Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE3980

Collier, Edith

(- 1954)

Died	19541231, Melbourne
Occupation	Philanthropist

Summary

The Collier sisters – Annette, Alice and Edith – came to public notice in 1954 with the endowment of the £1.25 million Collier Charitable Fund. By 2007, the corpus of the fund was worth $88 million.

Details

Alice, Annette and Edith Collier were daughters of Jenkin Collier, who arrived in Melbourne from Wales in 1852 at the age of 23. Jenkin Collier worked in the building trade, constructing railway lines from Melbourne to Echuca and Deniliquin to Moama, and became involved in the pastoral development of Queensland.

The Colliers lived at *Werndew*, a mansion on Toorak Road. The three sisters were educated at Melbourne's Presbyterian Ladies' College, while their brother Herbert attended Melbourne Grammar School. Jenkin Collier died at the age of 91, leaving his estate to his family. His daughters were devoted to one another, and never married. They travelled extensively but lived an otherwise unpretentious existence, attending St. John's Church regularly and spending very little of the substantial annual income that they received from the Collier estate. They gave generously to charity, but always insisted on anonymity.

The wills of Annette, Alice and Edith Collier – who died in 1947, 1950 and 1954 respectively – held that two-fourteenths of the Collier Charitable Fund's annual income be given to the Lord Mayor's Fund. By 2006, the Lord Mayor's Fund alone had distributed over $30 million to various hospitals and charities using its share of the Collier money.

Published resources

Thesis
In Her Gift: Activism and Altruism in Australian Women's Philanthropy, 1880-2005, Lemon, Barbara, 2008

Report
Lord Mayor's Fund News Report, Lord Mayor's Fund, 1995

Site Exhibition
In Her Gift: Women Philanthropists in Australian History, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2009, http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/wiph/home.html

Resource Section
Collier, Jenkin (1829 - 1921), Hone, J. Ann, 2006, http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A030411b.htm

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

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