

## **Dr Margaret F. Adams OBE. MA. LLD (1895 – 1983)**

### **SI Croydon - Founder member of SI Liverpool**

Margaret Adams was a well-respected headteacher of Queen Mary High School, Liverpool from 1927 – 1939.

She was a founder member of SI Liverpool, which was chartered in 1927 and served as President of the club.

From 1934 she served as President of National Union of Soroptimist clubs in Great Britain, which was part of the European Federation until later that year, and attended the historic International Convention in Paris 1934 with presiding officer and President of Soroptimist Europe, Dr Suzanne Noel. This was a notable moment in Soroptimist history, as it was at this Convention that SI Great Britain and Ireland split away from SI Europe and three Federations were formed, SI Americas, SI Europe and SI Great Britain & Ireland or SIGBI for short. Margaret became the first President of the Federation of Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland

In 1937 Margaret became President of the International Federation of Modern Language Teachers.

From 1939-60 Margaret served as Headteacher of Croydon High School (Girls Public Days School Trust) and with her move she transferred to Soroptimist International of Croydon and District.

From 1946-48 she was President of the Association of Head Mistresses and in 1952 she served as President of SI Croydon and District.

In 1962 Margaret was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws from Glasgow University. The presentation speech makes very interesting reading particularly with its reference to her work as Headmistress at Croydon High and her method of fitting the curriculum to the child. One section in particular reads “One young musician of the school whom the critics already acclaim as of international rank at 17, reported in a newspaper interview her pleased surprise and gratitude at being allowed by the school authorities to drop needlework to concentrate on her music. ‘It was very enlightened of them,’ said the young lady to the press. It was, of course, but one aspect of Miss Adams in action.”

Margaret was an inspiration, and a great role model to many of her students. She is fondly remembered by her family and by Croydon High School



Photo credits top courtesy SI Liverpool bottom courtesy of Ancestry website