



DR. ROY G. ELLIS

Roy Gilmore Ellis, D.D.S.
M.Sc.(Dent.) F.A.C.D.
F.D.S.R.C.S. (Eng.)

Born in Peterborough, South Australia, on July 10, 1906

Obtained his B.D.S. degree from the University of Adelaide in 1926. Practiced in Adelaide, South Australia, for two years, and then came to Canada and obtained his D.D.S. degree from the University of Toronto in 1929. In 1930, he received his B.Sc.(Dent.) from Toronto University.

His post-graduate studies at Guy's Hospital, London, in 1934, gave him a licence to practice dentistry in the British Isles.

From 1931-1936, he carried on a part-time practice in Toronto. He was first appointed to the staff of the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto, in 1931 as an Associate in Prosthetic Dentistry, and in 1936, became Associate Professor in charge of the Clinic. Appointed Associate Professor of Operative dentistry in 1939, and Professor of Operative Dentistry and Director of the Clinic in 1944.

In 1942, he received his M.Sc.(Dent.) for his thesis entitled "Electrodeposition and its applications to dentistry" which was published by the Canadian Dental Research Foundation in October, 1943.

Since 1937, he has been a member of the Senate of the University of Toronto, and is now Chairman of a special Committee set up in 1944 by the Board of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons to study dental schools and dental education in a selected group of dental schools in the United States.

He was Chairman of the Research Committee, Canadian Dental Association; member of the National Research Council's Associate Committee for Dental Research, and the International Association for Dental Research. (a member of the Amer. Assoc. of Endodontists)

In 1945, he published a textbook entitled "Classification and treatment of Injuries to the Teeth of Children", with a second edition in 1946.

In 1946 he received the F.A.C.D. for "meritorious achievement in Dental Science, Art, Education and Literature"

On July., 1947, He was made the Fifth Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto.

On July 25, 1948, he was elected a Fellow in Dental Surgery by the Royal College of Surgeons of England: F.D.S.R.C.S.(Eng.), the first Canadian to be so honoured. (over)

Roy Gilmore Ellis 1906 - 1989

An important chapter in the history of the profession of Dentistry in Canada has come, peacefully, to an end with the passing of a great Canadian, Dr. Roy Gilmore Ellis. Dr. Ellis born in Peterborough, South Australia, on July 10, 1906, passed away in Toronto on October 21, 1989, at the age of 83.

An enterprising and innovative young boy, Roy Ellis lived with his younger sister Helen and his parents on a prosperous wheat farm in the District of Bundaleer, near the towns of Peterborough and Jamestown, on the south, central coast of Australia, 180 miles from the city of Adelaide.

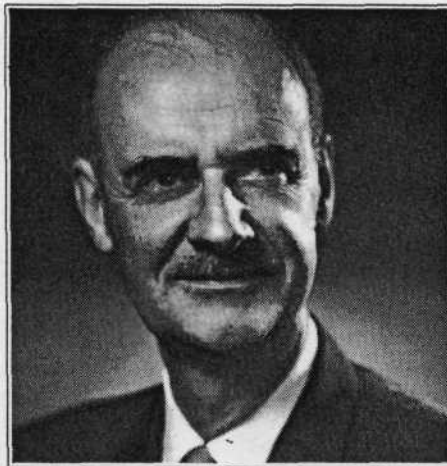
In 1926, at the age of twenty, Roy Ellis graduated from the dental school in Adelaide and practised with his childhood dentist, Dr. Millhouse, for two years.

In September 1928, he came to Canada, and graduated, with a D.D.S., from the University of Toronto one year later. In 1930, he earned his Bachelor of Science in Dentistry and, in 1931, he accepted a full-time appointment in the Prosthetic Department. In 1936, following the appointment of Dr. Arnold Denbow Alfred Mason as Dean, Roy Ellis, recently married to Constance Ferguson, was appointed Director of Clinics. In 1942, he earned his Master of Science in Dentistry. It was at this time that he wrote his book, "The Classification and Treatment of Injuries to the Teeth of Children." With the passage of time the book was published in several languages and it became a classic in Pediatric Dentistry.

On July 1, 1947, Sidney Smith, President of the University of Toronto, announced that Roy G. Ellis was appointed Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto. He would hold this position for the next 22 years . . . until 1969.

During his term as Dean he made many major contributions to his profession and to dental education but there were two of which he was especially proud.

The first was the establishment of the Division of Dental Research, in 1952 one of the most significant achievements of the Ellis Era. Three developments occurred at approximately the same time, (1) The establishment of a Division of Dental Research in the National Research Council of Ottawa, (2) The establishment of a Division of Dental Research in the Faculty of Dentistry and (3) The establishment of the Kellogg Foundation Scholarships which provided the research personnel.



The second major achievement of the Ellis Era, and very much related to the new Research Division, was the establishment of a new dental building at 124 Edward Street. And so, after 50 years at 230 College Street, the Faculty of Dentistry moved into its new home, the sixth building, with its magnificent new facilities for both clinical practice and research. Dean Ellis, with his remarkable talents as an administrator and organizer, masterminded the building of the new school and orchestrated the conversion from 230 College Street to 124 Edward Street through a very difficult period.

In 1966, Roy Ellis advocated that the enrollment of graduate and post - graduate students be tripled. In relation to the needs for graduate and post - graduate education, he recommended the building of a new addition of 25,000 square feet to the new school at a cost of one million dollars. Nineteen years later, in 1985, a new edition was completed at a cost of twenty million dollars and, indeed, the enrollment was almost tripled.

On July 1, 1967, Dr. Ellis advocated major changes in the curriculum of the Faculty of Dentistry to assure that graduates, in the years ahead, would be adequately prepared for their responsibilities. He then established the Curriculum Review Committee.

Roy G. Ellis was a member of many organizations and was an officer and leader in most of them. He received many honours from his colleagues, his universities and his country. These included: an honorary D.D.Sc. from the University of Adelaide in 1971; and honorary L.L.D. from the University of Toronto (during the Centennial of Dental Education in Canada, in 1975) and the Centennial Medal, on the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of the Confederation of Canada, in 1967.

For Roy Gilmore Ellis, life was a rewarding and fulfilling adventure that took him across oceans and continents. It extended from the virgin wheat fields of rural Australia to the hustle and bustle of Metropolitan Toronto in urban Canada; from the solitude of a quiet billabong on his father's farm to the excitement of fishing elusive trout by a remote waterfall in Northern Ontario and from the hard physical labour of sewing grain bags at a threshing mill near Jamestown to the challenges and administrative responsibilities that come with being the Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto the largest and oldest dental school to be established in the second largest country in the world.

"This I learned from the shadow of a tree which to and fro did'st sway upon the garden wall. Our shadow selves, our influence may fall where'er we n'er can be."

It is impossible to calculate the number of lives that were influenced by Roy G. Ellis during the course of his illustrious career. We know that he directly touched the lives of approximately 3500 young men and women who were his students at the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto from 1931 to 1969, a period of 38 years. These students, upon graduation, have become established in institutions and practices throughout Canada and around the world. Many of them have distinguished themselves in research, in education and in the clinical practice of Dentistry. Many have become heads of departments, deans and president of a university; others have become leaders in other ways. Indirectly, his "shadow self" has fallen on countless others "where'er he n'er can be, through his graduates as they, in turn, cast their shadows in dentistry and society.

Roy G. Ellis made this great country his home from 1928 to 1989. He served as a vital member of our profession for 60 years. He was a driving force in dental education in Canada for over 25 years and he was our Dean for 22 years. His dignified and gracious wife, his loving family, his many friends, his admiring colleagues and we, his students, are all proud of his accomplishments and are very much aware that something of him will be a part of us forever.

Jack Dale D.D.S. 5T8

Ed note: Dr. Dale has eloquently expressed the feelings of many dentists for whom Dr. Roy Ellis will always be "The Dean".

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