

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: PR00847

Rosman, Alice Trevenen

(1882 - 1961)

Born 18 July, 1882, Kapunda South Australia Australia

Died 20 August, 1961, Highgate England

Occupation Editor, Journalist, Novelist, Writer

Summary

Alice Rosman was an editor, journalist, novelist and writer. She is best known for her work as a novelist, under the pseudonym Alice Grant Rosman. She achieved success particularly in the United States of America and Canada during the 1920s and 1930s, where she was a best-seller for four consecutive years.

Details

Alice Trevenen Rosman was born in Kapunda, South Australia on the 18 of July 1882, to parents Trevenen Rosman and Alice Mary Bowyer (née Varley). As a child, Alice showed early signs of creativity and a talent for story-telling, which she used to entertain her younger sister Mary. She and her sister attended Catholic primary and secondary schools, though they were not Catholic themselves. During her schooling years Alice wrote numerous short stories and poems, some of which were published in newspapers. She finished school in 1899. By 1901, she was editing the magazine *The Young Queen*, published by the Adelaide branch of the Girls' Realm Guild, which she had established.

Between 1906 and 1911, Alice worked as a journalist for various publications, including the *Gadyfly*, the *Bulletin* (for which she used the pseudonym 'Rosna'), the *Daily Herald*, *Lone Hand*, the *Australasian*, *Sydney Mail* and *Steele Rudd's Magazine*.

In 1911 Alice and her sister Mary moved to England. While Mary taught piano at a girl's school, Alice continued her work writing for publications. Between 1915 and 1920 she wrote for the *British Australasian*, and between 1920 and 1927 was the assistant editor of *Grand Magazine*. During these years, Alice also published her first novels, using the pseudonym Alice Grant Rosman. The novels were *Miss Bryde of England* (1915) and *The Tower Wall* (1916), and they went largely unnoticed. Her first successful novel was *The Window*, published in 1926; twelve editions were printed in five months, and it was translated into several languages.

In 1927, Alice retired to focus on her novels, and published seventeen stories between then and 1939. Many of these sold near 100,000 copies, even during the Depression. Her birthplace Australia featured in *The Back Seat Driver* (1928) and *The Sixth Journey* (1931), as well as her first two novels. Her most successful markets – particularly for her romance fiction – were those outside of Britain: Canada and the United States of America. Alice Rosman's work was known for its easy style and humour, and was often called by reviewers as 'light fiction'.

Alice Rosman died in Highgate, England, on 20 August, 1961.

Published resources

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Book

A Book of South Australia : women in the first hundred years, Brown, Louise [et al.], 1936,
<http://www.catalog.slsa.sa.gov.au/record=b2287661~S1#>

Newspaper Article

The Argus, 1919,
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article1460093>

Resource Section

Rosman, Alice Trevenen (1882-1961), Edgar, Suzanne, 2006,
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A110460b.htm>

Archival resources

State Library of South Australia

[Correspondence of Alice Grant Rosman](#)

[The young queen](#)

Author Details

Christine Donald

Created 10 June 2010

Last modified 21 November 2018