

A. Yibert Douglas

Miscellaneous

Clippings about
Dr. Douglas

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ASTROPHYSICIST — Dr. A. Vibert Douglas poses in lecture room at Queen's University, where she is professor of astronomy. —Knapp—Staff

Women About Town:

Education, Astronomy, World Travel Way of Life for Dr. A. Vibert Douglas

By WILMA WOOD
Staff Reporter

Education is not wasted on women.

Whether a homemaker, professional or business woman, or a combination, it is the educated woman's role to impart her interest in knowledge to members of her family, particularly children.

Astrophysicist Alice Vibert Douglas, MBE, PhD, FRAS, LLD, professor of astronomy at Queen's University, has firm views on this subject.

"If books pertaining to the sciences, the arts, are in the home, the child naturally picks these up and reads them.

"It doesn't matter if the child understands everything he reads. The important fact is that he is exposed to these subjects.

"Even around the dinner table a child can be exposed to knowledge and thus develop a thirst for it," she says.

Dr. Douglas has imparted these views to students she has met during her years of lecturing at McGill University and at Queen's University. She has imparted these views, as well as her kindness and innate understanding of human nature, to the women students at Queen's during her 1939-1959 reign as dean of women.

The author of numerous scientific articles to journals in Great Britain, Canada and the United States, a world-wide traveller, and professor since 1949, Dr. Douglas is well qualified to put forth views on education.

"What is your opinion of free education?" The Whig-Standard asked Dr. Douglas. "Any generalization is dangerous," she said.

"Free education is more possible in a socialized state than in a state like our own. There are arguments for the present system, but with increasing financial aid where it is needed.

"There are two sides to the story. There are multiple scholarships available for exceptional and average students.

"And then there is the Victorian idea of making one's own way through university by working part time. Character can be developed by a student teaching two years, studying in university the following two years, teaching for another year when his funds have run out, and then completing his degree in the final year.

"In issue with this, however, is the in-between people who begin university with C grades and graduate with A's. They are often just as useful people as the scholarship winners."

In 1958 Dr. Douglas attended, among 30 Canadians and 600 scientists from 33 other countries in the world, a conference of the International Astronomical Union in the USSR.

Among her impressions, the beauty in Leningrad and the thoroughness of education in the Soviet Union were noted by Dr. Douglas.

Astronomers in the main, at the six observatories she visited, were young people. Many spoke fluent BBC English. Others spoke French, possibly German, and could read many other languages of the world.

"I noted another striking thing," she said. "When the scientists went on tours about Moscow, guides of the various buses delegated to the different representatives of the countries, spoke perfectly the language of the particular busload of people they were assigned.

"Our guide quoted passages from English poems and novels, and at times spoke with perfect colloquialisms," Dr. Douglas said.

Aside from her interest in the welfare of students and education, Dr. Douglas is a member of these groups: Royal Astronomical Society of London, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, of which she is past president; the Am-

erican Astronomical Society, and the Women of which she was a president 1947-50, and Sigma Xi.

Activities with these groups have given Dr. Douglas, an energetic five-foot-five woman, whose face always radiates a smile, opportunities for world travel.

As one of five Canadian delegates, she attended the International Astronomers' Union in Switzerland, 1948. She was a delegate to congress IAU in Rome, 1952. She attended the eighth general assembly UNESCO, in Montevideo, Uruguay, 1954.

Despite this seeming hyperactivity, Dr. Douglas has found time to write a book about her former professor and later research associate, Prof. A. S. Eddington. It was partly his influence that decided her to devote her learning to astronomy.

She majored in mathematics and physics at McGill University and chose physics to win her PhD. It was at Cambridge Observatory in Massachusetts that she resolved to make astronomy "my subject."

At Queen's, Dr. Douglas teaches "my subject" in classrooms at Ellis Hall, under the observatory dome that houses a \$25,000 telescope.

Through this apparatus she can show her students the moon, planets and stars, and perhaps they see them as did Robert W. Service when he wrote:

"Or cast our vision high and far
And thrill with wonder at a star;
A host of stars—night's holy tent
Huge-glittering with wonderment."

China

Mao's leadership the key — panelists

By IAN HAMILTON
Staff Reporter

May 1/75

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About 300 Loyalist Collegiate students were told Thursday there may never have been a greater leader of men than Chairman Mao of China.

Dr. Vibert Douglas, former dean of women at Queen's University, made that assessment during a panel discussion at the opening of China Week at the school.

"What Chairman Mao did . . ." she said, "is one of the great stories of history."

Dr. Douglas was referring to the "amazing" transformation of the country since communist takeover almost 30 years ago. Problems of flood, famine and other severe physical hardships have been handled, she said, "making China the miracle it is today".

A second panel member, Whig-Standard publisher Michael Davies, said an important question now involves Mao's successor and whether past successes continue under a change in leadership.

Dr. R. F. Briggs of Kingston General Hospital also participated in the panel discussion.

China Week was organized to increase awareness about the mysterious country and special activities will be held at the school until next Wednesday.

All three panelists visited China within the last year as members of touring groups, and they passed along personal impressions.

The picture painted was of a highly-regimented society which places responsibility on the group far above individual importance. Information is not given freely by state-controlled press and they don't know anything else because they don't have access", said Mr. Davies.

"The way they've been brought up is very difficult for us to comprehend," he said.

Dr. Briggs warned.

however, that it's unwise to brand one society bad and one good. For example, he said Canada has a high number of persons in institutions for such reasons as mental illness. But the Chinese keep such people in the group, as functional members.

And while there is much propaganda in China, "we have it too, although we won't admit it. There's no way our press presented a true picture of North Vietnam." He also said China's history had always been marked by subservience to the group, so the present situation is nothing new.

Dr. Douglas said Chinese specialists in certain fields have access to information and contended there is "some scope for individual thought for those with special abilities".

She also said personal experience during her trip convinced her that the emphasis is on self-defence rather than military aggression. This "was driven home time and time again".

KEEPING POPULATION DOWN: The students were told that population control is in effect and there's a "quota system", with families taking turns. The attempt is to limit children to two per family. Population is about 800 million.

MILITARY STRENGTH: Mr. Davies said one estimate on numbers in the forces places the figure at about 30 million persons at any one time.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS: They are encouraged to get out of the home and to work alongside the males. They're given the right to "haul cement just like the men".

HOME LIFE: The average Chinese family of four lives in a two-room apartment. The people are a

happy lot who love comic relief from a busy six-day work week.

OLYMPIC GAM

First 50
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Resident
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Restoration

Cobourg receives grant

I.F.U.W. Fellowships Aid International Understanding

Dr. A. Vibert Douglas, Dean of Women, Queen's University, Addresses Cornwall University Club Dinner Meeting.

"A scholar has a profound love of truth and faith in honesty," Dr. A. Vibert Douglas, B.A., M.A., Ph.D., Dean of Women at Queen's University, told members of Cornwall University Women's Club at an annual dinner held in Knox Church hall.

"By carrying that faith out in their actions," she continued, scholars can assist in the development of mutual trust and understanding."

In her address on fellowships and awards granted by International Federation of University Women from 1928 to the present, Dr. Douglas, herself one of Canada's outstanding women scholars emphasized the international goodwill resulting from fellowships which allow promising students from one country to continue their studies and research in another country.

"These students," she said "carry their own ideals and the peculiarities of their own cultures abroad and return with the riches of foreign countries."

Outlining the growth of I.F.U.W. fellowships from the early twenties when very few women held advanced posts in universities, she said that Canada was the third country to join the International Federation, following its organization in England and United States, and that a fund for providing international fellowships, established in 1923, has increased to cover a wide range of countries and of subjects. She mentioned the first contribution, made by a group of Norwegian men at their 50th college re-union, to provide Norse woman further study, and the unpercedented generosity of donations made by American Association of University Women since 1934.

EDUCATION NOT WASTED

The idea that education is wasted on women, because they soon marry and give up their careers, was strongly discounted by Dr. Douglas who pointed out that of 92 women receiving I.F.U.W. fellowships between 1928 and 1955 all but one, either married or single still are engaged in scholarly work.

The projects being studied or taught by fellowship winners range from marine biology and the study of the nervous system of sea anemones, to ceramics and slag metallurgy, medical biochemistry, economics, English, music and insect control.

AID REFUGEES

Many countries are represented among these fellowship winners, and, as Dr. Douglas noted, many of students were refugees who had to find new homes and make new lives. "In granting fellowships," she said, "We not only promote scholarship but help some of those who have a sad record of hardship and persecution."

She also injected a note of encouragement for older women when she spoke of a few of middle-aged women who had been aided in resuming their studies through fellowships.

In conclusion, Dr. Douglas, first and only Canadian president of I.F.U.W., and for many years a member of the award committee, emphasized the importance each club and national association of university women plays in the aims of the I.F.U.W., to help individual women, to aid in the furtherance of knowledge and to promote international understanding.

She was introduced by Mrs. W. H. Gilleland of Ottawa, vice-president C. F. U. W. central, who also presented the Cornwall club's charter to president, Miss L. Jean Cameron on behalf of C.F.U.W.

BURSARY

Mrs. Gilleland congratulated the local club on its progress in membership and in inaugurating a bursary of \$100 in its first two years.

Miss Cameron thanked the speaker and members of Knox Church Friendship Circle who served dinner.

She reminded members that a letter a month was being sent to Dr. C. Neville-Smith, charter member, now with Save the Children Fund in Korea where much assistance is needed and letters deeply appreciated.

It was announced that a book fair and tea will be held at Knox Church hall from 2 to 5 p.m. on February 2 in aid of a bursary fund. Donations of used books for sale will be pick up.

Grace, before the dinner was said by Mrs. P. C. Lewis.

Seated at the headtable with Dr. Douglas, Mrs. Gilleland, and Miss Cameron, were Mrs. J. F. Flaherty, president Ottawa U.W.C.; Mrs. George Cameron, vice-president; Mrs. Reid Cam-

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Mrs. H. G. Howell
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Valois, P. D.



Successful whist

Ste. Genevieve Gardens Branch of St. Mary's Church Ladies' Guild held a very successful military whist on Oct. 7 at the church hall, St. Charles Road.

Whist was played at thirty-four tables and the many prizes which had been donated were greatly appreciated.

Mrs. G. D. MacKay, convener of the whist, welcomed the guests, and the refreshment committee, under Mrs. Joyce Douglas, received many compliments.

The response to the first effort of this newly formed branch was very encouraging.

Prize winners at Ile Perrot Military Whist

First prize winners in the Military Whist held at the Presbyterian Church of Ile Perrot Sat-

Lakeshore University Women's Club hears Dr. A. Vibert Douglas

The opening meeting of the Lakeshore University Women's Club was held on Monday evening, October 5, in the St. Columba-by-the-Lake Presbyterian Church Hall in Valois.

Members and guests were honoured to hear Dr. A. Vibert Douglas, distinguished graduate of McGill University, for many years Dean of Women at Queen's University, Kingston, and now Professor of Astronomy at Queen's.

Dr. Douglas travelled to Russia in the summer of 1958 to join with six hundred astronomers in a great international effort in cooperative research. She visited Leningrad and Moscow and found vivid contrasts in both cities. In Leningrad beautiful cathedrals, built by Peter the Great and having priceless objects d'art, were surrounded by extreme shabbiness. In Moscow, where the delegates were housed in very modern skyscraper apartments on broad, new streets, terrible housing shortages exist. At the State reception in Moscow the delegates were allowed to explore the private chambers of the old Czars. All the conference meetings were extremely well-organized, with

simultaneous translations provided. Dr. Douglas was high in her praise of the Russian astronomers and found them very anxious to share their findings.

A small group from the conference visited Yalta, in the Crimea, where there are many beautiful observatories. They also visited Georgia, where several churches are still being used for worship, and Yerevan, on the Turkish frontier, which was bristling with soldiers.

At the meeting winners of the Scholarships presented by the Club, were present with their parents. Miss Ellen Anne Purdie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hage Purdie of Lakeside, won the first place award and is studying Physical Education at Macdonald College. The second place award winner was Miss Beverley R. Steer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. Steer, of Lachine, who is also attending Macdonald College.

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She happened to be at Nimiuk when the flu burst out in a terrifying epidemic. With no experience whatsoever, she was pressed into service as a nurse. Her story is a moving record of human will and faith.

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Here's a philosopher who feeds on the lotus — and can digest it.

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REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Date: Saturday, November 30th, 1974
Time: 8:00 p.m.
Place: McLaughlin Room, Students' Union, Queen's University
Speaker: Dr. A.V. Douglas
Topic: "Wanderings in China, South Korea and Japan"

Dr. Douglas made two trips to the Orient during this past summer. From August 12-20th, 1974, Dr. Douglas attended the Triennial of the International Federation of University Women in Tokyo and Kyoto.

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Members may bring a friend and prospective members are most welcome. If transportation is required, please phone Miss Evelyn Bishop at 548-4119. Refreshments will be served by our committee. In accordance with normal procedure, a silver collection will be taken to defray expenses.

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NEW MEMBERS

To the following new members who joined the Kingston Branch, we extend a cordial welcome: Mrs. E. Epplett, Mrs. C.A. Da Costa

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ADVANCE NOTICE

Reserve January 31st, 1975, for the film presentation at K.C.V.I. Auditorium of Claude Jutra's "KAMOURASKI". We are presenting this Canadian film for public showing. The proceeds are to be used for scholarship purposes. Complete details will be included in the next notice.

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GROUP FLIGHTS

Brochures are available from our Flight Chairman, Mr. Ian MacLachlan, whose phone number is 548-8151. Suggested flights include a Christmas flight to Britain and 2 group flights to Spain.

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Bridge anyone? Mrs. Ann Scott will arrange a program for Bridge games. If interested, phone 542-9434.

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30 Nov. 1974

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China

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USA $3.0 \cdot 10^6$

China $4.3 \cdot 10^6$

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Chengchow 300 mi up Yellow R.

Wuhan about 400 up Yangtze R.

Droughts + floods - Hopei

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Dr. A.V. Douglas,
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The obsequious Kowtowing in
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Industry -

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5 Shrines

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+ Osaka - Smog.

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Active Universities

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pavilions

and slums.

Communist disturbance, riot police
squad.

Military government

RC priest + poor workers

Garden party - Mein of Ed.
re N Korea.

Manila

on great bay opening to west
Some contrasts -