Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0595

Bruce, Minnie (Mary) Grant

(1878 - 1958)

Born	18780524, Sale Victoria Australia
Died	19580702, Bexhill-on-Sea Sussex England
Occupation	Author, Feminist, Journalist

Summary

The author of the Billabong series of books, Mary Grant Bruce began writing poetry and short stories at the age of seven. Later she became editor of her school magazine. After completing her matriculation Bruce moved to Melbourne where she worked as an editor and wrote weekly stories for the *Leader* children's page. Her first book *A Little Bush Maid*, originally a serial, was published in 1910. Between 1910 and 1942 she published 37 children's novels. During her career Bruce was a contributor to *Blackwood's Magazine, Morning Post, Daily Mail, Windsor Magazine, Cassell's Magazine, Strand, Argus, Age, Herald* (Melbourne), *Australasian, Leader, Sydney Morning Herald, Sydney Mail, Lone Hand* Auckland *Weekly Press, Woman's World, West Australian* and the *British Australasian.* During World War II Bruce worked for the AIF Women's Association, sold her autograph at charity auctions for the war effort and broadcast a series of talks for the Department of Information.

Events

1924 - 1924
Anderson's Jo published

1919 - 1919
Back to Billabong published

1933 - 1933
Bill of Billabong published

1928 - 1928
Billabong Adventurers published

1937 - 1937
Billabong Gold published

1942 - 1942
Billabong Riders published

1924 - 1924
Billabong's Daughter published

1916 - 1916
Captain Jim published

1936 - 1936
Circus Ring published

1922 - 1922
Cousin from Town published

1918 - 1918
Dick Lester of Kurrajong published

1917 - 1917
Dick published

1914 - 1914
From Billabong to London published

1913 - 1913
Glen Eyre published

1926 - 1926
Golden Fiddles published

1914 - 1914
Grays Hollow published

1925 - 1925
House of the Eagle published

1923 - 1923
Hugh Stanford's Luck published

1915 - 1915
Jim and Wally published

1941 - 1941
Karalta published

1910 - 1910
Little Bush Maid published

1912 - 1912
Mates at Billabong published

1913 - 1913
Norah of Billabong published

1940 - 1940
Peter and Co. published

1917 - 1917
Possum published

1931 - 1931
Road to Adventure published

1922 - 1922
Robin published

1934 - 1934
Seahawk published

1939 - 1939
Son of Billabong published

1922 - 1922
Stone Axe of Burkamuka published

1929 - 1929
The Happy Traveller published

1921 - 1921
The Houses of the Eagle published

1920 - 1920
The Tower Rooms published

1912 - 1912
Timothy in Bushland published

1938 - 1938
Told by Peter published

1926 - 1926
Tower Rooms published

1923 - 1923
Twins of Emu Plains published

1935 - 1935
Wings Above Billabong published

1926 - 1926
Acting editor of *Woman's World* for six months

1914 - 1914
After the outbreak of World War I sailed on the troop-ship *Nestor* to Cork and during the next three years 'produced two babies and four books'

1948 - 1948
Following death of her husband (1946) Bruce went back to England

1918 - 1918
Following the war, returned to Australia to settle at Traralgon, Gippsland

1900 - 1900
Her story *Dono's Christmas'* published in supplement of the Melbourne *Leader* under the pseudonym 'Coolibah'

1898 - 1898
Her story *Her Little Lad* was published in the Christmas supplement of the Melbourne *Leader* under the signature 'M.G.H.'

2002 - 2002
Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

1927 - 1927
Moved to Omagh, Ireland

1895 -
Passed the matriculation examination with honours in English, history and botany

1939 - 1939
Returned to Australia

1914 - 1914
Returned to Australia and married at Holy Trinity Church, East Melbourne

1913 - 1914
Went to London where she wrote articles for the *Daily Mail* and met her future husband, distant cousin, Major George Evans Bruce

1895 -
Won first prize in the Melbourne Shakespeare Society's annual essay competition

Published resources

Edited Book
Who's Who in Australia 1950, Alexander, Joseph A, 1950

Resource Section
Bruce, Minnie (Mary) Grant (1878-1958), Strahan, Lynne, 2006,
http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A070459b.htm

Site Exhibition
The Women's Pages: Australian Women and Journalism since 1850, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2008,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/cal/cal-home.html

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

State Library of Victoria
Papers, [manuscript]

Letters, 1927 Apr. 7-1929 Dec. 10 [manuscript].

Autobiographical notes, [not after 1972]. [manuscript].

Correspondence, 1928-1954. [manuscript].

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection
Page from an autograph book signed by Mary Grant Bruce, 1943 [manuscript]

Manuscripts 1924-1925 [manuscript]

Author Details
Anne Heywood

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