



Lady Doreen Pollock FRPS MPAGB FRSA EFIAP

It is with the greatest sadness that Sir George has to tell you that Doreen died on 16th October 2012, aged 95, very peacefully, with her family at her side. The Funeral took place at Haycombe Crematorium, Bath on 24 Oct. Her ashes were subsequently interred, next to her parents, in the cemetery of St Michael's Church, Mickleham, Surrey, where she and George were married in 1951. If desired, donations may be sent to the 'Fight for Sight' research charity into eye problems at

<http://www.fightforsight.org.uk/>

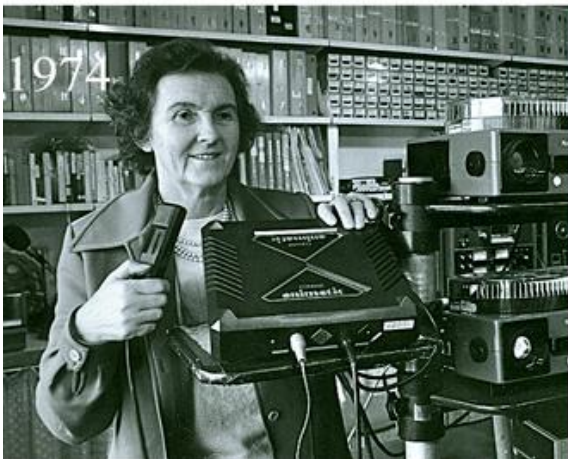
Doreen was a Fellow of the RPS, and also FRSA, MPAGB and EFIAP. She and her husband George were the first two people to become Masters of the PAGB in Audio-Visual. She served for some years on the RPS Council, and during her time was instrumental in creating the system of Overseas RPS Chapters which operate to this day. With the rest of the Overseas Committee she helped create the Overseas Newsletter, and was involved in organising the half-dozen Overseas Members' Exhibitions which were held in the Octagon. It was her idea to start an RPS AV Newsletter, first issued in July 1976. She edited the first ten issues, succeeding in building up a fund which formed the initial capital of the RPS AV Group when it was created at the end of 1977. The first members of the AV Group were the readers of Doreen's AV News.

Doreen was also much involved in the creation of the RPS International Audio-Visual Festival, and served for some years on the RPS A & F Panel for Slide-Sound Sequences, later renamed the Audio-Visual Panel. Her own AV sequences were much appreciated, and she won first prize in the National AV Championships (at that time a joint RPS/PAGB event) one year with her sequence 'One Brief Moment' about the Lake District, and another year, the first prize in the RPS International AV Festival with her interpretation of some verses from the 'Revelation of St John'.

David's Eulogy for 24th October 2012

Thank you for coming, it's lovely to see so many of you here today. For those of you who don't know me, I'm David, Doreen's youngest child, but sometime I prefer to think of myself as her eldest son! A friend of Mum's once said of her "A Lady in name and a Lady by nature" which I think summed her up perfectly. When I asked my sisters what they'd like to say about her, Charlotte simply said she was the best, best, best Mum in the whole wide world, and Jill came up with a series of adjectives which she has written on the collage she has created. Words like loving, kind, tolerant, understanding, forgiving, generous, caring - the list goes on. For me the word that springs to mind is Smiler, and I'll explain that in a bit.

Those of you who knew Mum in her later years, may not know much about her earlier life. She was born in 1917, while World War I was still raging, and to put it into perspective, it was just 8 years since Bleriot had been the first person to cross the English Channel in an aeroplane. She studied History of Art, and art was to become a major part of her later life. She was 22 when World War II started and worked in the Ministry of Information, surviving the Blitz in London.



She went on to work for the British Council, as it was called then, where one of her responsibilities was to promote British artists. She worked with artists such as John Piper, Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore. In fact Dad once told me he thought Henry Moore had a soft spot for Mum. Well who wouldn't have!

She met Dad because they lived in the same block of flats in Chelsea and they married in 1951, and of course three breezy and intelligent children followed over the next 7 years.

Mum was also an accomplished tennis player, competing at the Queens Championship, and whilst not fully fluent, she spoke good French which came in very useful for the frequent visits to France that were to happen throughout her married life.

Now she had a number of letters after her name due to her accomplishments. She was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society, a Master of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain, and an Excellence of the FIAP. And she embraced audio-visual production to great effect, winning the RPS International Audio Visual Festival with her sequence 'Revelation', and the UK National AV Festival with the sequence 'One Brief Moment' about the Lake District. In fact I used to joke with her that she was the British AV Champion that year.

And she enjoyed poetry, often illustrating poems in her AV sequences, and we'll hear some extracts from some of her favourite poets later in the service to celebrate the enjoyment she took from them.

So these are just some of her abilities, talents, interests and accomplishments, but it's her good nature and good humour that I'd really like you to remember. If I may I'd just like to illustrate those with 3 brief stories.

Mum and Dad went around the UK and beyond playing their Audio Visual programmes to groups of people from camera clubs to Women's institutes and plenty in between. And in that time, mainly the 70's and 80's, they met many people, and often more than once. So Mum developed a patter to deal with the situation where you know the face of the person but don't know who they are or where you'd met them before. She'd ask how they'd been keeping, how was the family and so on. And she'd use this technique because she didn't want to offend anyone by admitting she didn't know who they were. Now, one day she was walking down Dorking High Street and she saw a man coming the other way who she recognised but didn't know from where, so she launched into the

usual patter, How are you, how's the family keeping, oh how lovely, anyway nice to see you again, and on she walked. Five yards or so further on, she realised it was the milkman and she'd only seen him 2 hours earlier!

Then there was her birthday dinner about 10 years or so ago, when a group of family and friends went to the George in Norton St Philip for a meal. The conversation was going on mainly at one end of the table and I realised Mum couldn't hear very well, so I asked her if she'd like to swap with me so she could hear better. "No dear I'm fine here" she said, and then after a pause she said "Well maybe, if the conversation becomes more scintillating." When she came up with those type of one liners, I'm reminded of Noel Coward, or maybe the Dowager Countess of Grantham, Maggie Smith's character in Downton Abbey.

And the final story is only a little incident, but one that remains with me very vividly. It was an Audio Visual evening in Bath and it was to be Mum's first outing after her first series of mini strokes, and her first outing in a wheelchair. It was a dark and damp evening with brollies needed to get her into the building and so on. So after much effort with some steps and a tiny lift, she was wheeled into the auditorium and positioned at the side of one of the rows of seats.

And then a gentleman I didn't recognise came up, put his hand on her shoulder and said "Hello Smiler, how lovely to see you." To this day I don't know if Mum knew who he was, but they had a brief conversation, and as he left he said "Well it's fantastic to see that lovely smile of yours again". It was only then that I realised that even on a dark and dank evening, and when confined to a wheelchair, she still had the ability to bring a little bit of sunshine into peoples lives.

Thank you, David

Personal memories of Lady Pollock by Richard Brown FRPS APAGB EFIAP

I first met Doreen Pollock in 1977 at a meeting of the A and F slide sound sequences panel at the old RPS headquarters in South Audley Street. I had only just started out on making AVs and she quickly became one of my best critics and most valued mentors. I will be forever grateful for the encouragement she gave me in those early years.

I well remember an AV course that she and George ran at Pendeford Hall near Wolverhampton in the late seventies. I had a vague notion of the possibilities of ¼ inch tape editing. But it was at that weekend that Doreen really opened my eyes to its creative potential and it became possibly my favourite aspect of sequence production. She made a comment that has always stayed with me: "My tapes have so many edits in them, they look like they have been to hospital!"

Doreen's great sense of humour was one of her most endearing traits. When I got my Fellowship in Bath, as the panel trooped back into the room to give their verdict, Doreen caught my eye and gave me the most unsubtle wink imaginable. Her belief that involvement in AV should be fun was very evident in her Chairmanship of the Licentiate's slide sound sequences panel. The meetings of that panel, which were often at the late Len Smith's house in Rickmansworth, were some of the happiest occasions in my AV career.

Shortly after her funeral, I reviewed the DVD of some of Doreen and George's sequences which was produced a few years ago by their son David. I was deeply moved by a visual interpretation made by Doreen in 1974 of a work by Kathleen Raine, a poet who died in 2003, by a remarkable coincidence at the age of 95. It is entitled 'God rested from all his work on the seventh day'. A video of the sequence can be found at -

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sj87B7veyAI>

The last few lines are I think a most evocative and fitting epitaph to a remarkable, dear lady.

"Every natural form, living and moving, delights these eyes that are no longer mine, that open upon earth and sky, pure vision. Nature sees, sees itself, is both seer and seen. This is the divine repose, that watches the ever changing light and shadow, rock and sky and ocean."

We are grateful to Sir George and to the RPS AV news who gave us permission to reproduce these words and pictures in memory of a wonderful lady.

AV NEWS

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