

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: IMP0041

Mann, Ida Caroline

(1893 - 1983)

Born	18930206, West Hamstead London England
-------------	--

Died	19831101, Perth Western Australia Australia
-------------	---

Occupation	Ophthalmologist
-------------------	-----------------

Summary

Dame Ida Mann was a distinguished English ophthalmologist whose long-term association with Australia began when she moved to Perth, Western Australia, after World War II. She diagnosed a trachoma epidemic amongst Indigenous people in the Kimberleys and travelled extensively in Western Australia in order to examine and treat Indigenous people with trachoma. Mann became convinced that better housing and sanitation, rather than administration of antibiotics, would improve this health crisis. She was appointed as Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire on 14 June 1980 for services to the welfare of Aboriginal people.

Details

Ida Mann was educated at the London School of Medicine for Women and St Mary's Hospital. She qualified Member of the Royal College of Surgeons (MRCS), Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians (LRCP) and Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB BS) in 1920 and Doctor of Science (DSc) in 1924. She was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS) in 1927. In London Mann worked at the Elizabeth Garrett-Anderson Hospital for Women, the Central London Eye Hospital, and the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital. She flew to Melbourne in 1939 to present a paper to the Ophthalmological Society of Australia. Mann became Reader in Ophthalmology at the University of Oxford in 1941. She was Titular Professor there from January 1945 until 30 September 1947. Mann was also a Fellow of St Hugh's College, Oxford.

Mann resigned from Oxford and emigrated to Australia in 1949 with her husband, Professor William Gye (whom she married in December 1944). Prof Gye died in 1952. Mann then began a four year investigation into the nature and extent of trachoma amongst Indigenous people in the Kimberleys. These studies also took her to Papua New Guinea and the Pacific islands.

Mann published extensively in the area of eye anatomy and eye disease, publishing many scientific articles and several books. She also wrote on her travels and findings relating to trachoma, published under her married name or pseudonym, Caroline Gye. These were *China 13* and *The cockney and the crocodile*.

Mann received an honorary Doctor of Science from Murdoch University (Perth, Western Australia) in 1983. She died later the same year at the age of ninety.

Events

2001 - 2001

Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

Published resources

Book

Culture, race, climate, and eye disease; an introduction to the study of geographical ophthalmology., Mann, Ida, 1961

The Chase : an autobiography, Mann, Ida, 1986

The development of the human eye, Mann, Ida, 1964

Developmental abnormalities of the eye, Mann, Ida, 1957

The science of seeing, Mann, Ida and Pirie, Antoinette, 1946

China 13, Gye, Caroline (pseudonym for Ida Mann), 1964

The cockney and the crocodile (large print edition), Gye, Caroline (pseudonym for Ida Mann), 1992

Reflections : profiles of 150 women who helped make Western Australia's history; Project of the Womens Committee for the 150th Anniversary Celebrations of Western Australia, Popham, Daphne; Stokes, K.A.; Lewis, Julie, 1979

Thesis

DISEASE, HEALTH AND HEALING: aspects of indigenous health in Western Australia and Queensland, 1900-1940, Briscoe, Gordon, 1996,
<http://histrsss.anu.edu.au/briscoe/>

Report

Ophthalmic survey of the South-West portion of Western Australia: final report of the surveys undertaken for the Public Health Department of Western Australia., Mann, Ida, 1956

Ophthalmic survey of the Territories of Papua and New Guinea, 1955, Mann, Ida and Loschdorfer, J., 1956

Journal Article

Memorial to Ida Mann: obituary, Bron, A. J., 1984

Edited Book

200 Australian Women: A Redress Anthology, Radi, Heather, 1988

Newspaper Article

Ida Mann - tribute to the late Professor, obituary of famed ophthalmologist, 1984

Informative Article from Cosmo Newberry (Visit by Dr Ida Mann; case of trachoma found.), Lupton, H., 1955

Resource

List of 'Firsts and Founders' on the Victorian Honour Roll of Women 2001, Centenary of Federation Victoria, 2001,
<http://www.women.vic.gov.au/CA256EAE0012F311/Womens%20Policy/Women+as+leadersVictorian+Honour+Roll>

Women at Oxford, University of Oxford, 2002,
<http://www.ox.ac.uk/aboutoxford/women.shtml>

Embryologie de l'oeil et de ses annexes, National trade union of the Ophthalmologists of France, 2002,
<http://www.snof.org/maladies/embryohist.html>

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Conference Paper

Declare the past, diagnose the present, foretell the future - health for all by 2000, Kamien, Max, 1997,
<http://www.ruralhealth.org.au/pdf/declare1.pdf>

Site Exhibition

Faith, Hope and Charity Australian Women and Imperial Honours: 1901-1989, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2003,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/honours/honours.html>

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders>

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection

[Drafts of book on ophthalmology \[manuscript\]](#)

State Library of Western Australia

[Papers, 1893-1983 \[manuscript\]](#)

Author Details

Clare Land

Created 24 April 2002

Last modified 21 November 2018