

DELEVIE, Jeanette (Fox). January 13, 1912–July 29, 1997.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY (BS 1931), YALE UNIVERSITY (PhD 1935).

Jeanette Fox was born in New York, New York, the second of four children of Sophie (Levy) (b. ca. 1885) and Jacob Fox (1874–1935). Her mother was born in New York; her father was born in Russia, immigrated to the United States as a young man, and was naturalized in 1905. They married in about 1906. According to census records, her father was in the grocery business in 1910 and was an electric broker in 1920. Later he was president of the Owners and Tenants Electric Company. The other children were Florence (1906–1999), who earned a PhD in psychology; Victor (b. ca. 1914); and Helen (b. ca. 1916). At some point her parents were divorced. Her mother was still living at the time of her father's death in 1935.

Jeanette Fox graduated from Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn and lived at home while attending Washington Square College of New York University, where she majored in mathematics and minored in physics. During her junior year, 1929–30, she studied at the University of Munich; she graduated from NYU in 1931. Fox studied at the University of Berlin 1931–32 and was a fellow in mathematics at Yale University 1932–35, where she was elected to Sigma Xi. In 1935 she received her doctorate, having written her dissertation under the direction of Oystein Ore.

In 1935 Jeanette Fox married Albert Sol Keston (1911–1992). Albert Keston, who was born in New York, received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Michigan and a doctorate in chemistry from Yale in 1935. He taught chemistry at the City College of New York (CCNY) before joining the faculty at the New York University College of Medicine. Later he was at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. He was a physical chemist most noted for developing the glucose-sensitive tape used by diabetics to test sugar levels.

During the academic year 1938–39 Jeanette Fox Keston taught at Brooklyn College during the day as a substitute, that is, on an hourly wage. She was also an instructor in the evening session 1938–41. The first of her two children, a daughter, was born in January 1942. She again taught during the day as a substitute from January to June 1943. Her son was born in January 1944. The Kestons were separated when the children were young and divorced in 1950. Their daughter received a PhD in experimental psychology in 1967.

Jeanette Fox Keston was a temporary lecturer in a veterans' program at Hunter College 1946–48 and remained in a temporary position at Hunter the following year. The next two years, 1949–51, she was an assistant professor at Jersey City Junior College. Keston again taught at Brooklyn College starting in 1953; she was a substitute 1953–56 and a lecturer 1956–57. She then began her association with the mathematics faculty at CCNY. She remained until 1971, by which time it had become City College, CUNY. She was an instructor September 1957–December 1961, an assistant professor January 1961–December 1966, and an associate professor from January 1967 until her retirement in 1971. In the early 1960s, she coauthored two mathematics research papers with others at City College. She taught several upper level courses in her field of algebra as well as the course in abstract algebra in the graduate school of education. During Saturdays of the academic year 1963–64 she also taught an NSF-sponsored course in number theory for high school students. In 1964 she was joined at City College by [Miriam B. Mazur](#), who had been a fellow graduate student at Yale, and who had earned her PhD there a year before Jeanette

Fox Keston. Until Mazur was hired, Keston was in charge of most of the courses related to the preparation of teachers and served as the department representative to the school of education as well as chairman of the departmental committee on teacher preparation.

While traveling in Europe, Jeanette Keston met, and later married, Solomon Delevie (1907–1992), a native of Pennsylvania who was living in San Francisco. They appear to have married at the end of the 1969–70 academic year, and Jeanette Delevie moved to California while she was on a sabbatical leave 1970–71. She was granted a waiver from the condition of returning after a sabbatical and retired. On June 25, 1971, Jean Delevie wrote to Fritz Steinhardt, then chairman of the mathematics department at City College that “meeting Sol [Delevie] was the start of a fairy tale and ‘they lived very happily ever after.’ It can happen in real life” (Keston, Jeanette Fox; Mathematics Department Faculty Personnel File, Archives and Special Collections Division of the CCNY Libraries). In 1997, at the age of eighty-five, Jeanette Delevie died at home in San Francisco of cardiorespiratory arrest as a result of coronary artery disease.

Dissertation:

1935 [Fox, J.] Existence of a Euclid algorithm in quadratic fields. PhD dissertation, Yale University, directed by Oystein Ore.

Publications:

1960 [Keston, J. F.] with F. Supnick and H. J. Cohen. On the powers of a real number reduced modulo one. *Trans. Amer. Math. Soc.* 94:244–57. Reviews: *MR* 22 #6777 (C. G. Lekkerkerker); *Zbl* 093.26003 (M. Cugiani).

1962 [Keston, J. F.] with F. Supnick. On the rational triangulation of a circle. *Proc. Amer. Math. Soc.* 13:768–70. Reviews: *MR* 25 #4403 (W. Moser) and *Zbl* 125.29605 (J. Szenthe).

Abstract not listed above:

1935 [Fox, J.] Finiteness of the number of quadratic fields with even discriminant and Euclid algorithm. *Bull. Amer. Math. Soc.* 41:186 #117. Presented to the AMS, New York City, 23 Feb 1935.

Other sources: Archives and Special Collections Division of the CCNY Libraries; Center for Research Libraries College Catalog Collection; “Jacob Fox,” (Obituary) *New York Times*, 19 Dec 1935; US Census 1910, 1920, NY; California death certificate; SSDI.

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