

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE1103

James, Florence

(1902 - 1993)

Born 19020902, Gisborne Gisborne New Zealand

Died 19930825, Manly New South Wales Australia

Occupation Journalist, Writer

Summary

Florence James (1902-1993) was a novelist, editor and reviewer. She was born in New Zealand and educated at Sydney University where she began her long association with Dymphna Cusack. Together James and Cusack wrote two books, 'Four Winds and a Family', a story for children, and 'Come in Spinner' which won the Sydney Daily Telegraph prize in 1948. Florence James went to England in 1927. She shared a bedsitting room with Christina Stead for a short time, and worked mainly as a journalist and independent literary agent until her return to Australia in 1938. James went to England again in 1947 and from 1951 worked as an independent literary agent and reader for Constable and Co. and for Richmond, Towers and Benson Limited. While in London she acted as a talent scout for Australian and New Zealand writers including Mary Durack, Nene Gare, Maurice Shadbolt, David Martin and Sylvia Ashton-Warner. James maintained a close friendship with many of the women she met at University and with the writers whose work she promoted. In the early 1970s she became an active member of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia. James married William ('Pym') Heyting in 1932. They divorced in 1948. They had two daughters. Florence James died in 1993.

Published resources

Edited Book

Yarn spinners : a story in letters, Dymphna Cusack, Florence James, Miles Franklin, North, Marilla, 2001

Book

Come in Spinner, Cusack, Dymphna and James, Florence, 1951

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

Mitchell and Dixson Libraries Manuscripts Collection

[Florence James - papers, 1890-1993](#)

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection

[Papers of Nancy Cato, 1939-1995 \[manuscript\]](#)

[Correspondence and literary papers 1887-1954 \[microform\]](#)

Author Details

Jane Carey

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