



# Catalogue of the **Edith Thompson (1877-1961) Hockey Collection**



Title: Catalogue of the Edith Thompson (1877-1961) Hockey Collection  
Compiled by: Lizzie Richmond  
Description level: Fonds  
Date of material: c 1898-c 1933  
Extent of material: 2 boxes, 21 items  
Deposited in: University of Bath Library  
Reference code: GB 1128 Edith Thompson

© 2020 The Library, University of Bath.

**LIST OF CONTENTS**

	Items	Page
GENERAL INTRODUCTION		4
SECTION A SCRAPBOOKS & ALBUMS	A/1-A/4	6
SECTION B CORRESPONDENCE & PAPERS	B/1-B/17	8

NOT ALL THE MATERIAL IN THIS COLLECTION  
MAY YET BE AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION.  
ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IN THE  
FIRST INSTANCE TO:

THE ARCHIVIST  
THE LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY OF BATH  
CLAVERTON DOWN  
BATH BA2 7AY

## GENERAL INTRODUCTION

### PROVENANCE

The collection was donated to the Library by Mrs Alison Human, Edith Thompson's great niece, in April 2019.

### OUTLINE OF THE CAREER OF EDITH THOMPSON

Edith Thompson was born in London in 1877. She attended Cheltenham Ladies' College, before enrolling at King's College London in 1895. During World War I she served with the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD), before becoming Controller of Inspection of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, formerly the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. For her work in this role she was mentioned in dispatches, awarded the OBE in 1919 and made CBE in 1920.

In World War II Edith worked at the headquarters of the Women's Land Army and then as a liaison officer to the Children's Overseas Reception Board in South Africa. She served on the Executive of the Society for the Overseas Settlement of British Women, the Council of Bedford College, University of London, and as a member of the International Federation of University Women. She was a municipal councillor of her home town of Aldeburgh, Suffolk, serving as mayor for eight years.

Edith played an important part in the early development of women's hockey in the UK and overseas. During her time at King's College, she captained the hockey team, establishing her sport's first weekly journal in 1901. She subsequently edited *Hockey Field* for nearly two decades. Always closely involved with the organisation and management of women's hockey at a county and territorial level, she became President of the All England Women's Hockey Association (AEWHA) in 1923, a position she held until 1929. She toured widely as manager of the England team, visiting Denmark, France, Germany, South Africa, and Australia between 1922 and 1930. In 1936 she travelled to the International Federation of Women's Hockey Associations (IFWHA) conference and tournament in Philadelphia, USA.

In her book, *Hockey as a Game for Women*, published in 1904, Edith wrote: 'It is fortunately no longer necessary to speak apologetically of the girl who is fond of outdoor games. She is now a recognized personality of the twentieth century.' Her contributions and achievements greatly added to the status and popularity of hockey for women. She also positively influenced public perceptions of female sporting activity, helping to change attitudes and increase opportunities for participation.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

The material is presented in the order given in the contents list. It covers the period from c 1898 to c 1933.

The collection is very small. It comprises various materials assembled by Edith Thompson (1877-1961) relating to the management and administration of women's hockey during the early stages of its development as an organised sport played by women.

For more information about Edith Thompson and the All England Women's Hockey Association see also the AEWHA (Hockey) Collection.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are very grateful to Mrs Human for her assistance in making this material available.

L. Richmond, University of Bath, 2020

**SECTION A**      **SCRAPBOOKS & ALBUMS**

**c 1898-1930**

This section contains a small number of scrapbooks and photograph albums compiled by Edith Thompson. They relate mainly to her role as manager of various All England Women's Hockey Association touring teams, but the earliest includes material associated with her career as a player at King's College London. The scrapbooks covering tours to Australia (1925) and South Africa (1930) offer insight into international hockey shortly before and after the foundation of the International Federation of Women's Hockey Associations in 1927.

The presentation is chronological.

**A/1**      Hardback scrapbook (blue cover) containing press cuttings, black and white photographs, poems, programmes and other associated memorabilia relating to extra curricula activities, including hockey, drama, music and social events, at King's College Ladies' Department, Kensington Square, c 1898-1907. Loose material intercalated.

See also AEWHA (Hockey) Collection D/1/1: A scrapbook compiled by Edith Thompson and two of her King's College Ladies' Hockey Club team mates in 1898.

**A/2**      Hardback album (brown cover) containing black and white photographs documenting the visit of the All England Women's Hockey Association (AEWHA) touring team to Australia, 28 May-23 July 1927.

The photographs mainly consist of images relating to travel and sightseeing, but also include images taken before and during matches in Perth and Melbourne.

Edith Thompson travelled as the England team manager.

See also AEWHA (Hockey) Collection D/1/28: a notebook containing touring team match reports compiled by player F I Bryan, 28 May-23 July 1927.

**A/3, A/4**

Two hardback scrapbooks containing black and white photographs, press cuttings, letters, match programmes and other associated memorabilia relating to the Empire Hockey Tournament, South Africa, June-October 1930.

Edith Thompson travelled as the England team manager. She had first proposed the idea for an Empire Hockey Tournament after touring South Africa with the England team in 1925. As well as England, teams from Scotland, South Africa and Australia participated.

See also B/13.

**A/3**

Hardback scrapbook (brown cover), June-August 1930. Loose material intercalated.

**A/4**

Hardback scrapbook (grey cover), August-October 1930. Loose material intercalated.

**SECTION B**      **CORRESPONDENCE & PAPERS**

**c 1912-c 1933**

This section contains a small amount of miscellaneous correspondence, papers and press cuttings. The material is rather varied, but post-dates Edith's time as a player, relating mostly to her work as President of the All England Women's Hockey Association (1923-1929) and manager of the England touring team.

The presentation is chronological.

B/1      Four black and white photographs showing various hockey matches in progress with two black and white photographic portraits of a large group of women hockey players, c 1912.

B/2      Correspondence, press cuttings and match ticket, 1913-1915.

B/3      Eight black and white photographs, letter and press cutting relating to an international match between England and Denmark attended by King Christian, Copenhagen, Denmark, 22 April 1922.

See also AEWHA (Hockey) Collection D/1/8.

B/4      Black and white photographic portrait of a women's hockey team inscribed 'Suffolk, 1922-1923'.

B/5      Correspondence and black and white photographic portrait of an unidentified hockey player, 1924.

B/6      Letter, press cutting and programme, 1925.

B/7      2pp typescript report (annotated) relating to three hockey matches between England and German teams, letter and press cuttings, 1926.

B/8      Papers, correspondence and press cutting relating to a visit to England by the South African Women's hockey team, and a tour by the England team of Australia, 1927.

B/9      Correspondence relating to arrangements for an educational trip by a party of English school girls to Canada, September 1928.

B.10     Correspondence and 1p typescript programme (annotated) relating to a tour by the England team of the USA, October-December 1928.

B/11, B/12     Press cuttings, tickets, black and white photographs, match flyer and associated papers, 1929.

See also AEWHA (Hockey) Collection C/1/71.

Two folders.

B/13     Press cutting, 2pp typescript schedule, and printed report and balance sheet relating to the Empire Hockey Tournament in South Africa, 1930.

See also A/3 and A/4.

B/14     Black and white photographic portrait of a large group of people inscribed on the reverse 'Evening given by Wellington Women's Hockey Association, New Zealand', 19 June 1933.

B/15     Two black and white photographs showing members of the England team in ?Germany, nd c early 1930s.

B/16     Black and white photographic portrait of a women's hockey team inscribed on the reverse 'Frizinghall Ladies Hockey League', nd.

B/17     Three miscellaneous black and white photographs showing unidentified groups of women hockey players, nd.