



Beatrice Roslyn Robertson
1912 - 2001

BEATRICE ROSLYN ROBERTSON

Collection of Children's Literature

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA LIBRARY

Beatrice Roslyn Robertson (nee Arnold) was born in Montreal on June 2, 1912. Always known as "Rolly", she attended Trafalgar School in Montreal, Elmwood School for Girls in Ottawa, and Compton School in Lennoxville, Quebec. In 1937 she married Dr. Harold Rocke Robertson, who grew up in British Columbia, and they met when he was studying medicine at McGill.

Rolly and Rocke lived first in Edinburgh, where Rocke was doing post-graduate work in surgery, and then in Montreal following the outbreak of war in 1939. They had two sons, born in 1938 and 1940, and Rolly was the sole parent to them while Rocke was away to war from mid-1940 to 1944. They then moved to Vancouver, where they had a daughter and third son. Rocke was building his career in surgery, and was one of the founders of the UBC Medical Faculty. After they moved to Montreal in 1959 he was head of surgery at McGill and the Montreal General Hospital, and then Principal of McGill. Rolly was busy supporting him, and bringing up her family.

Rolly Robertson loved children, and had a strong sense of the magic and joy of childhood. She was also an avid reader, and read widely and well. These two traits combined to give her an enduring interest in children's literature. She began collecting children's books when in Vancouver, and pursued this passion actively for 40 years.

Rolly loved the pace and rhythm of fine children's books; the magic of English prose in its purest form, bringing both pleasure and learning to young people. She was a wonderful reader to her children, and then her grandchildren, often quoting verbatim from her favorites.

In 1991 she made a small donation of children's books to the UBC Library. In 1994 she followed up by contributing the remainder of her collection. Rolly's books are included in the larger children's book collection of the UBC Library. There are 521 titles, and they can be 'seen' together by the magic of computers by searching the Library catalogue at, <http://www.library.ubc.ca/>, using the title: Beatrice Roslyn Robertson Collection.

For further information please contact: The Robertson Project, c/o Ian B. Robertson
Tel: 250-468-2059; Fax: 250-468-2079; E-Mail: ianbr@shaw.ca