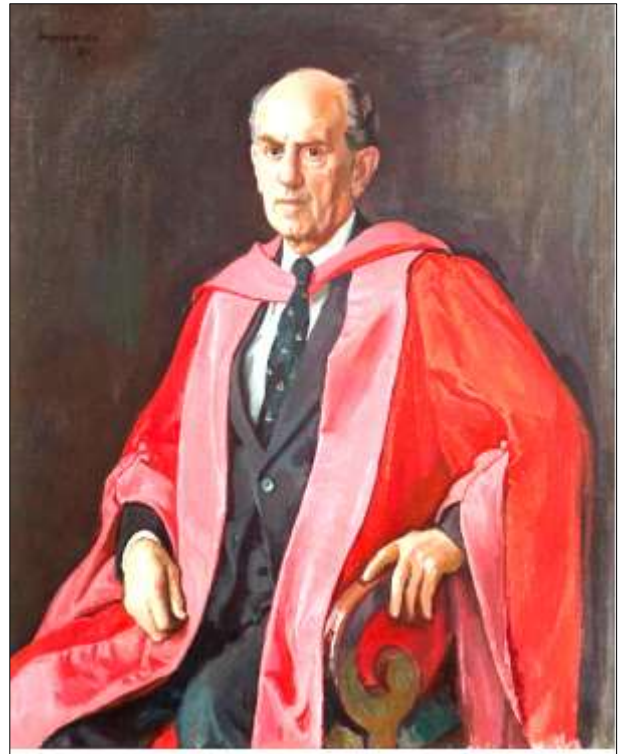


Cramond, William Alexander
1920-2004
Psychiatrist and Medical Administrator
AO OBE MB, ChB (Aberdeen
University)
DPM, MD (Aberdeen & Adelaide),
FRCPsych, FRAN.ZCP,
FRACP, FRSE, Hon DU (Stirling)



The History Committee is grateful to Prof. Peter Roberts-Thomson for this article

Short History

Born Aberdeen 1920 and educated at Gordon's College

Supt. Woodilee Mental Hospital , Glasgow, 1955-61

Director, Mental Health SA, 1961-65

PMO, Mental Health, Scotland, 1971-75

Dean, Faculty Med. University Leicester, 1972-75

Vice-Chancellor, University Stirling, 1975-80

Director, Mental Health, NSW, 1980-83

Clinical Prof of Psychiatry, Sydney University, 1980-83

Clinical Prof Psychiatry, Flinders University, 1983-93

Emeritus Prof, Flinders University, 1993-2004

Married 1949, 1 son, 1 daughter

Interests: reading, theatre

Lame from polio, man of integrity, wisdom and compassion

WA Cramond Prize in Psychiatry [formerly The Boots Prize in Psychiatry].

William Alexander CRAMOND SA Officer of the Order of Australia 26-January-1994

William CRAMOND National Medal 03-October-2001

William Alexander CRAMOND The Order of the British Empire - Officer (Civil) (Imperial) 01-January-1960

William Cramond was one of our medical teachers that impressed me greatly. I have had difficulty finding a good image of him but recently came across the copy of a portrait of Prof W. A. Cramond, Principal and Vice Chancellor (1975-1980) of University' of Stirling, UK, by Albert Morrocco (Oil on canvas, 1980).

For me Professor W. Cramond, as Professor of Psychiatry during our time in the Adelaide Medical School was a most stimulating teacher and compassionate psychiatrist. He taught an "old school" type of psychiatry (dynamic psychopathology) based on important past psychological experiences. He would carefully select psychiatric patients to demonstrate to us these psychodynamic factors using an interview setting in a one-way screen theatre with students observing from the outer side of the screen. He was also acknowledged as being expert in dealing with medical students in crisis and with colleagues' family members.

In the English newspaper The Herald it was noted in their obituary that Cramond was the elder son of an Aberdeen civil servant and grandson of an Aberdeenshire crofter.

He was bom into a close and loving family, all of whom saw commissioned service and all received imperial honours - Bill's brother Tom and his father, also Bill, were made MBE, while Bill was appointed OBE in 1960.

In a similar obituary published in the British paper The Independent it was mentioned that Cramond, in answer to a query concerning medical education, concluded: "I ask myself my criterion of a good doctor and it is this, is this the man or woman that I would ask to look after my wife and children, mother and father? If we can answer that question in the affirmative and can apply this to our medical graduates then we will have done well. This must be our steadfast goal.

In his own field of academic endeavours perhaps Cramond's most important legacy was his [careful work](#) published in the Journal of Psychiatric Medicine, The Lancet and the British Medical Journal on the care of the dying.

In 1954 Cramond was awarded the MD degree by Aberdeen University for the thesis entitled A Psychological investigation of the causes of uterine dysfunction. He was also awarded the MD degree from Adelaide University

The reader is referred to A biography of Psychiatry by W A Dibden AM, (1914-1993) who was Director of Mental Health Services in South Australia during 1967-1978. In his biography Dr Dibden tells of his interactions with Dr Cramond with many interesting anecdotes and reflections on his unique and praiseworthy personality.