

**McMILLAN, Audrey (Wishard).** July 7, 1914–January 10, 2008.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY (BS 1935), RADCLIFFE COLLEGE (MA 1936, PhD 1938).

Elizabeth Audrey Wishard was born in Jubbulpore (now Jabalpur), India, the only child of Lena (Linn) (1887–1973), born in Sumner, Iowa, and Glenn Porter Wishard (1883–1956), of Clinton, Indiana. Her parents both received bachelor's degrees from Northwestern University in 1907 and married in July 1908. Her father was YMCA secretary, foreign service, and served in Jubbulpore 1910–15; Bangalore, India, 1919–22; Colombo, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), 1923–33; and Manila, (US) Commonwealth of the Philippines (now Republic of the Philippines), 1936–45. Between his two India postings he apparently attended the University of Chicago and received a master's degree in about 1919. Audrey Wishard first attended the Kodai School (now the Kodaikanal International School), a boarding school founded primarily for the education of children of American missionaries, in southern India. In 1927 she and her mother moved to Pasadena, California, where she continued her schooling. Her parents were divorced in 1932.

Audrey Wishard attended Pasadena Junior College in California 1929–31 before entering Northwestern University, from which she graduated in 1935. It was noted in her obituary that at Northwestern she studied “as much mathematics as possible, and then as much painting as there was time for,” and that she worked as a waitress in an adult YMCA camp in Wisconsin in the summers. She studied at Radcliffe College the next three years and earned a master's degree in 1936 and a doctorate in 1938 with a dissertation in analysis directed by Lars V. Ahlfors. She was a graduate student assistant her last two years at Radcliffe.

The next four years, 1938–42, Audrey Wishard was an instructor at Vassar College. Presumably she replaced [Marie Weiss](#) who had moved back to Sophie Newcomb College in 1938. While at Vassar, Wishard taught trigonometry and analysis, differential calculus, projective geometry, and solid geometry. When Wishard left Vassar, [Frances Baker](#), who had been at Mount Holyoke the previous seven years, joined the Vassar faculty as associate professor.

In June 1942 Wishard moved to Princeton, New Jersey, where she was to become a member of the Institute for Advanced Study in the fall. In Princeton she was introduced to Brockway McMillan and on September 2, 1942, they were married. Brockway McMillan was born on March 30, 1915, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He attended Armour Institute of Technology (now Illinois Institute of Technology) in Chicago 1932–34 and received a bachelor's degree in 1936 and a PhD in 1939 from MIT. He was a Proctor fellow, Fine instructor, and research associate at Princeton University 1939–42.

In 1942–43 Audrey McMillan was a member of the School of Mathematics and an assistant to Hermann Weyl at the Institute for Advanced Study. Starting in 1942 her mother worked as a clerk at the Educational Testing Service, also in Princeton, and remained in that position until 1960. Brockway McMillan became an ensign in the US Naval Reserve after completing officer training school and was later a lieutenant. They were both in Dahlgren, Virginia, starting in early summer 1943, and Audrey McMillan worked for the Bureau of Ordnance as an associate in mathematics at the US Naval Proving Ground there. The McMillans remained in Dahlgren through 1945, when, at the end of December, he was ordered to Los Alamos in New Mexico.

In 1946 Brockway McMillan began a long association with Bell Telephone Laboratories, where he worked most of the next thirty years. From 1946 to 1961, he was at Bell Labs in Murray Hill, as research mathematician 1946–55, assistant director of systems engineering 1955–59, and director of military research 1959–61. From 1961 to 1965 he was with the US Air Force in Washington, D.C., as assistant secretary for research and development 1961–63 and as under secretary 1963–65. In 1965 he returned to Bell Labs in Whippany, New Jersey, where he was executive director for military research 1965–69 and vice president for military systems 1969–79. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 1969.

The McMillans had three children during the 1940s and early 1950s. Sarah Linn was born in 1946 in Los Alamos, New Mexico; Douglas Wishard was born in 1947 in Summit, New Jersey; and Gordon Brockway was born in 1952 in Boston, Massachusetts. Sarah earned a BA degree from Radcliffe in 1968 and a PhD degree from Yale in 1979 in Far Eastern languages and literature; she has worked primarily as a computer scientist in computational linguistics. Douglas received a bachelor's degree from Harvard in 1969, a master's degree in architecture from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1976, and an MBA from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, in 1983. He was vice president of a bank for several years and later went into business for himself. Gordon received a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1980 and has worked mainly as a computer programmer and computer software consultant.

Audrey McMillan wrote in 1997, "I do not think it possible to care for 3 small children and do mathematical research. I tried. Unfortunately, I did not realize that, at age 50, I might have been able to" (authors' questionnaire). Instead, she turned her attention to elementary school teaching and consulting, which interested her because of the "new math." When they were living in Washington, D.C., in 1961–65, she was an instructor at the Georgetown Day School. In the summer of 1967, she taught a course in "new math" for elementary school teachers at New York University, where she developed teaching materials for early primary students. She was a consultant to the Summit, New Jersey, board of education 1966–76 and led seminars in local schools.

McMillan was a Democrat since 1936, and she was a Unitarian 1948–1970. Her hobbies were painting (realistic oils and watercolors) and music (listening, piano, and choral singing). In 1980, shortly after their retirement, the McMillans moved from Summit, New Jersey, to Sedgwick, Maine, a small town midway up the Maine coast where they had summered since 1967. From 1982 to 1986 Audrey McMillan was active in the Four Town Nursing Service, which she served as treasurer 1984–86. For fifteen years, 1981–96, she was a member of the Sargentville Thursday Club, of which she was treasurer for about five years. Brockway and Audrey McMillan both served on the board of overseers for the Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival in nearby Blue Hill, Maine. After retiring, the McMillans traveled to Greece, France, Britain, and Alaska. Audrey McMillan died at her home in Sedgwick, Maine, in January 2008, after an illness of just over a year. She was ninety-three. She was survived by her husband, three children, seven grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

**Organizational affiliations:** AMS, Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi.

**Thesis and dissertation:**

**1937** [Wishard, A.] Kronecker's approximation. Minor thesis, Radcliffe College.

**1938** [Wishard, A.] Functions of bounded type. PhD dissertation, Radcliffe College, directed by Lars Valerian Ahlfors. Summary: *Radcliffe College. Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Summaries of theses accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of doctor of philosophy, 1935–1938*: 172–75.

**Publications:**

**1942** [Wishard, A.] Functions of bounded type. *Duke Math. J.* 9:663–76. Based on PhD dissertation. Reviews: *MR* 5,115c (H. S. Wall); *Zbl* 060.22005 (V. Paatero). Presented as “Some conditions on functions of bounded type” to the AMS, Indianapolis, IN, 30 Dec 1937; abstract: *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* 44 (1, pt. 1): 53 #89.

**1944** A Phragmen Lindelöf theorem. *Amer. J. Math.* 66:405–10. Reviews: *MR* 6,61b, errata 6:334, (E. F. Beckenbach); *Zbl* 060.22104 (V. Paatero).

**References to:** AmMSc 7.

“Audrey Wishard McMillan.” (Obituary) *Ellsworth (ME) American*, 17 Jan 2008.

**Other sources:** Authors’ questionnaire 1997; Vassar College Archives; WhoAm 40 (McMillan, Brockway); US census 1910 MN, 1930 CA.

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