Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE4348

Bentivoglio, Marie

(1898 - 1998)

Born	18980801, Torino (Turin) Piedmont Italy
Died	19981231, Torino (Turin) Piedmont Italy
Occupation	Geographer, Scientist

Summary

Marie Bentivoglio was the first Australian woman to receive a scholarship to the University of Oxford.

Bentivoglio graduated from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Science in 1919. She completed a Diploma in Education in 1920.

She was the first woman to win an 1851 Exhibition Science Scholarship to the University of Oxford, United Kingdom, where she gained a Doctorate of Philosophy and a Diploma of Geography.

On return to Sydney, Bentivoglio lectured at both the University of Sydney and the Sydney Teachers College. In 1928 she succeeded Thomas Griffith Taylor as Head of the Department of Geography.

In 1931 she published *A physical and practical geography for secondary schools* with Frieda Frances Friederich.

In 1936 she travelled to North and Central America, teaching in universities and working in the chemical industry. Whilst teaching plastics at New York University (1952-1960), she studied a new way of packaging fruit and vegetables to stop their deterioration. She had a team working on this and in 1952 they came up with a solution which today we call “cling wrap”.

Marie donated a priceless limited edition of Dante’s *Divina Commedia* to the State Library of New South Wales; was actively involved with the Dante Alighieri Society; and a financial donor to the State Library of New South Wales, The Sydney Art Gallery, the University of Sydney and others.

Published resources

Book
Marie Bentivoglio and Frieda Frances Friederich, A physical and practical geography for secondary schools, Bentivogli, Maire and Friederich, Frieda Frances, 1931

Pioneer Women Graduates of the University of Sydney 1881-1921, Bygott, Ursula and Cable, Kenneth John, 1985

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

'La prima australiana ad andare ad Oxford' - Laura Mecca talks about Marie Bentivoglio, 18 December 2013, https://www.sbs.com.au/language/italian/en/podcast-episode/laura-mecca-talks-about-marie-bentivoglio/ba262pg2p

Archival resources

University of Sydney, Archives
Bentivoglio Family Photographs

Author Details
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