



Elizabeth McClintock (1912-2004)

Biographical sketch by Jane Radcliffe, Archives Volunteer

Academy botanist Dr. Elizabeth McClintock was born in Los Angeles on July 7 of 1912. She earned a Bachelor's and a Master's degree at the University of California in Los Angeles in 1937 and 1939 respectively. She served UCLA as its Herbarium Botanist from 1941 to 1947. She then moved to San Francisco and became Associate Curator of Botany in 1948.

A doctorate followed in 1956 from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, with a specialization in the taxonomy and distribution of flowering plants, especially California natives.

Dr. McClintock continued at the California Academy of Sciences, becoming Curator of Botany in 1969. She served simultaneously as a Resident Associate at the Herbarium of the University of California at Berkeley, and was a collaborator on the Jepson Manual Project.

She was a member of the American Institute of Biological Science, the Botany Society of America, and the American Society of Plant Taxonomists. She also served as editor of the Journal of the California Horticultural Society (1945-1975) and as associate editor of Pacific Horticulture (1976-2000).

On October 19, 2004, she died peacefully at Hanna House in Santa Rosa, at the age of 92. Her legacy endures in her publications, among them two editions of the ***Flora of San Bruno Mountains (1968); An Annotated Checklist of Woody Ornamental Plants of California, Oregon and Washington (1979); Poisonous Plants of California (1986); California Flora (1985); and Trees of Golden Gate Park (2001).***

Sources are:

American Men & Women of Science 17th and 18th editions
Flora of North America Newsletter Volume 18 Number 2, July-December 2004.