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MARGOT OSBORN

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By ELIZABETH SEITZ

In 1902 Margot Osborn (Neé Camp) was born in Wainfleet, Lincolnshire, England and received her education at St. Mary Cray, Kent. Her family moved to Rochester, Kent, where she worked as a civil servant for three years and met her future husband, Arthur George Osborn. Mr. Osborn's first wife had died three years before, their daughter, Veronica, was 10 years old. Arthur and Margot were married at St. Barnabas church, Gillingham, Ken and sailed for Canada on the "Empress of France"

After a short stay in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Arthur opened a general store at Eldersley, they had two children by this time, Rosemary and Howard. One night in January the building next to their store caught fire and with no fire brigade and no water, they watched their home and store burn to the ground. Arthur and Margot moved then to Regina, where another two children, David and Laurel were born. Arthur found employment at the new Hotel Saskatchewan and Margot took classes at the University of Saskatchewan. After seven years in Regina, Arthur died of pneumonia and Margot was left with four children between the ages of three and twelve.

In 1942 Margot became Secretary to Major S. Simpson, in charge of records, in 1945 she became assistant supervisor in the accounting department (Ordnance) Military District No 12. and in 1946 she was made supervisor of the typing pool.

In 1947, Margot knew that her work with the army would soon terminate and she resigned. By that time Howard was a student at the University of Saskatchewan and David was working with an iron working company. Laurel was in her third year of high school and went to stay with Veronica while Margot went back to England for six months to visit her parents. After returning to North America, Margot visited a married sister in New Canaan, Connecticut and then obtained a clerical job with the Christian Science Monitor organization in Boston, Massachusetts. In 1963 she was appointed secretary to the Christian Science Board of Education where she worked until retiring in 1969 to Victoria, British Columbia,

While living in Regina, Margot had begun to publish poetry and her play "Judas Incorporated" was produced by the Little Theatre Society there. While in Boston she continued to write plays and poetry and was working on a science fiction novel titled *A Short Visit to Ergon*, Marlowe House (a small publishing company which she and her son David established) An edition of 2000 was sold out.

Between 1946 and 1990 Margot published 10 plays or poetry books:

My book: an anthology of poetry for children, edited by E.M. Osborn. Ill. by Lini Grol. -- Victoria, B.C.: Marlowe House, 1972.

Medlars Island : a play in three acts, by Margot Osborn. -- Boston, Mass.: M. Osborn, [196-]

Second fiddle : a play in three acts, by Margot Osborn. -- Boston, Mass.: M. Osborn, [196-]

The man who could have been king, by Margot Osborn. -- [Boston? Mass.: s.n., 196-]

Frosty-moon and other poems, by Margot Osborn. -- Toronto: Ryerson Press, c1946.

The house on Gray's Cove, by E.M. Osborn. -- 1st ed. -- Victoria, B.C. Marlowe House, 1981.

The man who might have been king : a play on the life of Moses, E.M. Osborn. -- 1st ed. -- Victoria, B.C.: Marlowe House, 1983.

Short visit to Ergon, E.M. Osborn. -- Victoria, B.C.: Marlowe House, 1971.

A tree full of birds, and other poems, by Margot Osborn. -- [Boston? : s.n.], c1967.

Saskatchewan and other places: collected poems of Margot Osborn. -- Victoria, B.C: Marlowe House, 1990.

Margot had a happy and active retirement in Victoria. She was a member and president of the local branch of the Canadian Authors' Association, She traveled in Canada and abroad and while on a visit to Egypt she undertook research for her pageant-play on the life of Moses, "The Man Who Might Have Been King". Margot's poetry has been published in The Christian Science Montior, Canadian Forum, Canadian Poetry Magazine, Regina Leader Post, National Home Monthly and other periodicals.

Margot Osborn died on January 19, 2006, she was 104.

Related Material: 91-53, 92-43, 93-38, 2000-45, 2002-6, 2005-4 and 2006-14 "Margot Osborn the First 100 Years" by Lorraine Hainworth (2 copies) Newspaper articles on Margot Osborn's 100 Birthday

- Box 1
1. Biographical Sketch, 1993
 2. Correspondence
 3. Obituary, 2006
 4. Writing / Reviews

Books

5. *Saskatchewan and Other Places Collected Poems of Margot Osborn* (Hardcover)
Saskatchewan and Other Places Collected Poems of Margot Osborn (Softcover)
Penelope Today