

A. Vincent Douglas

Personal

Obituaries 1988 <sup>46</sup>

2303.9

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File 11

# Dr. A. Vibert Douglas remembered

In the *Fall Journal* (Vol. 24, No. 9, 1987) Eileen Clark wrote an article about Dr. A. Vibert Douglas where she discussed Dr. Douglas' association with I.F.U.W. and her valuable contribution to the work of the international federation.

The following are quotes from this article by Eileen Clark.

In a leaflet entitled "The International Federation of University Women and Scholarly Research", Dr. Douglas described the far-reaching effects of IFUW's fellowship schemes. She regarded the award winners as "ambassadors of cultural understanding between their countries and the country to which their research takes them...the IFUW, through these research fellowships is achieving a threefold service by its work for scholars, for scholarship, and for constructive internationalism." It is therefore appropriate that in 1956, to honour Dr. Douglas, the Canadian Federation of University Women founded the A. Vibert Douglas Fellowship. This Fellowship, nowadays worth \$6,000 Canadian, is funded by CFUW and awarded by IFUW every second year to enable a woman scholar to do research in a country other than her own.

Dr. Douglas was noted as an eloquent and inspiring speaker. At the IFUW Conference in Stockholm in 1939, not only was she a voting

delegate of CFUW and an IFUW committee member, she also gave the Public Lecture. In it she stated her belief that the aim of educa-



Dr. A. Vibert Douglas, well-known Canadian astrophysicist and former president of the International Federation of University Women, died on July 2nd, 1988.

tion was "to teach men and women to love the truth, to seek truth, to recognize the truth when found and to apply the truth to the problems of life." She emphasized her favourite theme, the international nature of human knowledge, which she said was beautifully exemplified by the history of astronomy and astrophysics-which she then traced. Her talk was illustrated by lantern slides. It must have been fascinating.

Dr. Douglas was an inveterate conference-goer. Dr.

Helen Hogg of the David Dunlap Observatory, Toronto, remarked that "she (Dr. Douglas) has attended more General Assemblies of the International Astronomical Union than any other Canadian astronomer." Even after she ceased to hold any office in IFUW, she attended IFUW Conferences in Mexico, 1962, Brisbane, 1965, (where she was given the honorary degree of D.Sc. by the University of Queensland), Karlsruhe, 1968, Philadelphia, 1971, Kyoto, 1974, Stirling, 1977, Vancouver, 1980.

Perhaps a personal anecdote will illustrate Dr. Douglas's strength of character. I recall meeting her at the Kyoto Conference, struggling with her suitcase. I offered to help her, but received the firm reply: "No, thank you. When I am too old to carry my own suitcase, I shall be too old to attend conferences."

Alas, Dr. Douglas is now very frail, but "in fine spirit and very serene". I like to think of the message which she addressed to the IFUW Conference in Paris in 1956:

"Once again, I give you my greetings in the words of St. Augustine:

"Courage, mon esprit, et grandement presse, Presse là où la vérité vient poindre".

We salute her gallant spirit.

Eileen Clark  
3rd. Vice-President,  
IFUW

Allie Douglas

# Astrophysicist was popular dean

Canadian Press

KINGSTON, Ont.

Allie Douglas, a distinguished astrophysicist and former dean of women at Queen's University, has died. She was 93.

Ms Douglas was cremated Sunday, a day after she died at her Kingston home.

A pioneering Canadian astrophysics teacher, Ms Douglas achieved an international reputation in the field at a time when few astronomers were women.

Known by students as "Dr. D." throughout her 20 years as dean of women, the Montreal native befriended many women graduates after retiring in 1964.

"She was the most human person, the most understanding," Shirley Brooks, a long-time friend and former student, said. "If you were in trouble at the university, you'd go to her first."

Ms Douglas was made a member of the Order of the British Empire for her work in the London War Office during the First World War.

She had suspended her studies at McGill University to work in London, but returned there to earn her bachelor of arts and master of sciences in 1920.

She became interested in astronomy while later studying at Cambridge under Sir Arthur Eddington, a leading astronomer. In 1956, she wrote his biography.

Before going to Queen's as dean of women, she completed her doctorate in astronomy at McGill and

stayed until 1939 to lecture in physics and astrophysics.

While at Queen's, Ms Douglas served as president of the Royal Astronomical Society, and the first Canadian president of the International Federation of University Women.

In 1967, she was named one of 10 "Women of the Century" by the

## OBITUARIES

National Council of Jewish Women and admitted to the Order of Canada.

Ms Douglas leaves a niece, a nephew, nine grandnieces and nephews and one great-grand nephew.

# The Last Word



The Summer issue of the **Journal** is printed and mailed to clubs to be available for their Opening Meetings in September. However, those members who attend the Annual General Meeting in August, will receive the **Journal** earlier. Therefore, certain articles relevant to issues to be discussed at the **AGM will be published in** this **Journal**. For instance, the article on the report on Environment presented to the United Nations, written by CIR Audrey Manzer, might be of particular interest to those members attending the joint Conference of the AAUW and CFUW, as well as of a general interest to our membership.

A great deal of Fellowship material has been published in recent issues of the **Journal**. In order to keep up with the Fellowship Committee's announcement of the award winners, further Fellowship updates appear in this issue. Perhaps delegates to the Ottawa AGM might have an opportunity to meet with some of the award winners and discuss their research projects.

Both Linda Souter and Tammy Irwin have written articles with invaluable material for clubs. With their wide background and experience, both Linda and Tammy have the ability to see what lies ahead of us and which direction we should follow in the years to come. Their consultations with individual members and clubs as well as their fruitful collaboration, are reflected in these articles.

Shortly before the **Journal** went to print, we received the sad news of the death of Dr. A. Vibert Douglas, in her 94th year. She has influenced us so strongly both with her intellectual ability and her human qualities. During her lifetime, Dr. Douglas contributed most generously both to the Federation and to so many individual members. Eileen Clark, in an article printed on page 3, refers to an anecdote of Dr. Douglas carrying her own suitcases. However, on her last journey, Dr. Douglas was travelling without luggage. She leaves her luggage behind...for us to assume the responsibility for furthering the same goals as she had. Dr. Douglas's vision, her neverending interest in CFUW and IFUW and her enormous contribution to our organization, point to a life of imaginative intelligence and meaningful dedication. The legacy that Dr. Douglas has left us is not only part of our past, it is the luggage that we should continue to carry. May we maintain this tradition with dignity and a deep respect for human values. Dr. Douglas has laid the path; let us follow it.

Anne Turner

# Patience, Faith, Hope and Integrity

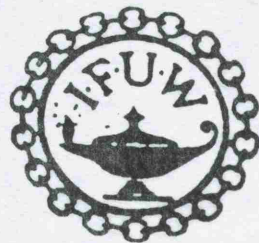
*The Journal, Vol. 23, No. 6, 1984, carried a tribute to Dr. Douglas. The following are quotes from this article.*

Dr. A. Vibert Douglas, Dean of Women at Queens University from 1939 to 1959, was renowned for her "clear mind, unshakeable belief in the powers of the intellect, kindness...and the tireless sense of responsibility" making her "a stimulating role model before that term was in common use".

Dr. Douglas in her opening address as President of IFUW to its 1950 Triennial, referred to the then recently declared United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, issuing a resounding challenge to thinking women "to work unrelentingly as professional women, as homemakers, and as citizens, each in our own country, to narrow this gap between actual practice and the ideal of human

rights. This effort must be both direct and indirect, through government action, through education, through mass communications of all kinds, and through home and community influence..."

"Since good things, as well as evil things, begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that we must implant and clarify this vision...Let us therefore work with patience, with faith, hope and integrity, towards this great and worthy end.."



**For a resumé of Dr. Douglas's academic accomplishments, see page 5**

## Noted astrophysicist dies

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A pioneer in the teaching of astrophysics in Canada, Dr. Douglas achieved an international reputation at a time when only a handful of the world's astronomers were women.

Throughout her 20 years as Dean of Women at Queen's University, she was hailed fondly by students as "Dr. D." After her retirement in 1964, her home became a beacon for women graduates, who continued to seek out her friendship and advice.

She had travelled widely until about three years ago, when her health began to decline.

John Coleman, a retired Queen's mathematics professor and longtime friend of Dr. Douglas, recalled her "great quality of self-effacement."

"She was very kind, and somewhat otherworldly," said Alison Morgan, Queen's Secretary of the University and a student during Dr. Douglas's years as dean of women.

"She was the most human person, the most understanding," said longtime friend and former student Shirley Brooks. "If you were in trouble at the university, you'd go to her first."

Born in Montreal in 1894, Dr. Douglas attended McGill University but suspended her studies in 1916 to join the War

Office in London as a statistician. For her efforts during the First World War, she was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1918.

She earned her bachelor of arts from McGill in 1920 and her master of sciences degree a year later. Soon after, she became fascinated by astronomy when she studied at Cambridge under Sir Arthur Eddington, one of the leading astronomers of his generation. In 1956, she would write an acclaimed biography of Eddington.

She returned to McGill to complete her doctorate in astronomy in 1926, and stayed on at the university as a lecturer in physics and astrophysics until 1939, when she came to Queen's as dean of women.

During her tenure at Queen's she served as president of the Royal Astronomical Society (1943-45), the first Canadian president of the International Federation of University Women (1947-50), and as the Canadian representative at the 1954 UNESCO conference in Montevideo.

She was named one of 10 "Women of the Century" by the National Council of Jewish Women in 1967 and was admitted to the Order of Canada in the same year. She held honorary degrees from McGill, from Queensland University and from Queen's.

A private family service for Dr. Douglas was held, followed by cremation.

Dr. ALLIE VIBERT DOUGLAS

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Fond tributes flowed from her colleagues and former students on news of her death.

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DOUGLAS: Pioneer

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She is survived by a niece, Dr. Mary Douglas, of Sutton, Ont., a nephew, Patrick Douglas, of Ottawa, nine grandnieces and nephews and one great-grand nephew.

A private family service for Dr. Douglas was held yesterday, followed by cremation.

up the list. Singles want someone who makes things happen — like Gord S., a 26-year-old engineer, who wants "a woman who knows where

umh on single life for a new weekly art and entertainment newspaper called Metropolis, he should be "breathing, warm-blooded. Those

goes out with tend to be blonde. "She doesn't have to be a cover girl, but I can't honestly say I'd settle

cal University, interviewed about See TODAY'S/page J5

# Pauline Jewett blazes trails for women

As external affairs critic for the NDP, Pauline Jewett has visited some of the world's most exotic places. But her favorite spot is an old wooden chair on the porch of her cottage on a small northern Ontario lake.

As usual she's wearing a comfortable old swim suit. She's barefoot and smoking. (She's cut down but she won't give it up.)

Instead of a pile of government papers at her elbow, Jewett is re-reading a murder mystery. This night, she plans to watch a Blue Jays game. After 12 years as a member of the House of Commons, she's retiring.

A Canadian trailblazer, she was the first woman president of a major university and the founding president of the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women. She always seems buoyantly optimistic, but it would be a mistake to assume life has been effortlessly good to her.

Although she came from United Empire Loyalist stock, and grew up in an upper middle class home in St. Catharines. When she graduated from Harvard with a Ph.D. in political science, she had to write to 18 Canadian universities before Ottawa's Carleton University finally took her on as a lowly lecturer. A male with exactly the



**Doris Anderson**

same degree was hired at the same time for more money as an assistant professor.

In 1958, her old university, Queen's in Kingston, offered her an associate professorship, but she would also have to double as dean of women. She insisted on talking to the retiring dean, Dr. Alice V. Douglas, who died just two weeks ago at 93. "She was a brilliant astro-physicist," Jewett says, "but as a student I remember her doing all kinds of menial tasks, such as counting towels in women's residences."

"Why go through the back door when you can go through the front?" Douglas demanded.

Jewett turned the job down. Politics had always attracted her. In 1961, she gambled by using her first sabbatical leave to campaign door to door for the Liberal nomination in the rural riding of Northumberland.

That was the first time I heard of Pauline Jewett. My husband, a Liberal supporter, announced that he was going to a

Northumberland nomination meeting. "There's a young university professor running, but she'll never be able to carry that riding," he said. He was supporting her male opponent. We had quite an argument about it, I remember.

Pauline Jewett did win the nomination in spite of the party brass, but lost the 1962 election, not because she was a woman but because John Diefenbaker still had a hold on rural Canada. ("It was one of the worst blows of my life," she admits now.)

In 1963, she ran again and won. She asked then prime minister Lester Pearson about her chances of becoming a cabinet minister. "But we already have a woman in the cabinet, Judy LaMarsh," he explained to her.

In the 1965 election she was defeated by George Hees. She returned to Carleton to become director of the Institute of Canadian Studies, write a column for Maclean's magazine and become a regular television commentator.

In 1972, she gambled her political career again by switching parties, and running for the NDP. She lost. Meanwhile, she had applied and been turned down for the presidencies of Prince Edward

Island and York universities. She then applied to Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, and after dithering for three months the board finally appointed her. It wasn't exactly a plum job. Simon Fraser was under a severe censorship by the union of university teachers for firing four professors.

She gave 82 speeches in her first year to publicize the university and help raise money. She increased the number of Canadian professors and one third of all new appointments were women. She refused to hold any university functions at clubs that barred women members. She raised the salaries of women professors and cleaning staff, both underpaid. The carpenters and plumbers then threatened to strike. Both a women's studies and child-care program was started. And she got the censorship lifted.

In 1979 she again ran for the NDP, this time in B.C., and won. Although she's generally regarded as left wing in the party, she's a good team player. But in 1980 she got into more trouble when she and the leader of the party, Ed Broadbent, disagreed publicly on the NDP's position on NATO and the cold war.

When I asked her why women

still haven't made much progress in either politics or academia, she replied, "Trailblazers aren't really good enough. We don't fundamentally change things. Inherently, all structures are male-dominated. We have to change who is going to be at the command posts of society."

She believes if women really got behind the NDP it would make a tremendous difference. "I don't think parties that are seeking power for the sake of seeking power will do it. That's a recipe for no change."

And what is Pauline Jewett going to do now that she's getting her Canada pension? She plans to live at her cottage during the summer and work out of an office at Simon Fraser during the winter. She hopes to do television and radio commentaries and perhaps write her memoirs. She'll also keep tracking Question Period in the House of Commons.

"I'm still a political junkie," she says. "And if I got the chance I'd like to run one more big thing — like MacMillan Bloedel," a giant forest products company based in Vancouver. And then, at the notion of that unlikely possibility, she laughs with a splendidly amused, deep-throated laugh.





# wounded in Vimy Ridge battle

By Allan Thompson Toronto Star

A funeral will be held today for John McNaughton, a teacher at Harbord Collegiate for 20 years and a Vimy Ridge veteran who died two weeks after celebrating his 100th birthday.

Mr. McNaughton died last Saturday at Mississauga General Hospital.

He was born on a farm in Blanchard Township, Perth County, June 19, 1888. But, as he told The Star on the occasion of his 100th birthday, farming wasn't his calling.

"I lived on a farm but I didn't take it up. I wasn't too much at the farming," he said.

He was graduated from St. Marys Collegiate before teaching a session at a Perth County model school. He taught for a few years at a rural public school, then after a year at the University of Toron-

## Obituaries

to, moved west to Prince George, B.C.

But like many of his generation, Mr. McNaughton dropped his career temporarily to enlist in World War I.

"Yes, I went over at the beginning of it. I remember those days of service with the forces," he said.

He served for 3½ years in France with the Fourth Battalion of the 125th Regiment before he was wounded at the battle of Vimy Ridge.

"I was wounded in the left temple you know. A piece of shrapnel went right through here and out the back of my helmet," he said, pointing to his head.

His relatives still recall the old war stories he used to take such pleasure in telling.

"I remember he used to tell us about the fellow who nearly died because he took his gas mask off so he could spit out his chewing tobacco," nephew Don Kohl of Mississauga said, chuckling.

After the war Mr. McNaughton returned to teaching, graduating from the faculty of education at U of T in 1920.

The bulk of his career was spent on the staff of Harbord Collegiate Institute in Toronto, where he taught mathematics from 1933 to 1955. He also taught cadets.

After retiring in 1955, Mr. McNaughton and his wife Lal moved to Mississauga. After his wife died in 1974, Mr. McNaughton carried on by himself, doing his own cooking and cleaning, driving a car until he was 95 and weeding the garden until his 97th year.

"He was just one of those fellows that kept on going, and always a complete gentleman," Kohl said.

Mr. McNaughton was a member of the Masonic Temple for 70 years and an active churchgoer.

He leaves two sisters and 10 nieces and nephews.

The funeral is at 2 p.m. at the Lindsay-Sass Funeral Home in St. Marys.

Relatives ask that donations in his memory be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario or to a favorite charity.

# Dr. Allie Douglas, 93 Queen's dean of women

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A pioneering Canadian astrophysics teacher, Douglas achieved an international reputation in the field at a time when few astronomers were women.

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## Dr. A. Vibert Douglas

### A personal memory

A woman for all seasons, one in a million, out of this world have all been used to describe Dr. Douglas. In truth, her head was in the stars — intimate with the heavenly bodies, familiar with galaxy after galaxy; but, her feet were firmly planted on this earth with its stark reality.

She was raised in the Quaker Society of Friends and her friends were legion — colleagues, confreres, university women throughout the world and so many students, to the grocery clerk who would phone her when the Seville oranges arrived for her marmalade making. Allie to her older friends, Dr. D. to the younger ones.

Accolades from the British and Canadian Governments, honorary degrees from Australia and Canada, recognized in many ways, she was specially pleased by the Jewish Women's Award; she adored Eddington and writing his biography gratified her. *The good that women* with University training could do was uppermost in her mind. And she brought honour to Canada as president of the IFUW. The plight of displaced scholars was of great concern to her after both World Wars, and when travelling to Europe her travel bags were stuffed with

soap and chocolate bars. When VW Gladys Leech of Capetown visited Kingston a few years ago, over tea the two of them recalled 34 meetings they had attended. On these trips and at Astronomy conferences and on UNESCO tours, she had travelled in all but six countries — and her hobby was learning 'cheers' in each language.

She also visited niece Mary, who practised medicine in far away places. On such a trip in her mid 80's she was back and forth from Afghanistan to Pakistan three times in one day through the Khyber Pass by bus, taxi and lorry because her visa was not in order. And she laughed when relating this *tour de force*. It was her delight to mind house for her brother's children and to have them visit the Island cottage in the St. Lawrence. And of late the grandchildren have reciprocated while studying at the university.

At 44 she became Dean of Women — living in a small apartment in residence. Her hair was held back in a neat little bun, she wore comfortable tweeds and stout walking shoes, had a strong handshake and a warm smile — and remained the same for the next near 50 years just as did her laughing eyes and wry sense of humour. She was not exactly in style with

current fashion but she definitely was 'with it'. Smoking was popular in the 30's but fire regulations forbid this in residence. Dr. D. created fireproofed smoking rooms in the basement of each House (designated by the students as Dens of Iniquity for Cylinders of Sin). *Fait accompli* she took the Principal on an inspection tour presenting him with a plug of chewing tobacco in one, a cigar in another, cigarettes and pipe tobacco in the others.

As House President in her first year at Queen's, I will remember the conflagration that resulted when one of her girls was to be expelled summarily because she was pregnant. 'If this is so, then you have my resignation now.' Pretty



Dr. A. Vibert Douglas together with Mrs. Shirley Brooks at a meeting of the Kingston Club honouring Dr. Douglas.

tough stuff 49 years ago! We were in awe of her, we admired her, we truly respected and loved her.

She was the first to invite the 'foreign' students to Sunday Tea from which evolved

the International Centre. Her greetings were sent on Unicef or Grenfell Mission note cards and invariably ended just as her telephone conversations — with *au revoir*.

Shirley Brooks

## FROM THE DEAN . . .

This annual Levana issue of the Queen's Journal gives me the opportunity to pay a tribute to the graduate and undergraduate women of the Queen's campus and especially to the officers of the Levana Society. The affairs of the Society have been well and wisely handled, the Levana Formal and Graduation Dinner are in the hands of able convenors.



—A. VIBERT DOUGLAS.

May both these events provide many happy memories for all who participate.

To two Queen's graduates, former members of the Levana Society, I take this opportunity to say 'Thank You' on behalf of all Queen's women of the past quarter century and more.

To Miss May Chown, B.A. ('11) who for twenty-eight years has given of her time, wisdom and skill as Treasurer of Bar-Righ Hall, its extensions and annexes, our cheerful counsellor and our happy friend.

To Miss Mary Macdonnell, M.A. ('10) a member of the Department of Classics for over thirty years during which she has introduced many young men and women to the discipline and the beauties of Latin and Greek and in the pleasant atmosphere of her home amid music and good cheer has welcomed students and staff alike.

To these two Queen's women we say thank you not once nor twice only but a thousandfold!

One word more to the Levana of today. Few of you were a Queen's during the time when Dr. R. C. Wallace was our Principal. His influence as an educator and as a man of character built into the Queen's which you know and love. "Requiescat in Deo."

## FROM THE DEAN . . .

Members of Levana are again making a good contribution to university life. Their initiative in bringing a stimulating art exhibition to Grant Hall, their leadership in WUS and in the campus newspaper, their participation in sports, in the Aquacade, the drama, the debating, the revue, and in various campus clubs — these and the annual Formal have entailed hard work and thought. We are all appreciative of the results. However the main reason for being here is academic, and those who put much hard thinking into every week's work throughout the session

## DEAN DOUGLAS



. . . . Noted woman astronomer

are gaining a training beyond money and above price. To attempt to prove all things and realize that absolute proof is a high but unrealizable ideal is a training of the mind; to hold fast that which is good is to learn and to exercise wisdom. To help students to these ends is one important function of a university.

My good wishes to you all!

A. VIBERT DOUGLAS.

Paul Martin Talbot

## From The Dean . . .

DR. A. VIBERT DOUGLAS

To all the members of the Levana Society, including the non-voting members of Faculties other than the Faculty of Arts, I give my special greeting at this time of your Formal dance. Our special thanks are due to the officers and to the convenors of the various functions of the session, and to all who participate in the worth-while campus clubs and activities.



None of us can fully evaluate what we carry away from our undergraduate years at our Alma Mater. We go out richer in mind and spirit, more aware of two sides (at least) to every problem, more disciplined to weigh truth from falsehood and high probability from improbability, more appreciative of the wonder and the beauty of nature, more percipient of ideas, more understanding of human nature.

My best wishes to you and to the University, one chapter of whose history you are helping to write.

A. VIBERT DOUGLAS.

*Q. Journal 1957 Feb 15.*

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### The Children's Charter

There shall be peace on earth; but not until

Each child shall daily eat his fill;

Go warmly clad against the winter wind

And learn his lessons with a tranquil mind.

And thus released from hunger, fear and need,

Regardless of his color, race or creed,

Look upwards, smiling to the skies,

His faith in man reflected in his eyes.

### La Charte des enfants

“La paix viendra sur terre; mais pas avant  
que chaque enfant mange chaque jour; à sa faim;  
qu'il affronte chaudement vêtu, le vent de l'hiver  
et qu'il apprenne ses leçons l'esprit tranquille:

Lorsqu'il sera délivré de la faim,

de la crainte et du besoin,

quelle que soit sa couleur, sa race ou sa foi,

il lèvera la tête et sourira au ciel,

et dans ses yeux se reflétera sa foi en l'homme.”



A donation to UNICEF has been received from:

Nous accusons réception d'un don fait à l'UNICEF par

Dr. P.I. Kenny,  
49 Oakwood Ave.,  
Toronto, ONt.  
M6H 2V7

The Committee is very grateful for this gift to the  
United Nations Children's Fund

Permettez au Comité d'exprimer sa gratitude  
pour votre générosité envers le Fonds des  
Nations Unies pour l'Enfance.

In Memory of Dr. A. Vibert Douglas

**Unicef Canada** 

443 Mt. Pleasant Road, Toronto, Ontario M4S 2L8

### The Children's Charter

There shall be peace on earth; but not until  
Each child shall daily eat his fill;  
Go warmly clad against the winter wind  
And learn his lessons with a tranquil mind.  
And thus released from hunger, fear and need,  
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His faith in man reflected in his eyes.

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quelle que soit sa couleur, sa race ou sa foi,  
il lèvera la tête et sourira au ciel,  
et dans ses yeux se reflétera sa foi en l'homme.”



A donation to UNICEF has been received from:

Nous accusons réception d'un don fait à l'UNICEF par

Dr. & Mrs. A.J. Coleman,  
185 Ontario St.,  
Kingston, Ont.  
K7L 2Y7

The Committee is very grateful for this gift to the  
United Nations Children's Fund

Permettez au Comité d'exprimer sa gratitude  
pour votre générosité envers le Fonds des  
Nations Unies pour l'Enfance.

In Memory of Dr. A. Vibert Douglas

**Unicef Canada** 

443 Mt. Pleasant Road, Toronto, Ontario M4S 2L8

151 Union Street West,  
Kingston, Ontario  
K7L 2P4

July 28, 1988

Dear Mary:

Fredrick and I were saddened to learn of Dr. Saegler's death. We want to send you and Pat and the younger members of your family our deepest sympathy.

You will take comfort, I'm sure, in the knowledge that she was able to remain in her own home as she became frailer, thanks to the loving care of you and your brother, and her great-nieces and nephews. However, as we have had occasion to know well of recent years, such knowledge does little to soften the sadness when someone



one has lived all one's life is gone. You  
will miss her sadly.

Dr. Douglas was always my ideal Dean  
of Women. As students, we all admired  
her for her distinguished academic career and  
her public service. However, for me, it  
was her kindness and generosity of spirit  
which made the most lasting impression,  
and for which we loved her.

It is a deep regret to me that I did  
not see her often in the past few years  
when the senior members of my own  
family and Fred's, were slipping away  
one by one. We shall always feel  
privileged to have known her.

With warm personal regards,

Yours sincerely,

Margaret (Mackay) Gibson

6/7/88

HILDA & ELIZABETH BUCKMASTER  
357 VICTORIA STREET  
KINGSTON, ONTARIO  
CANADA K7L 3Z4

Dear Dr Mary Douglas,

So our greatly loved and admired  
Vivian Douglas has died - leaving great  
memories amongst her friends!

I met her first in London, at Crosby  
Hall (where I was Warden) where the  
I.C.V. met for the first time after the  
War.

What a tower of strength she was  
in promoting "Peace & Reconstruction"  
and holding out an understanding hand  
and sympathetic ear! I learnt much  
from Vivian to help me keep the currents  
at Crosby Hall, rippling rather than  
roiling!

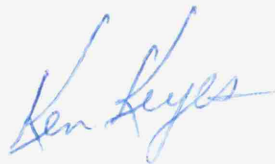
With sympathy, from us both

Hilda & Elizabeth Buckmaster



*Sincere Sympathy*

Expressing deep and  
sincere sympathy  
to you and yours  
at this time



HON. KEN KEYES, M.P.P.  
KINGSTON & THE ISLANDS



National Research Council  
Canada

Conseil national de recherches  
Canada

Herzberg Institute  
of Astrophysics

Institut Herzberg  
d'astrophysique

Dominion Astrophysical  
Observatory

Observatoire fédéral  
d'astrophysique

File Référence

LBAT7-4

27 July 1988

Mr. D.G.V. Douglas  
541 Euclid Avenue  
TORONTO, ONT.  
M6G 2T3

Dear Mr. Douglas:

Thank you for your letter of July 20th informing me of the death of your aunt, Dr. A.V. Douglas, of which I had read in the "Globe and Mail". I had the pleasure of knowing her, although I believe that the last time we met was when the I.A.U. General Assembly was held in Montreal in 1979. She was present at the meetings and took an active interest in their preparation. She was also kind enough to autograph my copy of her biography of Eddington - a book that I still enjoy browsing in. Your letter gives me an opportunity to express, through you, my sympathy with her family in their loss.

Since you have written to Dr. Swings, you have done all that is necessary to inform the I.A.U. I expect to see him in a few days in Baltimore, and I will check that he has received your letter. It is customary, at a General Assembly, for the names of all members of the Union who have died since the last Assembly to be read out publicly. As far as I recall, the name of any member whose death has been notified to the General Secretary, right up to the day of the Assembly, is included in the list. It is possible, however, that for practical reasons, there is a cut-off date a few weeks before the Assembly. Certainly, Dr. Douglas' name will appear in the I.A.U. Information Bulletin, published every six months, early next year.

Until the end of December, I am Editor of the Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. I was making up the October issue for press when I first heard the news of your aunt's death and have included a brief announcement in it. Dr. Peter Millman has agreed to write a full-length obituary for the Journal, but I am not yet sure that it can appear this year. Could some member of the family provide a good photograph of Dr. Douglas to accompany this? It would be best, if possible, to

5071 W. Saanich Road  
R.R. 5, Victoria, B.C.  
V8X 4M6

5071 Chemin Saanich W.  
R.R. 5, Victoria, C.-B.  
V8X 4M6

Telephone (604) 388-0001  
Telex 049-7295

Téléphone (604) 388-0001  
Télex 049-7295

Fax (604) 388-0045

Canada 

send me a print that we need not return; but if that is not possible, I can have a good copy made here and will return the original to you. Dr. Millman says that he would welcome any suggestions from the family for items (personal anecdotes etc.) that you might like to see in an obituary notice. If you have such suggestions, please write directly, as soon as possible, to Dr. Millman at: Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics, National Research Council, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0R6.

Yours sincerely



Alan H. Batten

On vacation in eastern Canada;  
but as from:

531 Echo Drive, Ottawa K1S 1N7

10 August 1988

Patrick Douglas Esq.,  
62 Sydenham Street No. 402,  
Kingston, Ont.

*Dear Mr. Douglas,*

Thank you very much for your kind note of 4 July; it was kind of you to write in response to that ill-fated letter which I addressed to your distinguished Aunt.

I was unable to write you before leaving Ottawa and now, on vacation, must apologise for inadequate paper and worse typing!

You can, perhaps, imagine my feelings when, just after mailing my letter to Dr. Douglas, I read of her death. Friends in Kingston had told me that they thought she was well, prior to my writing. I have the happiest recollections of her, from years ago. I have adjusted the wording of my Note accordingly. If and when it is published, I will send you a copy.

She was a great Lady and a fine scientist; I am happy to think that I was able to prepare my little tribute.

With kind regards,

Mours sincerely,



Robert F. Legget



RIDEAU HALL  
OTTAWA

LE GOUVERNEUR GÉNÉRAL  
THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

July 6, 1988

Dear Dr. Douglas,

My husband and I were greatly saddened to learn of the death of your aunt and we extend to you and to your family our deepest sympathy.

She was a remarkable woman who made pioneering advancements internationally in the field of astrophysics, becoming a role model for generations of young Canadian women. Dr. Douglas will long be remembered by her many, many students and colleagues as a popular Dean at Queen's University and for her outstanding leadership in a number of professional organizations.

May I add a word of condolence on behalf of Dr. Douglas' colleagues in the Order of Canada, of which she was a most distinguished Officer.

Jeanne Sauvé

Dr. John A.V. Douglas,  
600 Keenan Avenue,  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K2A 0N8



Copies

of letters

Sent to  
Organizations.  
about A.U.D.

Peter G. Brown  
Managing Editor  
Physics

- E. Forsey
- Physics Today
- Royal Astronomical Society
- International Astronomical Union  
↳ 2 letters

D.D.

541 Euclid Ave.  
Toronto, Ontario  
M6G 2T3

July 20, 1988

Dr. A. Batten  
Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics  
Dominion Astrophysical Observatory  
5071 West Saanich Road  
Victoria BC, V8X 4M6  
CANADA

Dear Dr. Batten:

I regret to inform you of the death of my aunt, Dr. Allie Vibert Douglas on July 2, 1988. She was 93 and she died peacefully at home with her family around. For many years she was a prominent Canadian astronomer and as the author of Sir Arthur Eddington's biography she received considerable international acclaim.

Obviously she will no longer be able to enjoy the benefits of your organization. If you would be kind enough to close any membership rights that she had with the IAU I would be grateful.

In another respect if you could inform the IAU community and possibly other affiliated organizations of Dr. Douglas's death through a bulletin or some other means, it would be greatly appreciated. I understand that the XXth General Assembly if the IAU is to be held in Baltimore, U.S.A.. Perhaps something regarding this matter could be arranged there.

I am enclosing a brief summary of her career achievements and a notice of her death from the newspaper. I have written a similar letter to the General Secretary of the IAU, Dr. J.-P. Swings. Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Daniel G.V. Douglas

541 Euclid Ave.  
Toronto, Ontario  
M6G 2T3

July 20, 1988

Dr. J.-P. Swings  
IAU Secretariat  
61, avenue de l'Observatoire  
F-75014 Paris  
France

Dear Sir:

I regret to inform you of the death of my aunt, Dr. Allie Vibert Douglas on July 2, 1988. She was 93 and she died peacefully at home with her family around. For many years she was a prominent Canadian astronomer and as the writer of Arthur Eddington's biography she received considerable international acclaim.

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I am enclosing a brief summary of her career achievements and a notice from the newspaper of her death. Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Daniel G.V. Douglas

541 Euclid Ave.  
Toronto, Ontario  
M6G 2T3

July 20, 1988

Professor G.H.A. Cole  
Managing Editor  
Quarterly Journal  
Royal Astronomical Society,  
Department of Physics  
University of Hull  
Hull, HU6 7RX  
England

Dear Professor Cole:

I regret to inform you of the death of my aunt, Dr. Allie Vibert Douglas on July 2, 1988. She was 93 and she died peacefully at home with her family around. For many years she was a prominent Canadian astronomer and as the author of Sir Arthur Eddington's biography she received considerable international acclaim.

Obviously she will no longer be able to enjoy the benefits of your organization. Would you please cancel any membership rights that she had with the Royal Astronomical Society including bulletins and journal subscriptions.

In another respect if you could inform the RAS community and possibly other affiliated organizations of Dr. Douglas's death it would be greatly appreciated. I noticed that you do have a space for obituaries in your Quarterly Journal and it may be that you could make an entry about Dr. Douglas.

I am enclosing a brief summary of her career achievements and a notice of her death from the newspaper. Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Daniel G.V. Douglas

541 Euclid Ave.  
Toronto, Ontario  
M6G 2T3

July 20, 1988

Peter G. Brown  
Managing Editor  
Physics Today  
335 East 45 Street  
New York, N.Y. 10017  
U.S.A.

Dear Mister Brown:

I regret to inform you of the death of my aunt, Dr. Allie Vibert Douglas on July 2, 1988. She was 93 and she died peacefully at home with her family around. For many years she was a prominent Canadian astronomer and Professor of Astronomy at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. As the author of Sir Arthur Eddington's biography she received considerable international acclaim.

Obviously she will no longer be able to enjoy the benefits of your organization. Would you please cancel any membership rights that she had with the American Institute of Physics including bulletins and journal subscriptions.

In another respect if you could inform the AIP community and possibly other affiliated organizations of Dr. Douglas's death it would be greatly appreciated. I noticed that you do have a space for obituaries in your magazine Physics Today and it may be that you could make an entry about Dr. Douglas.

I am enclosing a brief summary of her career achievements and a notice of her death from the newspaper. Thank you so much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Daniel G.V. Douglas



# WOMEN OF THE CENTURY

1867-1967

*Under the distinguished patronage of*

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LESTER B. PEARSON, P.C., M.P., O.B.E.,  
PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA AND MRS. PEARSON

THIS PUBLICATION IS PRESENTED BY  
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN OF CANADA  
TO COMMEMORATE  
THE ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
CONFEDERATION OF CANADA  
1867 - 1967

Allie Douglas

# Astrophysicist was popular dean

Canadian Press

KINGSTON, Ont.

Allie Douglas, a distinguished astrophysicist and former dean of women at Queen's University, has died. She was 93.

Ms Douglas was cremated Sunday, a day after she died at her Kingston home.

A pioneering Canadian astrophysics teacher, Ms Douglas achieved an international reputation in the field at a time when few astronomers were women.

Known by students as "Dr. D." throughout her 20 years as dean of women, the Montreal native befriended many women graduates after retiring in 1964.

"She was the most human person, the most understanding," Shirley Brooks, a long-time friend and former student, said. "If you were in trouble at the university, you'd go to her first."

Ms Douglas was made a member of the Order of the British Empire for her work in the London War Office during the First World War.

She had suspended her studies at McGill University to work in London, but returned there to earn her bachelor of arts and master of sciences in 1920.

She became interested in astronomy while later studying at Cambridge under Sir Arthur Eddington, a leading astronomer. In 1956, she wrote his biography.

Before going to Queen's as dean of women, she completed her doctorate in astronomy at McGill and

stayed until 1939 to lecture in physics and astrophysics.

While at Queen's, Ms Douglas served as president of the Royal Astronomical Society, and the first Canadian president of the International Federation of University Women.

In 1967, she was named one of 10 "Women of the Century" by the

## OBITUARIES

National Council of Jewish Women and admitted to the Order of Canada.

Ms Douglas leaves a niece, a nephew, nine grandnieces and nephews and one great-grand nephew.

*Alice Vibert Douglas*

ONTARIO



One of Canada's leading astro-physicists, Dr. Alice Vibert Douglas has been a leading figure in the international scientific community for almost four decades.

Born in Montreal, Dr. Douglas received her B.A. M.Sc., and Ph.D. from McGill University before going to England where she studied at Cambridge under Rutherford and Eddington.

During the First World War she did statistical work in the War Office and the Ministry of National Service in London and in recognition of her contribution she was awarded the Order of the British Empire by King George V on Jan. 1, 1918.

Following the war, she returned to Canada where in 1923 she became a lecturer in physics and astrophysics at McGill. She held the post until 1939, when she was named Dean of Women at Queen's University, Kingston. In 1942, she became a Professor of Astronomy at Queen's, a post she held until 1963.

During the Second World War she served Canada as a member of the Canadian Youth Commission and as a member of the Government Advisory Committee on Reconstruction, her special field being the post-war problems of women.

She was president of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada from 1943-45, and delegate to seven general assemblies of the International Astronomical Union.

She was also a founding member of the first women's branch of the Canadian Institute for International Affairs, president of the International Federation of University Women from 1947-50, and a member of the I.F.U.W. committee for the award of research fellowships from 1937-55 and 1964-65.

In 1954, she served as a delegate from Canada to the UNESCO conference in Montevideo.

In 1956 she wrote a biography of Sir Arthur Stanley Eddington, O.M., the world-renowned British astronomer.

She is also the author of a large number of scientific papers, and has written articles for the *Hibbert Journal*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Discovery*, and several university quarterlies.

McGill University awarded her an honorary degree in 1960, and she received an honorary D.Sc. from the University of Queensland in 1965.



541 Euclid Ave.  
Toronto, Ontario  
M6G 2T3

July 19, 1988

Eugene Forsey  
711-315  
Holmwood Ave.  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1S 2R2

Dear Mr. Forsey:

I am writing on behalf of ~~our~~<sup>my</sup> family to inform you of the death of Allie Vibert Douglas on ~~July~~<sup>July</sup> 2. ~~It is possible that you~~ may have seen the notice of her death in the Globe. Several attempts were made to contact you by phone but we were unable to reach you.

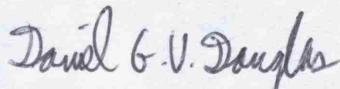
Three weeks before her death Aunt Allie was actively enjoying life. In June, a resumption of heart and lung problems which had been evident in the autumn necessitated a brief spell in hospital and then a return home where she died peacefully in her sleep with her family around. Thank God for these blessings.

Without presuming too much I think it is fair to say that your friendship was a source of great pleasure for her and it maintained a connection with a side of her family that in other ways, for one reason or another, had waned over the years.

As I am available this summer, (before I go to Bathurst, New Brunswick in September to begin teaching in the high school there), the job of organizing and storing Aunt Allie's belongings has been given to me. While sorting through some of her papers I found an old envelope upon which was written: Captain Vibert's riddles. Inside were two pieces of writing entitled "An Ancient Riddle" and the other simply "Life". I thought the contents may be of some interest to you so please find a photocopy enclosed. I am also enclosing a copy of the order of service that was held in celebration of Aunt Allie's life.

On behalf of all of us I send many kind regards to you and your family.

Sincerely,



Daniel G.V. Douglas

P.S. My brother, Stephen, visited you in Ottawa this year.

Very Ancient Riddle

1  
Adam! God made of Dust  
But thought it best to make me first  
So I was made before this Man  
To answer his most Holy plan

2  
My body he did make Complete  
But without arms, or legs, or feet  
My ways and acts, he did Control  
But to my body gave no soul

3  
A living being I became  
And Adam gave to me a Name  
I from his presence then withdrew  
And more of Adam never knew

4  
I did my maker's Law Obey  
Nor from it ever went astray  
Thousands of miles I go in Year  
But seldom on its Earth appear

5  
For purpose wise which God did see  
He put a living soul in me  
A soul from me my God did claim  
And took from me that soul again


6  
For when from me that soul had fled  
I was the same as when first made  
And without hands, or feet or soul  
I travel on from Pole to Pole

7  
I labor hard by day and night  
To fallen man I give great light  
Thousands of people young and old  
Do by my death great light behold

8  
No right or wrong can I conceive  
The Scriptures I cannot believe  
Although my name therein is found  
They are to me but empty sound

9  
No fear of death doth trouble me  
Real happiness I never shall see  
To Heaven I shall never go  
Nor to the grave nor Hell below

10  
Now when these lines you closely read  
Go search your Bible with all speed  
For that my name is recorded there  
I honestly to you declare

A.P.  


402-67 Sydenham St  
Kingston, Ontario  
K7L 3H2, Canada

The Planetary Society  
65 North Carolina Avenue  
Pasadena, Ca. 91106, USA

06.08.88

Dear Board of Directors,

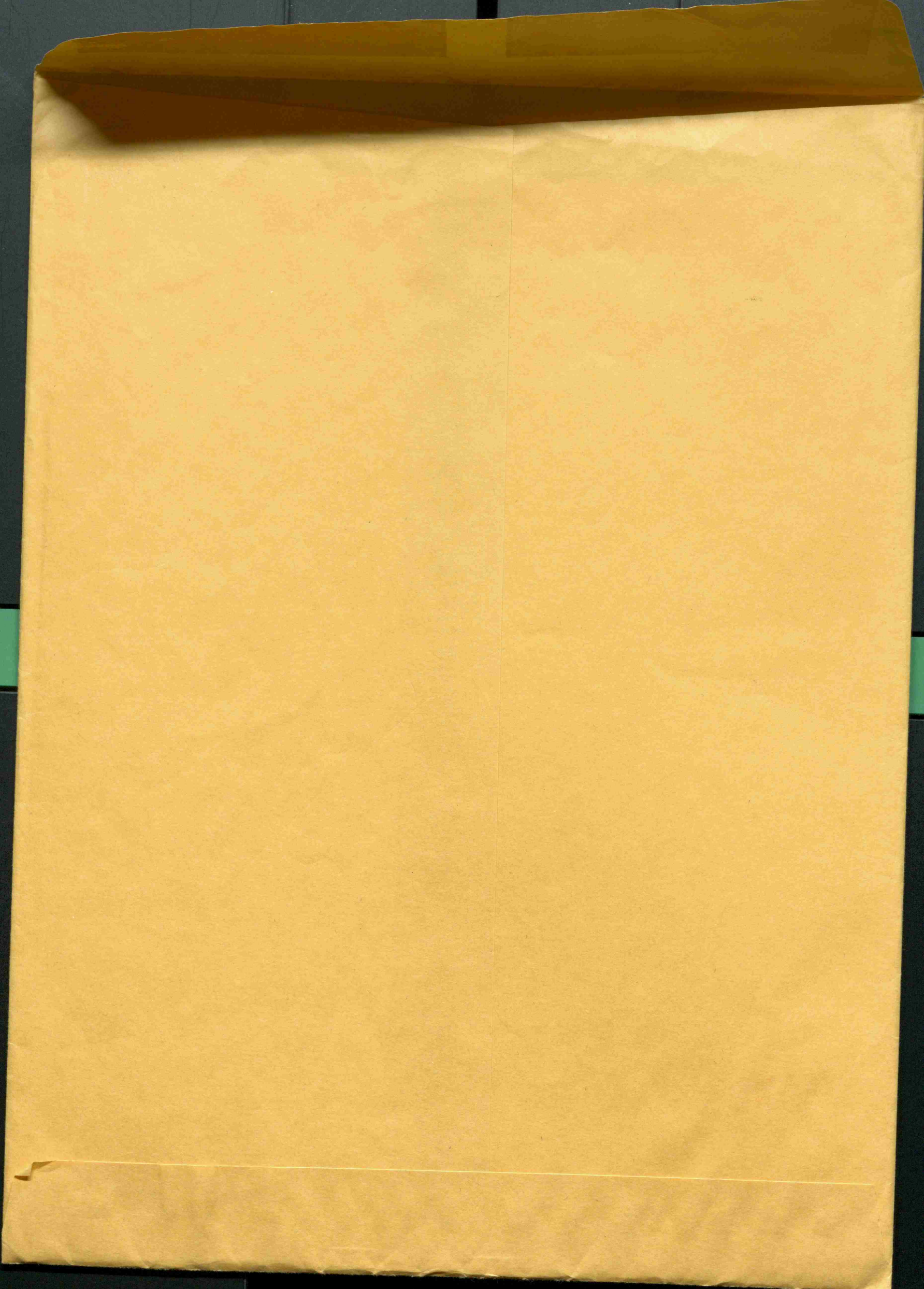
I regret to inform you of the death of my great aunt, Dr Allie Vibert Douglas on July 2, 1988. She was 93 years old and died peacefully in her home. For many years she was a prominent Canadian astronomer and as the author of Sir Arthur Eddington's biography she received considerable international acclaim.

Obviously she will no longer be able to enjoy the benefits of your society. I would be very grateful if you would be kind enough to close the any membership rights she had with the Planetary society.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Marianne S.V. Douglas



Submitted for publication in the 1988 December Issue of the Journal of the  
Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. To Marianne S.V. Douglas with thanks  
for your help.

ALICE VIBERT DOUGLAS, 1894 - 1988

*Peter M. Millman*

BY Peter M. Millman

*26/08/1988*

Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics, National Research Council of Canada

With the death of Dr. A. Vibert Douglas in Kingston, Ontario on the 2nd of July, 1988, Canada lost one of its world-famous and well-loved pioneers in the teaching of astronomy and physics. She was born in Montreal in 1894 and the seeds of her reputation as an internationalist were planted when, at the early age of eight, she toured the great cathedrals of England with her grandmother. After some elementary school training in England she returned to Montreal and later commenced her studies in mathematics and physics at McGill University. But, as the intensity of World War I increased, the young student interrupted her undergraduate activities by returning to England, where she worked as a statistician in the London War Office. Here, at the age of 23, Alice Vibert Douglas was awarded the Order of the British Empire on 1st January, 1918, in recognition of her war work. Once again, back in Montreal after the war, in 1920 the B.A. and in 1921 the M.Sc. degrees were earned at McGill.

Post-graduate studies at Cambridge University, England, followed where Miss Vibert Douglas studied under Professor A.S. Eddington. Here commenced her life-long devotion to astronomy. Her book "The Life of Arthur Stanley Eddington" was published by Nelson Pub., London in 1956 and has been cited for its "scientific fact and literary talent". A Ph.D. degree in astrophysics <sup>was</sup> awarded Miss Douglas by McGill in 1925 and she remained on the staff of this university for the next 14 years. Her research field was the spectroscopic study of the very hot A and B stars. However, her great contribution was the spark of enthusiasm

for science which she passed along to her students. In 1939 she accepted an appointment as Dean of Women at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, a position she held with distinction for 20 years. She was also appointed Professor of Astronomy at Queen's in 1946 and retired in 1964.

Dr. Douglas was noted not only for her scientific ability but for her wide ranging human interests, particularly in raising the status of women throughout the world. While Dean of Women at Queen's she was influential in having women accepted in engineering and in medicine. In 1947-1950 she was the first Canadian President of the International Federation of University Women, and in 1943-1945 was the first woman to be President of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. In 1954, as a Canadian delegate to the UNESCO conference in Montevideo, Uruguay, she insisted that women be given their proper place in the wording of resolutions. She has received honorary degrees from McGill University and Queen's University in Canada and from Queensland University in Australia. In Canada's Centennial year of 1967 she was named as one of the eleven women of the century 1867-1967 by the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada. On the 22nd December, 1967, she was made an Officer in the Order of Canada. In Minor Planet Circular of the IAU, 27 August, 1988, Minor Planet 3269 was officially named Vibert-Douglas.

But a listing of the honours and awards received by A. Vibert Douglas tells only half the story. There was the unique and lovable character of the woman herself. She loved to travel and did so frequently until a few years before her death. In descriptions of these excursions by her friends the word "intrepid" keeps appearing. Whether it was urging on a taxi driver over almost impassible trails in the interior of Ghana, or traversing the Khyber Pass three times in one day, which she did in a lorry, nothing daunted her. After retirement she still was in regular attendance at international astronomical conferences. Her

great neice, Marianne S.V. Douglas, recalls that at one of these gatherings she had collected her bags at the airport when a colleague offered some help in carrying them. She informed him that when she could no longer carry her bags she would no longer attend conferences. My own most vivid personal recollection of Allie Douglas at a conference was in Moscow when the International Astronomical Union met there in 1958. My wife and I were in the long line-up for visiting the massive tomb outside the Kremlin walls where, at that time, both Lenin and Stalin lay in state, side by side. We noticed that Dr. Douglas was a short distance ahead of us in the line-up. When we had paid our respects to the former leaders of the Soviet Union and were filing out of the mausoleum we found Dr. Douglas somewhat subdued pulling a long roll of 35 mm film from her camera under the watchful eyes of two Soviet guards. These guards, having made sure that her whole film was hopelessly fogged, allowed her to walk outside with us. I asked her "didn't you know that all photography in there is absolutely forbidden", and she replied, with the ghost of a twinkle in her eyes "of course I knew, but a sudden impulse came over me and I thought I must take a chance on getting a unique picture".

The students at Queen's used to say that Dr. Douglas was the kind of person that you would go to first if you were in any kind of trouble at the university. I understand that the girls used to refer to her affectionately as Dr. D., and the boys respectfully as Vibrating Douglas. I am indebted to her long-time friend, Shirley Brooks, for the following direct quote from Dr. Douglas, one I had not heard before her death. It coincides so closely with my own philosophy of living that I am happy to leave it with you as a memory of a most remarkable lady - "Things of the spirit have no relation to time and space".

*(librant) msvd*