

STEPHEN, DOUGLAS CLARK (1894 - 1960), newspaper editor

Name: Douglas Clark Stephen
Date of birth: 1894
Date of death: 1960
Spouse: Lucy Helena Stephen
Parent: John Thomson Stephen
Gender: Male
Occupation: newspaper editor
Area of activity: Literature and Writing; Printing and Publishing
Author: Mary Auronwy James

Born at Leicester, 1894, son of John T. Stephen; he began his career in journalism by helping his father report sport and general news for the Press Association. After training for five years on the *Leicester Mail* he joined the *Sporting Chronicle* at Manchester as a sub-editor, and worked on the *North Star* at Darlington for a short while before moving to work as a sub-editor on the *South Wales Echo* in 1916. He was appointed editor in 1922 at a time when intense rivalry between local newspapers resulted in the merging of *The South Wales News* with *The Western Mail*, and *The Evening Express* with *The South Wales Echo*. Under his direction *The Echo* grew in size, circulation and prestige. He demanded high professional standards and total integrity whilst giving encouragement, advice and support to successive generations of young journalists, many of whom later became well known Fleet Street personalities, **Percy Cudlipp** being one of them. In 1946 he was one of ten provincial editors who toured France at the invitation of the French Provincial Press. He was made a Fellow of the Institute of Journalists in 1951 and was president of the institute two years later. In 1955 he was elected to the board of directors of the Western Mail and Echo Ltd. He retired in 1957 but the following year, as assistant press officer to the Empire Games in Cardiff, he organised the press facilities which won world-wide journalistic tributes. He died 4 June 1960 at his home, 7 Holmwood Terrace, Cyncoed, Cardiff, leaving a widow, Lucy Helena Stephen.

Author

Dr Mary Auronwy James

Sources

South Wales Echo and *The Times*, 6 June 1960
The Biographical Index of W. W. Price, Aberdŵr

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