

COTTINGTON TRUST FOR INTELLECTUALLY GIFTED CHILDREN

Bank of Hawaii, Trustee



Historical Note

Born on October 18, 1905 in Memphis, Michigan, Frances Cottingham entered college at the early age of 15, and began her journey as an extraordinarily talented and intellectually gifted woman. In 1937, after receiving her Doctor of Medicine degree from Wayne University in Detroit, Michigan, Dr. Frances Cottingham went on to receive psychiatric and psychoanalytical training in New York City. Dr. Cottingham was a training member in Transactional Analysis, studying with Dr. Eric Berne (author of *Games People Play* – the book that introduced transactional analysis to the world in the 1990's).

Dr. Frances Cottingham moved to Honolulu, Hawaii in 1956 and began practicing psychiatric medicine. She was one of only 25 child psychoanalysts in the United States at the time. In addition to excelling in her chosen profession, Dr. Cottingham involved herself in a wide variety of activities that took her around the world as she pursued an interest in anthropology and led to her becoming a published photographer. Activities also included breeding cats, Cordon Bleu cooking, and ballroom dancing; all in which she excelled. Dr. Cottingham's efforts in breeding cats contributed to international recognition of a new cat breed called Rex (pixie face, with wide eyes and washboard layers of fur and an Egyptian statuesque).

Although her productive career spanned many opportunities and experiences, Dr. Frances Cottingham devoted considerable time to working with young people, primarily intellectually gifted youth. She believed there was insufficient information and resources available for this special group of children, which contributed to some parents and teachers not appreciating or understanding their intellectually gifted children.