



# flos



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Whilst lecturing in Brisbane in 1923 Flos recounted a recent trip through Burma, excitedly describing her numerous encounters with exotic species of animals, including most notably a peacock.

**The peacock is a symbol of Flos' journey.**

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The world Grata Flos Matilda Greig (Flos) made her mark on was a very different place.

In the early 1900s it was uncommon for women to travel abroad especially alone. Most women were duty bound to their families but Flos' pact with her sisters to sacrifice marriage, gain an education and embark on pioneering careers was the catalyst to make choices many others could not.

For all her life's accomplishments, experiencing different places, people and cultures seemed to bring her the most joy. One can only imagine how discovering such an exotic creature and witnessing it with her own eyes could make all the sacrifice and challenges feel worthwhile.

**The peacock is part of her journey.**

It symbolises how Flos challenged gender stereotypes.

Flos astonished the all male legal establishment with her many qualities, perhaps most notably her rationality. Even the Chief Justice shamefully reasoned that women's emotion outweighed their ability to be judicial as justification to prevent women from practicing law.

Flos disagreed, long holding the belief that "Women are men's equals in every way and they are quite competent to hold their own in all spheres of life."

A parallel can be drawn with the male peahen (peacock) which with its iridescent plumage, striking beauty and dazzling tail appears the way we would expect the more subdued female to look.

Two contrasting reminders not to judge a book, bird or person by its cover.

**The peacock encompasses her journey.**

Many years later, after countless adventures and a long varied career Flos' dear and learned friend Jessie Webb passed away leaving Flos her precious batik peacock.

Jessie was a fellow founding member of the Lyceum Club and the Catalysts' Society. Groups that brought together determined, educated women who through friendship challenged, encouraged and inspired each other to achieve great things in their respective fields and endeavours.

How fitting it is that the mark of an organisation named in her honour aiming to bring women together is emblazoned with the feather of a peacock.

A touchstone of Flos' life journey. A vivid reminder that despite sacrifices made, obstacles overcome and hardship endured, a path was paved and trail left behind.