

Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin

[12 May 1910 - 29 July 1994]



Special Scientific Achievements

Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin's main areas of research were the chemistry of *insulin* and crystallography, on the topics of which she published several works. Her work was also considered as crucial in molecular biology.

Nobel Prize for Chemistry 1964.

Apart from her scientific work, she engaged herself in the *Pugwash Conference*, a conference intended to encourage communication between scientists in the East and West.

1910 Dorothy Crowfoot is born in Cairo. In school, she finds a great interest in the study of the crystal structure analysis and chemistry. With this, she soon finds her life's work.

1928 - 1932 She studies chemistry, archeology and crystallography at Oxford University, one of very few female students.

1934 Dorothy Crowfoot teaches at Somerville College.

1937 PhD at Somerville College and marriage to the historian Thomas Hodgkin.

1938 She becomes ill with incurable joint rheumatism, shortly after the birth of her first child. Despite the atrophy of her joints and the associated pain, she remains faithful to her scientific work.

The three-time mother and wife again and again engages other women in her working group.

1947 Dorothy Crowfoot becomes the third woman ever to become a member of the exclusive Royal Society.

1948 Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin is honored with the Order of Merit, the highest British civil medal, which she receives from Queen Elizabeth II. She is the second woman ever to receive this honor, following Florence Nightingale.

1956 Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin becomes a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences. She accepts a professorship at Oxford University, and remains there in the following years.



1958 She becomes a member of the Boston American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

1960 Research fellow of the Royal Society (Wolfson-professor).

1964 Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin receives the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for her determinations by x-ray techniques of the structure of vitamin B 12. She is the third woman to receive this high scientific honor. She cofounds the International Union of Crystallography.

1969 With the help of special structural analysis x-ray equipment, Hodgkin and her team succeed in representing the structure of penicillin, insulin and the cholesterol.

1977 Retirement.

1994 Dorothy Crowfoot Hodgkin dies in Shipston on Stour, England, on July 29.