

# HUGHES, TED, 1930-1998.

## Letters to János Csokits, 1960-2007

Emory University  
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library  
Atlanta, GA 30322  
404-727-6887  
rose.library@emory.edu

---

### Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Hughes, Ted, 1930-1998.  
**Title:** Letters to János Csokits, 1960-2007  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 895  
**Extent:** 1.25 linear ft. (3 boxes)  
**Abstract:** Letters from English poet Ted Hughes to Hungarian poet János Csokits.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

---

### Administrative Information

#### Restrictions on access

Special restrictions apply. Access to specific letters written by János Csokits to Ted Hughes from 1964-1975 are closed until 2017. Letters from Olwyn Hughes to Janos Csokits are closed until the death of Olwyn Hughes.

#### Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction. Special restrictions also apply: writings by Ted Hughes (letters and literary works) may not be reproduced without the written permission of Carol Hughes.

#### Related Materials in This Repository

Ted Hughes papers

#### Source

Purchase, 2001, with subsequent additions.

#### Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Ted Hughes, Letters to János Csokits, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

#### Processing

Processed by Melissa H. Maday, October, 2001, Revised by Laura L. Carroll, December 2008.

*Emory Libraries provides copies of its finding aids for use only in research and private study. Copies supplied may not be copied for others or otherwise distributed without prior consent of the holding repository.*

---

---

## Collection Description

### Biographical Note

Hungarian poet and translator János Csokits met Ted Hughes through his sister, Olwyn, with whom he was friends in Paris in the 1950s. Olwyn Hughes showed Csokits some of her brother's poetry, and she gave him a copy of *Lupercal*, Hughes' second book of poetry, published in 1960. Csokits wrote to Hughes to express his admiration for the book, beginning a correspondence, and a personal and professional friendship, which continued until Hughes' death in 1998. They collaborated to produce two books of English translations of the work of Hungarian poet János Pilinszky: *János Pilinszky: Selected Poems*, published in 1976, and *Desert of Love*, published in 1989.

### Scope and Content Note

The collection consists primarily of 49 letters Ted Hughes wrote to János Csokits from 1960 to 1998. The correspondence ranges from personal to professional, with most letters combining the two. In this correspondence, Hughes sends news of his day-to-day home and family life, his translations of Pilinszky poems, comments on Csokits' translations, and ideas for their collaboration. During the course of the correspondence, Hughes also writes candidly about his frustration over Sylvia Plath's literary reputation and the material being published about her. He writes to Csokits about his own publications relating to Plath, including a candid letter about his motivation for the publication of *Birthday Letters*. Several of the letters include drafts of Pilinszky translations. Csokits provides a detailed, letter-by-letter annotation, which is included in the collection. In addition to the letters by Hughes, the collection includes a manuscript of the poem, "Theology," which later appeared in *Wodwo*.

The collection also includes photocopies of most of Csokits' letters to Ted Hughes and to Olwyn Hughes from the same period. Although many of these letters are contained in Emory University's Ted Hughes collection, Csokits has provided copies of some letters not included in the collection, and he has appended translations to some of the copies in order to further elucidate their contents. Csokits has also appended a draft of Hughes' introduction to *Desert of Love*, and correspondence related to his personal reservations about publishing a Hungarian edition of the Pilinszky translations (which was never produced), to the photocopies of the relevant letters. The collection also includes letters to and from Carol Hughes, Ted Hughes' widow, which discuss his estate. Also included are letters from Olwyn Hughes to Csokits, dating from 1963-2007, which are restricted until the death of Olwyn Hughes. In addition, all letters from Csokits to Hughes from 1964-1974, as well as several letters from 1975, are restricted until 2017.

Several translations of various Pilinszky poems by both Hughes and Csokits, not related to any specific correspondence, are also contained in the collection. In addition, the collection includes photographs and some printed material featuring Ted Hughes and his work.

### Arrangement Note

Organized into two series: (1) Correspondence and (2) Other papers.

## **Description of Series**

[Series 1: Correspondence, 1960-2007](#)

[Series 2: Other papers, circa 1960-1975](#)

## Series 1

### Correspondence, 1960-2007

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	"Annotations to the letters of Ted Hughes written to János Csokits between 1960 and 1998 by Janos Csokits" [2001], TS (photocopy), 9 pp.
1	2	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, [1960], ALS, 1 p.
1	3	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1960 November 24, ALS, 2 pp.
1	4	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1961 June 12, ALS, 2 pp.
1	5	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1964 August, ALS, 2 pp.
1	6	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1964 December, TLS, 1 p.
1	7	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1967 April 21, ALS, 3 pp.
1	8	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1967 August 6, ALS, 4 pp.
1	9	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1970 October, ALS, 2 pp.
1	10	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1972 May, TLS, 3pp.; AL (draft), 2pp.; AL (draft photocopy), 2 pp.
1	11	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, [1974 February 25], ALS, 2 pp.
1	12	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1974 May 28, ALS, 3 pp.
1	13	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1974 June 17, ALS, 2 pp.
1	14	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1974 November 8, ALS, 4 pp.
1	15	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1974 November 22, TLS, 2 pp.
1	16	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1975 January 8, ALS, 2 pp.
1	17	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1975 January 15, ALS, 1 p.
1	18	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1975 February 4, ALS, 1 p.
1	19	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1975 February 9, ALS, 2 pp.
1	20	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1975 May 1, ALS, 1 p.
1	21	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1975 August 11, telegram, 1 p.
1	22	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1975 September 5, TLS, 1 p.
1	23	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1975 October 8, TLS, 2 pp.
1	24	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, [1976 May], ALS, 2 pp.
1	25	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, [1979 June 16], ALS, 2 pp.
1	26	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1980 September, ALS, 3 pp.
1	27	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1981 May 6, ALS, 1p.
1	28	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1982 November 10, ALS, 2 pp.
1	29	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1983 October 24, ALS, 2 pp.
1	30	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1984 July 9, ALS, 3 pp.
1	31	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1984 September 3, ALS, 1 p.
1	32	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1984 October 10, ALS, 2 pp.
1	33	Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1985 July 17, ALS, 2 pp.

- 1 34 Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1985 August 29, ALS, 2 pp., [includes photocopy of related letter from Peter Jay, inserted by Csokits in 2001]
- 1 35 Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1985 November 1, ALS, 1p.
- 1 36 Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1985 December 12, ALS, 3 pp.
- 1 37 Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1986 February 17, ALS, 2 pp.
- 1 38 Hughes, Ted to Csokits, [1987] January 6, ALS, 4 pp., [TS (photocopy) appended to letter by Csokits, annotated "changes to introduction to the second edition of Pilinszky, typed by Ted Hughes" 15 pp.]
- 1 39 1986 February 24, ALS, 1 p., [photocopies of correspondence outlining and detailing Csokits' objection to a Hungarian edition of the Pilinszky book, appended to the letter by Csokits in 2001, 21 pp.]
- 1 40 Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1987 April 20, ALS, 1 p.
- 1 41 Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1988 April, ALS, 2 pp.
- 1 42 Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1988 December 8, ALS, 2 pp.
- 1 43 Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1989 October 26, ALS, 1 p.
- 1 44 Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1990 December 12, ALS, 2 pp.
- 1 45 Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1991 April 5, ALS, 2 pp.
- 1 46 Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1992 August 25, ALS, 2 pp.
- 1 47 Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1992 September 22, ALS, 2 pp.
- 1 48 Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1994 February, ALS, 2 pp.
- 1 49 Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1997 January 18, ALS, 1 p.
- 1 50 Hughes, Ted to Csokits, 1998 January 29, ALS, 2 pp.
- 2 1 Csokits to Hughes, Olwyn (photocopies), 1965-1967, 3 items
- 2 2 Csokits to Hughes, Ted and Olwyn Hughes (photocopies), 1975-1978, 11 items
- 2 3 Csokits to Hughes, Ted and Olwyn Hughes (photocopies), 1979-1982, 11 items
- 2 4 Csokits to Hughes, Ted and Olwyn Hughes (photocopies), 1983-1985, 19 items
- 2 5 Csokits to Hughes, Ted and Olwyn Hughes (photocopies), 1986-1987, 14 items
- 2 6 Csokits to Hughes, Ted and Olwyn Hughes (photocopies), 1988-1990, 11 items
- 2 7 Csokits to Hughes, Ted and Olwyn Hughes (photocopies), 1991-1992, 10 items
- 2 8 Csokits to Hughes, Ted and Olwyn Hughes (photocopies), 1993-1998, 5 items
- 2 9 Csokits to Hughes, Ted (photocopies), no date, 2 items
- 2 10 Carol Hughes to Csokits, 2002, 3 items
- 2 11 Csokits to Carol Hughes, 2002, 2 items

**Series 2****Other papers, circa 1960-1975****Photographs**

Box	Folder	Content
2	12	Ted Hughes, 1967; Ted Hughes with Nicholas Hughes, 1967; Nicholas Hughes, 1967 (3 photographs)

**Printed material**

2	12a	Funeral program, Ted Hughes, November 3, 1998; and memorial service program, May 13, 1999
2	13	Gidleigh Park Hotel brochure, includes Ted Hughes' untitled poem, "Older than the river, the sea-wind...", no date
2	14	Newspaper clipping, photograph of Stephen Spender, W.H. Auden, Ted Hughes, T.S. Eliot and Louis MacNeice, The Sunday Times, June 26, 1960

**Writings**

2	15	Ted Hughes, "Theology," manuscript, with photocopy of printed version in Wodwo
---	----	--

**Translations**

2	16	TS of translations by Ted Hughes of poems by Pilinszky [ca. 1960s]
2	17	TS (carbon) of translations by Ted Hughes of poems by Pilinszky [1971-1974]
2	18	TS (carbon) of translations by Csokits of poems by Pilinszky [includes explanatory note from Csokits], [1965-1969]
2	19	TS of literal translations by Csokits of poems by Pilinszky, annotated by Csokits, [ca. 1970s]
2	20	Photocopies of translations by Ted Hughes of a poem by Csokits and a poem by Weaver, a Hungarian poet. Photocopies annotated by Csokits, no date
2	21	TS of translation by Ted Hughes of "In the dust of Eden," by Janos Csokits, with two letter from TH to Csokits, 1975 [all photocopies]

---