

RUSK, Evelyn Carroll. September 28, 1898–December 5, 1964.

WELLS COLLEGE (BA 1920, MA 1922), CORNELL UNIVERSITY (PhD 1932).

Evelyn Teresa Carroll was the daughter of Teresa (Caraher) (1867–1930) and William J. Carroll (b. 1860), natives of New York. In June 1900 the family was living in Rome, New York, where she was born. At that time, her parents reported that they had been married thirteen years; her mother had had two children, although only Evelyn Carroll, then one year old, was living; and her father was owner of a knitting mill. In 1910 she had a six-year-old brother, William J. Jr. Although a birth year of 1900 for Evelyn Carroll appears in later documents, the 1900 census and corroborating evidence point to the 1898 date above as correct.

Evelyn T. Carroll received her preparation for college at Miss Lamphier's Private School and Rome Free Academy and then studied at Wells College, a women's college in Aurora, New York. After receiving her bachelor's degree in 1920, Carroll became an instructor at Wells; she also continued her studies there and received a master's degree in 1922. She was promoted to assistant professor in 1924 and served as acting head of the department 1924–25. She studied at Columbia University during the summer of 1924 and while on leave in 1927–28. Also in 1928 she worked for the General Motors Export Company. She studied at Cornell University 1929–31 and became associate professor at Wells upon her return in 1931, a semester before receiving her doctorate from Cornell in February 1932. She wrote her dissertation in geometry under the direction of Virgil Snyder and had minors in analysis and algebra.

Evelyn Carroll married William Sener Rusk, an art historian at Wells, in Aurora on August 31, 1932. William S. Rusk was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1892 and received a bachelor's degree from Princeton University in 1915. He later received a master's degree in 1924 and a PhD in 1933 from Johns Hopkins University. Rusk taught in preparatory schools before first joining the faculty at Wells College in 1921. He taught for three years, 1925–28, at Dartmouth College, before returning to Wells as professor of fine arts; he remained at Wells for thirty years until his retirement in 1968.

Evelyn Carroll Rusk was promoted to professor in 1934. She published several papers and one review under the name Evelyn Carroll-Rusk in the 1930s and used that form of her name in a few other professional contexts. She served as acting dean at Wells 1937–38 and became dean in 1938. While she was dean she was active in national and state associations for deans and was a member of the Cooperative Bureau for Teachers, where she was on the board 1938–51 and served as chairman of the board 1940–42. She remained as dean and professor until 1951, when she resigned the deanship and took a year's sabbatical to study mathematics curricula at colleges and universities in the United States. During this leave she held a fellowship from the Ford Foundation Fund for the Advancement of Education. After returning from her sabbatical year, Rusk returned to the mathematics department, and in 1954 she became chairman of the department.

Rusk was Roman Catholic and a Republican. In about 1940 she indicated that her favorite recreations were golf and bridge and that her hobby was dramatics. While at Wells she was very active in faculty theatre productions, one of which was "Hedda Gabler" in 1947–48. She served as chairman of the mathematics department until her death at age sixty-six of a heart attack in her home in Aurora in 1964. She

was survived by her husband and her brother. William Sener Rusk died in 1984. In 1970 the Evelyn Carroll Rusk '20 Theatre Series was funded by a student from the class of 1934.

Organizational affiliations: AMS, MAA, AAUW, AAUP, Academic Deans Assoc. of Amer. Colleges and Univ., Amer. Assoc. of Deans of Women, Phi Beta Kappa.

Dissertation:

1931 [Carroll, E. T.] Systems of involutorial birational transformations contained multiply in special linear line complexes. PhD dissertation, Cornell University, directed by Virgil Snyder. Typescript. Printed version, 1932, reprinted from *Amer. J. Math.* 54:707–17. PhD granted 1932.

Publications:

1932 [Carroll, E. T.] Systems of involutorial birational transformations contained multiply in special linear line complexes. *Amer. J. Math.* 54:707–17. Published version of PhD dissertation. Reviews: *JFM* 58.0678.03 (U. Graf); *Zbl* 005.37103 (O. Zariski).

1934 [Carroll-Rusk, E.] Cremona involutions defined by a pencil of cubic surfaces. *Amer. J. Math.* 56:96–108. Reviews: *JFM* 60.0559.03 (O. H. Keller); *Zbl* 008.32202 (E. G. Togliatti). Presented by title to the AMS, Atlantic City, NJ, 29 Dec 1932; abstract: *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* 39:34 #42.

1936a [Carroll-Rusk, E.] Review of *Spezielle algebraische Flächen*. a. *Flächen dritter Ordnung*; b. *Flächen vierter und höherer Ordnung*. In *Encyklopädie der mathematischen Wissenschaften mit Einschluss ihrer Anwendungen*, vol. 3, pt. 2, nos. 10 & 11, by W. Fr. Meyer. *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* 42 (1, pt. 2): 7–9.

1936b [Carroll-Rusk, E.] with V. Snyder. The Veneroni transformation in S_n . *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* 42:585–92. Reviews: *JFM* 62.0752.02 (E. A. Weiss); *Zbl* 015.04102 (E. G. Togliatti). Presented to the AMS by V. Snyder, Ann Arbor, MI, 11 Sep 1935; abstract: *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* 41:629 #327.

1937 [Carroll-Rusk, E.] with V. Snyder. A series of involutorial Cremona transformations in S_n belonging multiply to a non-linear line complex. *Amer. J. Math.* 59:775–82. Reviews: *JFM* 63.0606.03 (E. A. Weiss); *Zbl* 017.27902 (J. A. Todd). Presented to the AMS by V. Snyder, New York City, 27 Mar 1937; abstract: *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* 43:180 #149.

1939 [Carroll-Rusk, E.] with V. Snyder. A Cremona involution in S_3 without a surface of invariant points. *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* 45:141–44. Reviews: *JFM* 65.0710.04 (E. A. Weiss); *Zbl* 020.39302 (E. G. Togliatti). Presented to the AMS by V. Snyder, Charlottesville, VA, 16 Apr 1938; abstract: *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* 44:350–51 #265.

References to: AmMSc 5–8, 9P–10P; AmWom 1935–40; NatCAB 51; WhoAmW 2–4.

“Mrs. Rusk Wells College Dean.” *New York Times*, 17 Jun 1938.

“Dean of Wells College Resigns, Effective July 1.” *New York Times*, 9 Mar 1951.

“Dr. Evelyn C. Rusk, Professor at Wells.” (Obituary) *New York Times*, 8 Dec 1964.

Other sources: PhD dissertation vita 1931; Owens questionnaires 1937, 1940; Center for Research Libraries College Catalog Collection; Cornell University Archives; communications with Florence Fasanelli (student of E. C. Rusk) and with Wells College Archives; WhoAm 40 (Rusk, William Sener); US Census 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 NY.