

# Julia Annette Elizabeth Dafoe

b. Oct. 22, 1900, Montreal, QC; d. 25 April, 1960, Winnipeg, MB



Elizabeth Dafoe, c. 1948. Credit Canadian Library Association

## Education:

BA 1923 (University of Manitoba)

library training (New York Public Library) 1925

and University of Chicago Graduate Library School

## Positions:

1925-26 Circulation and Reference Assistant, University of Manitoba

1926-27 Cataloguer, University of Manitoba  
1928-1932 Assistant Circulation and Reference Librarian,  
University of Manitoba Library

1932-35 Chief Cataloguer, University of Manitoba Library

1935-1937 Chief Librarian, Junior Division, University of Manitoba Library

1937-1960 Chief Librarian, University of Manitoba Library

## Publications:

Dafoe, Elizabeth (1944). "A National Library." *Food for Thought* 4, no. 8: 4-8.

Dafoe, Elizabeth (1945). "Regional Library Service." *Queen's Quarterly* 52, no. 2: 195-205.

Dafoe, Elizabeth (1946). "Your Next Job-Librarian [C.B.C. Broadcast., September 4th, 1945]." *Canadian Library Council Bulletin* 2, no. 5: 106-7.

Dafoe, Elizabeth (1947). "The First Year: The Canadian Library Association Reports." *Food for Thought* 8, no. 2: 9-10, 27.

Dafoe, Elizabeth (1948). "Librarianship as a Career." *Ontario Library Review* 32, no. 3: 199-200.

Dafoe, Elizabeth, Freda F. Waldon, and Colin Gibson (1948). "A National Library for Canada." *Canadian Library Association Bulletin* 5, no. 1: 14-16.

- Dafoe, Elizabeth (1948). "What Is a Librarian?" *Ontario Library Review* 32, no. 1: 19-22.
- Dafoe, Elizabeth, Freda F. Waldon, and Colin Gibson. "A National Library for Canada." *Canadian Library Association Bulletin* 5, no. 1 (July 1948): 14-16.
- Dafoe, Elizabeth (1949). "National Library Service." *Canadian Library Association Bulletin* 6, no. 2: 54-57.
- Dafoe, Elizabeth, ed. (1955). *Future of bibliography and documentation*. By Elizabeth Dafoe and others. Ottawa: Canadian Library Association. (Canadian Library Association. Occasional paper; no. 7)
- Dafoe, Elizabeth (1955). "Research Libraries." *Canadian Library Association Bulletin* 11, no. 6: 319-20.
- Dafoe, Elizabeth (1958). "The Library and the Community." In *Proceedings of the Canadian Library Association 13th Annual Meeting, Quebec City, June 13-19, 1958*, pp. 7-13. Ottawa: Canadian Library Association.
- Dafoe, Elizabeth (1959). "A University Library [Manitoba]." *Journal of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada* 36, no. 4: 106.

## Associations/Committees:

- 1943-46 President, Manitoba Library Association  
1948-49 President, Canadian Library Association  
1949-1954 member, American Library Association Council

## Honours:

Elizabeth Dafoe Library of the University of Manitoba named in her honour.

## Accomplishments:

For a quarter of century, Elizabeth Dafoe was a central figure in the development of the University of Manitoba library in Winnipeg. Her efforts were noteworthy and resulted in her selection to represent western Canadian and academic interests in the wartime Canadian Library Council which led to the successful formation of the Canadian Library Association in 1946. Dafoe's interests included the formation of regional libraries, a topic she promoted in wartime publications, as well the creation of a National Library in Ottawa. From 1953-1960 she was a member of the National Library Advisory Council.

## Notes:

"It is our hope for Canadian libraries that they will eventually form part of a nation-wide system. It is my hope that as they develop it will be possible for them to lay less stress on information and more on knowledge, less emphasis on the book of the month and more on the book of the decade, less accentuation on momentary interests and fads and more upon infinite concerns and problems." — Elizabeth Dafoe, Canadian Library Association conference, 1949.

"Her tireless message of the need for a 'national library' and her outspoken ideas helped to define the mandate of the National Library of Canada". [extract from her biography on Library and Archives

Canada. Celebrating Women's Achievements].

## Sources:

"Miss Elizabeth Dafoe" Manitoba Library Association Bulletin 8 / 2 & 3 (Sept. 1960), 1.

W.L. Morton (1963) "Elizabeth Dafoe: lover of language, literature and libraries." Proceedings of the Canadian Library Association, 18th Conference: 8-9.

Manitoba Historical Society. [Memorable Manitobans: Julia Annette Elizabeth Dafoe \(1900-1960\)](#). [accessed Feb. 14, 2016]

"Elizabeth Dafoe," Canadian Library 17 (Nov. 1960): 171.

"Miss Elizabeth Dafoe, University Librarian, dies." Winnipeg Free Press, " April 26,1960

ELA biography compiled by Lorne Bruce

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