

Eileen Mary Guppy

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Eileen Mary Guppy

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Timeline

24th May 1903	Born
c. 1924	Graduated in geology from Bedford College
1927	Appointed Technical Assistant
1943	Promoted to Assistant Geologist
1946?	Reverted to Senior Experimental Officer
1966	Retired
1966	Awarded MBE
8th March 1980	Died

Biographies and obituaries

[Eileen Guppy](#) - Wikipedia article

Gibson, Hazel. [Eileen Guppy: The First Woman Geologist in the British Geological Survey](#). Trowelblazers web article.

Publications

Guppy, E.M.. Hawkes, L. 1925. A composite dyke from eastern Iceland. In: Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society of London Vol 81 pt/no 2 (1925) p 325-343, p 325-343

Guppy, E.M. Thomas, H.H. Ennos, F.R.. Sutcliffe, R.. 1931. [Chemical analyses of igneous rocks, metamorphic rocks and minerals](#). London: HMSO

Guppy, E.M. 1944. Boracite from a boring at Aislaby, Yorkshire. In: Mineralogical Magazine Vol 27 pt/no 184-194 (1944) p 51-53, p 51-53

Guppy, E.M. Phemister, J. 1945. Rock wool. - London: HMSO. (Special reports on the mineral resources of Great Britain; 34)

Guppy, E.M. Phemister, J. 1949. Rock wool (2nd edition). London: HMSO. (Special reports on the mineral resources of Great Britain; 34)

Guppy, E.M. Sabine, P.A. Geological Survey of Great Britain. Dunham, K.C. 1956. Chemical analyses of igneous rocks, metamorphic rocks and minerals, 1931-1954. - London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office. (Memoirs of the Geological Survey, Great Britain)

Sabine, P.A. Guppy, E.M. Sergeant, G.A.. Institute of Geological Sciences. 1969. Geochemistry of sedimentary rocks, 1: Petrography and chemistry of arenaceous rocks. - London: HMSO. (Report (Institute of Geological Sciences (Great Britain))); 69/1)

Guppy, E.M. British Geological Survey. 2000. BGS Archives GSM1/718 : [Biographical notes on Geological Survey staff](#): British Geological Survey report WO/00/004. -(Selected Documents from the BGS Archives; 2)

BGS archives

Ref No	Title	Description
GSM/GL/We/5	Correspondence with F.L.Kitchin and E.M.Guppy	
GSM/GL/Wt/2	Correspondence: letters to T.Eastwood, J.S.Flett, E.M.Guppy, G.H.Mitchell, J.Pringle, C.J...	
MN13515, MN30902	Pass photographs	

Eileen Mary Guppy

From: [Miss Eileen Guppy c.1904-1980](#)

In 1927 two women with degrees in Geology were appointed as technical assistants. One in the Palaeontology Dept (Eileen Mary Lind Hendriks (1887-1978) and the other Miss Eileen Guppy in the Petrological Dept. Miss Guppy graduated in Geology from Bedford College around 1925. She

subsequently worked for the next two years as research assistant to Prof Leonard Hawkes at the College, publishing a paper in the Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society of London.

Originally she was employed by the Survey as an Assistant. However by 1935 she was of sufficient status to be given the job of organising the entire move of the Petrology rock and thin section collections from the old Museum of Practical Geology in Jermyn Street to the new Geological Museum in Exhibition Road. Almost certainly because of her gender and despite her qualifications she worked mostly as an assistant to senior staff firstly the Chief Petrographer and later with the Director. She was renowned for her thoroughness and attention to detail and much of her work was collating and organising data and creating and checking bibliographies e.g. for the significant Memoir "Chemical analyses of igneous rocks, metamorphic rocks and minerals (1931)". She worked for the Director Sir John Flett and did much of the work for the centenary book "The first hundred years of the Geological Survey of Great Britain" published in 1937. She was promoted to the rank of assistant geologist in 1943 and thus became the first woman geology graduate to be appointed to the scientific staff of the Survey. However, despite her abilities Miss Guppy was summarily demoted after the war. It is not clear if this was related to completion of 'war duties' or DSIR regulations!

She continued, however, working in a unique position as a personal scientific assistant at Senior Experimental Officer grade to the Directors Sir William Pugh and Sir James Stubblefield. Latterly she worked as Secretary for the new Atomic Energy Division and during 1963 - 1965 she worked with Inspectors from the Public Record Office evaluating the older records from the Geological Survey and Museum. When she retired in 1966 she was awarded the MBE for her loyal service.

Eileen Mary Guppy

from [Freedom and Equality - Women in Geology](#)

Miss Eileen Guppy (c.1904-1980), an accomplished petrologist and analytical chemist, was promoted to assistant geologist in 1943 and became the first female geology graduate to be appointed to the scientific staff of the Survey. However, despite her abilities Miss Guppy was summarily demoted after the Second World War. It is not clear if this was related to completion of 'war duties' or to Department of Scientific and Industrial Research regulations! However, she continued as a personal scientific assistant to the Survey Director. Latterly she worked with inspectors from the Public Record Office evaluating the older records from the Geological Survey and Museum. When she retired in 1966 she was awarded the MBE for her loyal service. It is noteworthy that the archives reveal that Miss Hendricks and Miss Guppy (both were unmarried as, officially, female Survey officers had to resign on marriage up until 1975) made significant contributions to Survey publications, but their authorship was not credited on the majority of the published volumes.

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