

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE1144

Smith, Addie Viola

(1893 - 1975)

Born 18931114, Stockton California United States of America

Died 19751213, Mosman New South Wales Australia

Occupation Feminist, Lawyer

Summary

Addie Viola Smith, lawyer and feminist, held various offices with the Australian Federation of Women Voters and the League of Women Voters (New South Wales) from the late 1950s until her death in 1975. She was Liaison Representative for the International Federation of Women Lawyers to the United Nations, 1952-1966. She was a member of the Australian delegation that attended the International Alliance of Women Congresses in Dublin, 1961, and Trieste, 1964. She served as Vice-President, 1968-1970, and was made an honorary life member in 1972, of the Australian Local Government Women's Association.

Details

Addie Viola Smith (1893-1975) was born in Stockton, California, U.S.A.. After graduating from the Washington College of Law, Washington, D.C., in 1920, she embarked on a career in the U.S. Civil and Foreign Service. From 1920 to 1948 she held postings in economic and trade promotion in China, and from 1949 to 1951 she served with E.C.A.F.E.. From 1952 to 1966 she was representative to the U.N. for the International Federation of Women Lawyers and a member of its Executive Committee. A Vice-President of the Australian Local Government Women's Association from 1968 to 1970, she published, in 1975, *Women in Australian Parliaments, Past and Present : A Survey*.

In 1957 she had made her retirement home with Eleanor Hinder at Neutral Bay in Sydney. She assisted and significantly augmented Eleanor's genealogical researches. Among Smith's duties as executrix of Eleanor Hinder's estate, were the arranging and annotating of her friend's papers for deposit in the Mitchell Library, tasks that she faithfully and diligently executed over the rest of her life.

Published resources

Resource Section

Smith, Addie Viola (1893-1975), Barker, Heather, 2006,
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A160316b.htm>

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Site Exhibition

Australian Women Lawyers as Active Citizens, Trailblazing Women Lawyers Project Team, 2016,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/lawyers>

Archival resources

Mitchell and Dixson Libraries Manuscripts Collection

[A. Viola Smith - further papers, 1957-1975](#)

[Eleanor M. Hinder - papers, 1837-1963, together with the papers of A. Viola Smith, ca. 1850-1975](#)

Author Details

Jane Carey

Created 22 December 2004

Last modified 30 May 2026