

OBITUARY

Grace Marion Waterhouse

23 July 1906–9 May 1996

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Grace Waterhouse was the youngest of three; her brothers both lived into their early nineties and she died shortly before her ninetieth birthday.

Born in South-West London, she attended Godolphin school and Royal Holloway College, University of London (1924–1927), where she read Botany. After graduating, Grace spent an extra year in the Botany Department, where the Head, Elizabeth Blackwell, stimulated her to study the production of conidia in *Phytophthora*, leading, in 1939, to the award of an M.Sc. Grace then embarked on a teaching career.

In order to further this, she followed the B.Sc. course in Zoology at Birkbeck College (1937–41), culminating in First Class Honours. Her main teaching post was at Eastbourne, followed by a position at Lincoln Training College (1942–45).

Grace then returned to the Botany Department at Royal Holloway College, where she continued her work on *Phytophthora*.

In 1946 Grace joined the staff of the Imperial (later Commonwealth and now International) Mycological Institute at Kew, where she remained until retirement. As Assistant Editor of the *Review of Applied Mycology* (later re-named *Review of Plant Pathology*) she maintained the high standard of this journal, organising the abstracting of world literature on plant diseases. This – a full-time task in itself – was not however, her only duty; she was also charged with the identification and taxonomy of the ‘phycomycetes’. With isolates of *Phytophthora* arriving at the Institute from many parts of the world for examination, and few published aids for identification, here was a unique opportunity – and need – to become a specialist on the genus. A collection of original diagnoses and descriptions was published, then a key to the species, which has proved to be of continuing value. Later, *Pythium* received similar treatment, and studies were made on *Sclerospora*, *Pseudoperonospora* and *Entomophthora*. After retirement, Grace continued her mycological work and in 1983 was awarded a D.Sc.

Not only specialising in micro-fungi, Grace showed an interest in many mycological subjects; her Presidential Address

to the Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union was on *Larger Fungi on Lawns* (1956) and she was an enthusiastic forayer. In 1989 she up-dated and produced with Dr G. C. Ainsworth the publication *British County Foray Lists*, which includes many fungal lists besides county records.

Grace Waterhouse joined the British Mycological Society



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while still a student in 1927, edited the *Transactions* from 1959 to 1965, was President in 1961, giving her Address to the Society on *The Zoospore*, and was latterly an Honorary Member.

Grace was also a member of the Mycological Society of America, cancelling her membership of the Automobile Association in order to subscribe. On her retirement Grace spent several months working in the Herbarium at Cape Town.

Grace really enjoyed her life, contributing and deriving the maximum from it. Accomplished on the tennis court and hockey field, she took up ski-ing when over 50. She was an early motorist and continued driving until the week before the stroke that brought about her death. Grace was also musical, singing in the choirs at school, college, Lincoln, St Anne's Church, Kew and St Andrew's Church, Ham.

She took up bee-keeping whilst teaching and continued keeping bees both at Kew and at Middleton-on-Sea, where

she had a sea-side retreat. Theatre-going, a visit to Glyndebourne, folk-dancing and gardening were among her enthusiasms and she took out several library books weekly, including her favourite 'who-dunnits'.

Grace was a life member of most of the societies she joined, which included the Royal Horticultural Society, Surrey Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust, Richmond Scientific Society (President 1966–7, 1979–80). She was a Governor and Hon. Treasurer of the Botanical Research Fund from 1974 to 1991. A convinced Christian, she was an enthusiastic member of her local Church and took part in all their activities, including a visit to the Holy Land.

Over the years, many visitors to the CMI have shared Grace's experience and enthusiasm and have worked with her. She carried out an extensive international correspondence which she continued long after retirement and will long be remembered with respect, admiration and affection by her friends all over the world.