Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0221

Spence, Catherine Helen

(1825 - 1910)

Born	18251031, Near Melrose Scotland
Died	19100403, Adelaide South Australia
Occupation	Campaigner, Suffragist, Writer

Summary

Spence ran as a South Australian delegate to the Federal Constitutional Convention in 1897, the first woman political candidate in Australia. She was also active in the Women’s Suffrage League and the South Australian National Council of Women.

Events

2001 - 2001
Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

Published resources

Report
Catherine Helen Spence: her achievements and firsts, State Library of South Australia; Suzane Fabian and Morag Loh, 13 March 1998,
http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/int_pubs/women/spence1.htm

Book
Catherine Spence, Janet Cooper, 1972

An autobiography, Spence, Catherine Helen [edited and introduced by Jeanne F. Young], 1975

Catherine Helen Spence : a study and an appreciation, Young, Jeanne F, 1937

Tenacious of the past : the recollections of Helen Brodie, Catherine Helen Spence; edited by Judy King and Graham Tulloch., c1994

Works of Catherine Helen Spence, Catherine Helen Spence, 197-?

Bibliography of Catherine Helen Spence / [compiled in the Research Service of the Public Library of South Australia by Elizabeth Gunton, Gunton, Elizabeth Joan, 1967

Unbridling the tongues of women : A Biography of Catherine Helen Spence, Magarey, Susan, c1985

First of all, Tony Brooks, 1995

In her own name. A history of women in South Australia from 1836, Helen Jones, 1986

John's Notable Australians, 1906, Johns, Fred, 1905

The Changemakers : Ten Significant Australian Women, Suzane Fabian and Morag Loh, 1983

Living in South Australia : a social history, Elizabeth Kwan, 1987

Australian women writers : a bibliographic guide, Adelaide, Debra, 1988

Uphill all the way: a documentary history of women in Australia, Daniels, Kay and Murnane, Mary, 1980

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Catherine Helen Spence: a bibliography, Barbara Wall, 2001,
http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/spence/index.html

Resource Section
Spence, Catherine Helen (1825-1911), Eade, Susan, 2006,
http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A060190b.htm

List of Electoral Divisions Named After Women, Australian Electoral Commission,
https://www.aec.gov.au/redistributions/division-names/women.html

Edited Book
200 Australian Women: A Redress Anthology, Radi, Heather, 1988,
https://webarchive.nla.gov.au/awa/20071105022623/http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/78644/20071105-1315/www.200australianwo

Site Exhibition
The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders

Archival resources

State Library of South Australia
Catherine Helen Spence : SUMMARY RECORD

Speech re Catherine Helen Spence

Wemyss family : SUMMARY RECORD

The Grand Old Woman of Australia (literary manuscript)

Unitarian Christian Church Adelaide : SUMMARY RECORD

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection
[Material in archival and other institutions] [microform]

Papers, 1856-1909 [microform] Catherine Helen Spence

[Papers] [1853-1900] [microform]

Mitchell and Dixson Libraries Manuscripts Collection
Catherine Helen Spence - Papers, 1856-1909

Author Details
Clare Land

Created 9 December 2001
Last modified 18 May 2026