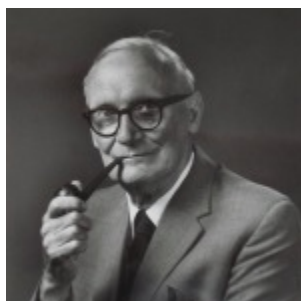


## E. R. Seary<sup>1</sup>



Edgar Ronald Seary (1908-1984) was born in Sheffield, England. He was educated at Sheffield University and afterwards became a research scholar and fellow there. He lectured in Mannheim, Germany, training interpreters for diplomatic and consular service, and at Rhodes University in South Africa. During World War II he was a captain in the South African Army. In 1951 he was appointed to the chair in English at the College of Arts and Science in Baghdad.

Seary came to Newfoundland in 1954 and for the next 16 years was head of Memorial University's department of English. He helped to develop the field of Newfoundland studies at Memorial and published several articles on Newfoundland toponymy and the derivation of names.

With G.M. Story and W.J. Kirwin, he co-authored an ethno-linguistic study of the Avalon Peninsula in 1967. In 1970 he was named Henrietta Harvey Research professor. His *Place Names of the Avalon Peninsula of the Island of Newfoundland* was published in 1971 and quickly became a standard reference work. Seary's second major work, *Family Names of the Island of Newfoundland*, was published in 1976. It provided a comprehensive account of Newfoundland surnames from the earliest historical documents.

Seary was a founder and sometime president of the Canadian Linguistics

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<sup>1</sup> E.R. Seary was one of the forerunners of geographical names research methodology in this province. His contribution will impact the field of toponymy for many years to come.

Association and of the Association of Canadian Teachers of English. Among his honours were the Heritage Award of the Newfoundland Historical Society and honorary degrees from Memorial University and the University of Sheffield, as well as Fellowships in the Royal Society and of the Society of Antiquaries of London.

After his death, he was commemorated in Seary's Peak, a hill 4 km west of Broad Lake in the district of Bellevue, NF.

[Source: *Encyclopedia of Newfoundland and Labrador*].