



CELEBRATING WOMEN IN MATHEMATICS

DORIS MARY CANNELL

1913-2000, England - Mary Cannell grew up in Liverpool where she attended Merchant Taylors' girls' school on a scholarship. After completing her studies there, she entered the University of Liverpool to study French and history.

After completing her degree, Cannell studied for a postgraduate diploma in education in order to enter the teaching profession. Indeed she did become a school teacher, teaching French in England and, briefly, English in France.



During World War II, Cannell undertook war work lecturing to troops. This experience prompted a change in her career, for she then moved into higher education. The rest of her career was spent in teacher training in which she eventually assumed high positions. In 1960 she was appointed as Deputy Principal of Nottingham College of Education. She oversaw the amalgamation of the College with Trent

Polytechnic in 1974. The combined educational establishment has now become Nottingham Trent University.

Cannell's mathematical connection arises from her biography of George Green (1793-1841), who was a miller by trade near Nottingham, in addition to being a self-taught mathematician and physicist. Greene's 1828 *Essay on the application of mathematical analysis to the theories of Electricity and Magnetism*, astonished the scientific world. Most students today know of Green's Theorem and Green's Function, but very little was known about Green's life. Cannell's work on Green illuminated his extraordinary and fascinating mathematical life.

Biography courtesy of The MacTutor History of Mathematics archive