

Foreword

I would like to thank Professor Kit Vaughan most sincerely for affording me the great honour of inviting me to write this foreword, especially as I am the least capable of doing it justice.

I also thank him for the excellent research he has undertaken to write this biography in memory of my younger brother Allan MacLeod Cormack and to make it so interesting and instructive. Kit personally travelled around America, England, Scotland and South Africa to speak to Allan's family, friends and colleagues to ensure every detail was correct.

Maybe advanced years afforded me this honour. Old age can sometimes be uncomfortable. The body tells you Old Father Time is rapidly advancing. However, if you go out to meet him, remembering all the good things life has brought, there is no need to feel despondent.

Now, I come back to the birth of my younger brother, Allan, on 23rd February 1924. I was six at the time and was so proud to be sister to this wonderful baby. This pride continued all through our lives together and remembering those years is one of the 'perks' of old age.

I was fortunate to get to know Allan's wife, Barbara, and their three children, Margaret, Jean and Robert. What a talented family they are! We enjoyed their company when visiting America: they could not have been kinder to our family. We were so pleased that they (except Robert) attended our daughter's wedding in Cape Town in 1981.

Here I wish to pay tribute to our Mother who was left a widow in her early 50s when our father died in 1936. She did her utmost to point her three children in the right direction.

Allan had a very astute mind, a wonderful imagination, was full of fun and could be a great tease. When younger this sometimes made me furious but having two brothers I learned to cope with it very easily in later years.

His love of music remained with him all his days, although he didn't actually play an instrument except for a short time learning the piano. I know that Barbara and her daughter Jean still have season tickets for the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Allan loved mountaineering as did our son George. He and Allan had a great relationship. According to Allan's family, he and George 'reclimbed' every peak in the Western Cape when George visited the Cormacks in America.

It is most gratifying to know that the proceeds from the sale of this book are to be donated to the Allan Cormack Book Fund at the University of Cape Town. This fund assists needy students wishing to study mathematics and physics in the Faculty of Science. All good wishes to the students who benefit from this fund. May they work hard, play fairly and set their sights on being yet another Nobel Laureate for South Africa.

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