



CELEBRATING WOMEN IN MATHEMATICS

EVELYN BOYD GRANVILLE

1924- , USA - Granville graduated with distinction from Smith College in 1945 and was awarded a scholarship from the Smith Student Aid Society to undertake studies for her doctorate. She entered Yale in the autumn of 1945 and began research in functional analysis under Einar Hille's supervision. She wrote a



doctoral thesis *On Laguerre Series in the Complex Domain* and in 1949, together with Marjorie Lee Browne who graduated from the University of Michigan in the same year, became one of the first black American women to be awarded a PhD in mathematics.

After completing her PhD at Yale, Granville spent a postdoctoral year in the Courant Institute of Mathematics at New York University working on differential equations with Fritz John. She accepted an offer of an associate professorship at Fisk University in Nashville, taking up the post in 1950.

In 1955, Granville worked in Washington writing programs for the IBM 650 computer, then in 1957 moved to New York City to take up a post as a consultant on numerical analysis at the New York City Data Processing Center of the Service Bureau Corporation, which was part of IBM. When the United States space program began to move ahead, NASA contracted IBM to write software for them. Granville was happy to return to Washington D.C. as one of a team of IBM mathematicians.

Granville taught at Texas College from 1985 to 1988, including classes in a newly instigated computer science course. Still she did not want to leave the academic world and she subsequently taught at the University of Texas at Tyler, where she held the Sam A. Lindsey Chair, retiring in 1997.

Biography courtesy of The MacTutor History of Mathematics archive