, and return visit in 1947.
- F4 Envelope re Glasgow rectorial address and other Glasgow University cuttings; letters of sympathy on WE's train accident, 1943; typescript introduction to the office of Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.
9. F1 Large file of correspondence and administrative papers re Anglo-German relations, 1946-57, mainly re Königswinter conferences.
- F2 File of correspondence on African affairs, 1953-55, including speech by WE on presentation of mace to the Parliament at Salisbury, Rhodesia [now Zimbabwe], 10 Sep. 1954.
- F3 File of envelopes on oversea visits and foreign affairs: Greece, Cyprus and Crete, 1950-53; Russia (various, including Anglo-Soviet friendship, 1946-54; West Africa, 1950, 1955-6; Saudi Arabia and Iraq, 1956; Seychelles, 1956 (correspondence re alleged religious intolerance); Suez Crisis, 1956 (much correspondence from constituents).
- F4 Title-index (by Miss Lees) of WE's articles.
- F5 Envelope of miscellaneous cuttings and letters; includes several Scottish items and a few letters to WE referring to his early life. Some items have notes by KE.
- F6 Civil Aviation in Scotland.
- *10. F1 Three files of correspondence on Zionist matters, including correspondence with Sir Maurice Bloch, the state of Israel, Friends of the Hebrew University.
- F2 Small envelope of correspondence and cuttings relating to the H-bomb.
- F3 Correspondence, *Hansard*, etc., relating to WE's speech on death of King George VI, 1952.

- F4 Typed extracts from WE's letters to his wife during his West African journey, 1944.
- F5 Notes by Sir Colin Coote on 1945-7 period, with printed election addresses, etc; also scenario by Elliot for a ballet, 1946.
- * F6 File of typescripts of "International Commentary" broadcasts by WE (many on Israel), 1953.
- F7 Envelope of miscellaneous autobiographical and other articles, mainly post-war; includes on by WE on his school days at Glasgow Academy.
- F8 Large envelope of miscellaneous press-cuttings (WE).
- F9 Papers on the Walter Elliot Memorial Library, etc.
- * F1 and F6 returned to Lady Elliot 3-4-75.
- 11. Scrapbook of press-cuttings, with some drafts, typescripts, correspondence, etc, 1920-24.
- 12. 1924-5.
- 13. 1926.
- 14. 1927.
- 15. 1927 (Nigeria).
- 16. 1927 (Toryism and the Twentieth Century).
- 17. 1928.
- 18. 1929 (Jan-Nov).
- 19. 1929 (Nov-Dec).
- 20. 1930 (Jan-Jul).
- 21. 1930 (Jul-Dec).
- 22. 1931 (Jan-Jul).
- 23. 1931 (July-Sep).
- 24. Scrapbook re BBC broadcasting, Jul 1942 - Dec 1943.

25. Broadcasts, May 1944 - Jan 1947.
26. Palestine Journey, Jan-Feb 1949.
27. Speeches, 1942-1946: includes cuttings and correspondence, with drafts, notes and memorabilia.
28. Jan-Nov 1947.
29. Nov 1947 - Jul 1948.
30. Jul 1948 - Mar 1949.
31. Mar-Nov 1949.
32. Nov 1949 - Dec 1950.
33. Dec 1950 - Dec 1951.
34. Dec 1951 - Dec 1952.
35. 1953.
36. Jan-Jul 1954.
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