

## CHAPTER TWO: A MAJOR PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT: 1919-1945

*This is the part of Chapter Two that reviews the presence of women lecturers in the very early days of the Department, and gives details of their backgrounds and interests.*

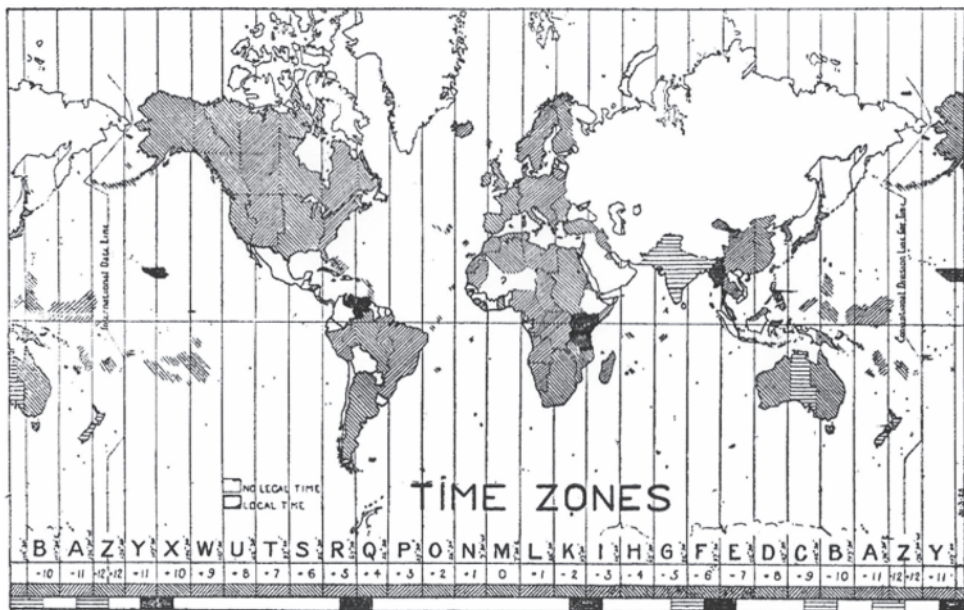
### **Women members of staff**

I have not found it difficult to trace details of early male academic members of staff, whose academic lives are well covered by memoirs and obituaries, but much more difficult to find equivalent information for women. The administrative staff in geography were mainly women, and the record sometimes gives the names of those who served as secretaries, but rarely gives detail about their actual duties. The few women academics who served in the early years include: Mary K. Heslop (M.Sc. Durham; Assistant Lecturer from c.1920-1922); M. Kathleen Morgan (B.Sc. Wales, 1922- c.1930, for a while resident in Lyddon Hall, Virginia Road, Leeds, and who published an article in *The Geographical Teacher* on World Time Zones in 1925); Mrs Annie Joan Fullard (née Jameson) (M.Sc. Newcastle, Temporary Assistant 1941-3, at a salary of £250 per year, who had previously been employed in the geography departments at Glasgow and Manchester, and the Free Public Museums in Liverpool, and who resigned on the grounds that she was expecting a child); Miss B. Cox (B.A. Durham, temporary Assistant Lecturer 1944-5); Anne Priestley (B.A. Cambridge, 1946-1952, appointed to teach geomorphology); and Olive I. Othen, (B.A. Durham 1950-52). The next appointment is probably that of Christine Leigh, who eventually became Professor of Geography in Leeds and about whom more is said later in this work. Part of the problem is the short-term nature of some of the earlier appointments, which were made in effect as temporary replacements of male staff who had left on war service. There is, or seems to be, insufficient material to enable a writing or re-writing of the history of the Leeds department along the lines demonstrated and advocated by Maddrell in her important innovative historiographical study of women's geographical work in the UK 1850-1970, but it is hoped that this present study can point ways forward for future and fuller investigation of the university archives and the geographical literature.

The only women members of staff in this early group for whom more than basic information has hitherto been found are Mary Heslop, Kathleen Morgan and Anne Priestley. The first woman lecturer in Geography was Mary Kingdon Heslop (1885-1955). Born and brought up in Egypt, she studied physics and geology as an undergraduate at Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (part of the University of Durham), and Bedford College in London from 1909-1915. She became a teacher at Church High School in Newcastle-upon-Tyne from 1916- c.1921, and then a lecturer in Geography at Leeds University. She had decided previously to move closer to Geography by taking the one-year diploma in Geography at Oxford University. After her stay in Leeds she became a lecturer in the Kenton Lodge Teacher Training College in Newcastle, from 1923-1950. She published a number of papers on the igneous dykes of Northern England, and one on the Trade of the Tyne, and was one of the first women to be elected as a Fellow of the Geological Society of London. She was an active member of the committees of the Geographical Association in both Newcastle and Leeds.

In 1927 Kathleen Morgan produced a chapter on Meteorology and Rainfall for the British Association Handbook, edited by Fawcett, and in 1925 she had earlier published a paper in *The Geographical Teacher* on world time zones, accompanied by a map that was revised in 1930 as more information became available. The first of these papers is a thorough and highly competent analysis of climatic data for the Leeds region, and the second again a confident, well-written synthesis and analysis of the evolving question of agreements on internationally and locally recognized time zones.

Anne E. Priestley was the daughter of a Leeds University professor of botany – Joseph Humbert Priestley (who was appointed in 1911, became an expert in forestry, and who died at the young age of 61 in 1944). His daughter Anne was born in Leeds on May 14<sup>th</sup> 1923, educated at Lawnswood High School in Leeds, and Cheltenham Ladies College, and then went to Cambridge to read geography as a student at Girton College. From 1943-45 she was College Exhibitioner, winning the Thèrèse Montefiore Memorial Prize in 1945. She achieved an Upper Second Class in Part I and First Class in Part II, in which she had specialized in Geodetic and Topographic surveying and Advanced Physiography. From 1945-6 she was a research student, holding the Tucker-Price Studentship, working on the course of water erosion. In 1946 she resigned her studentship to take up a post of Assistant Lecturer in Geography at Leeds.



N.B.—Details of time zones in Russia were not available when the map was prepared

**Fig. 18. Map of World Time Zones by M.K. Morgan, 1925/30.**

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