

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0080

Neumann, Hanna

(1914 - 1971)

Nationality Germany

Born 12 February, 1914, Lankwitz, Berlin Germany

Died 14 November, 1971, Ottawa Canada

Occupation Mathematician

Summary

Hanna Neumann was Professor and Head of the Department of Pure Mathematics, School of General Studies, Australian National University from 1964-71. Previously she worked as Lecturer and Senior Lecturer in Mathematics at the University of Hull and University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, 1946-63.

Neumann became a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in 1969.

Details

Neumann completed her D. Phil. At Oxford in 1944. She typed her thesis on a card table by a haystack when the weather permitted. Much of it was written in a caravan by candlelight. This was the only accommodation she could find in Oxford during World War Two.

She completed her education in Germany, at the Auguste-Viktoria-Schule and the University of Berlin. In 1938 she joined her fiancé, Bernhard Hermann Neumann in Britain. A Jewish refugee from Germany, he held a lectureship in mathematics at the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire, Cardiff. They were married on 22 December 1938 and went on to have five children.

In Australia as Professor of Pure mathematics at the Australian National University, she quickly became involved with secondary school teachers in the implementation of the mathematics syllabus for the Wyndham scheme in New South Wales. Together with a colleague in the first term of 1964, they ran a once-a-week course for teachers entitled 'The language of sets in school mathematics'. She maintained a direct involvement with secondary teachers of mathematics for the rest of her life.

Her own research was focused mainly on group theory; on problems related to free products with amalgamations, embeddings and varieties of groups. In her entry for the Australian Dictionary of Biography Kenneth Fowler stated that 'she found joy and beauty in the study of mathematics'.

Published resources

Book Section

Hanna Neumann (1914-1971), Newman, Michael F, 1987

Journal Article

Hanna Neuman, Newman, M. F. and Wall, G. E., 1975

Hanna Neumann (1914-1971), Walker, Rosanne, 2001

Hanna Neumann [Includes list of publications], Wall, G. E., 1974

Article

Neumann, Hanna - AAS Biographical Memoir 3 (2), 1975., Newman M.F. and Wall G.E., 1975,
<http://www.asap.unimelb.edu.au/bsparcs/aasmemoirs/neumann.htm>

Resource

Where are the Women in Australian science?, Australian Science and Technology Heritage Centre, 2003,
<http://www.austehc.unimelb.edu.au/wisa/wisa.html>

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Edited Book

200 Australian Women: A Redress Anthology, Radi, Heather, 1988

Site Exhibition

From Lady Denman to Katy Gallagher: A Century of Women's Contributions to Canberra, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2013,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/ldkg>

Archival resources

Adolph Basser Library

[Hanna Neumann Collection](#)

Author Details

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Created 14 February 2001

Last modified 29 October 2018