

# Winifred Glen Barnstead



Winifred Barnstead BA graduate portrait. Credit Dalhousie University

b. Oct. 6, 1884, Halifax, NS; d. June 5, 1985, Toronto, ON

## Education:

1906 BA (Dalhousie University)

## Positions:

1906–1907 Library Clerk, Westmount Public Library, Montreal

1907–1908 Teacher, Musquodobit Primary School, Nova Scotia

1908–1910 Cataloguer, Princeton University Library

1910–1928 Chief of the Cataloging Department, Toronto Public Library

1916–1928 Instructor, Ontario Department of Education, Library School

1928–1951 Director, University of Toronto Library School (jointly appointed as Assistant Professor, University of Toronto, receiving tenure in 1944)

1951–1974 Director Emeritus, School of Library Science, University of Toronto

## Publications:

Barnstead, Winifred G. (1912). "Expansion of Dewey Decimal System for Canada," in Proceedings of the Ontario Library Association Annual Meeting, 1912, pp. 76–79. Toronto: King's Printer.

Barnstead, Winifred G. (1918). Filing Rules for Dictionary Catalogues. Toronto: King's Printer.

Barnstead, Winifred G. (1936). "A New Degree Course in Library Science," Ontario Library Review 20, no. 4: 146–147.

Barnstead, Winifred G. (1944). *Librarian: Canadian Census Classification Professional Service*. Toronto: Distributed by Vocational Guidance Centre, National Committee for Mental Hygiene.

Barnstead, Winifred G. (1945). "Recruitment for Librarianship." *Canadian Library Council Bulletin* 1, no. 4 (April): 37.

Barnstead, Winifred G. (1947). "General Training in Librarianship and in the Field of Special Library Work," in *Special Libraries Association Regional Conference Proceedings*, King Edward Hotel, Toronto, Oct. 17-18, 1947, vol. 1, pp.2-5. Toronto?: Special Libraries Association.

Barnstead, Winifred G. (1960). "A Tribute to American Librarians," *ALA Bulletin* 54, no. 4: 280-281.

## Associations/Committees:

Ontario Library Association

Ontario Regional Group of Cataloguers, founding member in 1927

Canadian Library Association

## Honours/Accomplishments:

1958 Winifred G. Barnstead Scholarship was established by the Library Science Alumni Association

1972 Awarded an honorary LLD by the University of Toronto.

## Other Areas of Activity:

Barnstead founded the Ontario Regional Group of Cataloguers in 1927, the first professionally oriented group in Canada. She also sought to improve the professional and social standing of librarians in the province by attempting to introduce certification and advocating for improved salaries.

## Comments:

Dr. Barnstead was the first Director of the University of Toronto Library School.

"To the graduate of the library school jointly established in 1928 by the Ontario Department of Education and the University of Toronto, Miss Barnstead is the honoured 'director' and 'director emeritus.' Her drive, philosophy of library education and statesmanship launched the School and before her retirement had attained for it accreditation by the Board of Education of the American Library Association and the Bachelor's and the Master's degrees in Library Science.

There are many who think of "W.G.B." more personally - hospitality in the Nova Scotia tradition, at home, at the golf course, at the restaurant - moments enlivened by anecdote and salty observations - visits to the Grange - Hart House Theatre - kindnesses during illness and difficult moments - a readiness to explore new fields and find new solutions. In all, two generations of trained librarians owe

her allegiance." — *Canadian Library Association Bulletin*, Dec. 1954

## Sources:

Bassam, Bertha. "Education of Librarians is put in Historical Perspective." *Canadian Library Journal* 36, no. 3 (June 1979): 77-86.

Bassam, Bertha. *The Faculty of Library Science, University of Toronto and Its Predecessors, 1911-1972*. Toronto: Faculty of Library Science in association with the Library Science Alumni Association, 1978.

Bruce, Lorne D. *Places to Grow: Public Libraries and Communities in Ontario, 1930-2000*, 2011.

Robert H. Blackburn, "Winifred Glen Barnstead, 1884-1985." *Focus (Ontario Library Association)* 11, no. (1985): 16-17.

"Pioneers! 0 pioneers!" [W.G.B.]. *Canadian Library Association Bulletin*, 11, no. 3 (Dec. 1954): 106.

University of Toronto Archives

ELA biography compiled by Agatha Barc

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