

**RWW**

# ZJ CZUPOR'S MYSTERY MINUTE: ON TOUR WITH DEAD WRITERS

**Ngaio Marsh (1895-1982) wrote mysteries during the “Golden Age of Detective Fiction” in the 1920s and 1930s. She was born, lived, and died in Christchurch, New Zealand. Her puzzle plot novels primarily featured Inspector Roderick Alleyn, a gentleman-like detective who worked for London’s Metropolitan Police. Between 1934 and 1982, she published 32 novels and along with Dorothy L. Sayers, Margery Allingham and Agatha Christie, is considered one of the four original “Queens of Crime,” prolific women authors who dominated the crime genre of the period. Most of her novels were set in England, but four were set in New Zealand.**

**Marsh was also a noted theater director and produced several Shakespearean productions. The Ngaio Marsh Theatre at the University of Canterbury is named in her honor. In 1966, she was named Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire for both her writing and theatre work. In 1978, Mystery Writers of America bestowed her with the Grand Master Award for lifetime achievement as a detective novelist. New Zealand’s annual crime fiction award is named The Ngaio Marsh Award.**

**She was engaged to Edward Bristed, who died in action during WWI. She never married and had no children. Her unusual first name (Pronounced: Nye-oh) is a Māori nickname meaning either “light on the water,” or “little tree bug.” Other sources claim the name belongs to a native flowering tree.**

## Answer:



**Ngaio Marsh. Conservatorium, Sydney, Jan. 14, 1949. State Library of New South Wales.**