



# THE HUNTINGTON

LIBRARY • ART GALLERY • BOTANICAL GARDENS

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, California 91108

December 19, 1983

*Oakland Museum*

Dear Jeff,

Many, many thanks for your quick response to my inquiry about Alice Chittenden. I was not certain of the Art School which Alice C. was affiliated, so.... I see by all the name changes you listed there was reason for some confusion. There has also been some confusion as to her birth place... do you have any knowledge of her birthdate and location? Is a compilation of her artwork available and the present locations of her paintings?

The Huntington has been gifted with 51 wild flower paintings and I would like to do an article for our in-house publication about these paintings, Alice Chittenden and a wee bit about Alice Eastwood. Seems that all the biographical information is up your way- as well as anything of action or historical interest with this subject. I feel quite limited in my resources here... the one thing that exists is the interest and enjoyment of fitting little pieces of information together. It was interesting to see the picture of her (in later years)... the xerox of a xerox enclosed shows her to be a charming young woman (the material xeroxed was a much better quality photo).

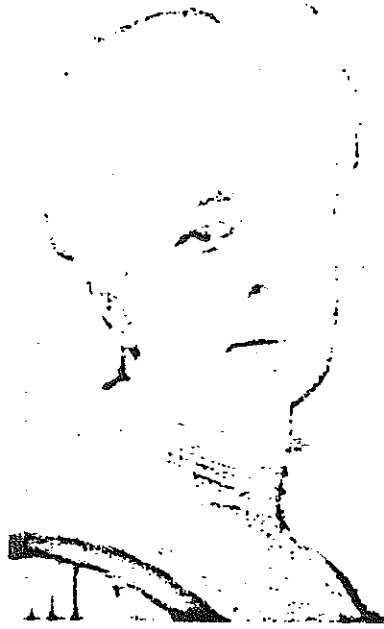
Anything that you could add to the existing information (this includes only the info. from you and the copy sheet enclosed) would be gratefully recieved.

With Appreciation,

*Ann*

Ann Freeman

P.S. Enjoy the holidays!



**ALICE B. CHITTENDEN**  
1859-1944

Mrs. Chittenden was born October 14, 1859 in Brockport, New York (according to "Who's Who in American Art," Fielding lists Brockport, Maine as her birthplace). After coming West she studied at the California School of Design, and was a pupil of Virgil Williams at the California School of Fine Arts.

She was awarded a gold medal for flower painting by the San Francisco Exposition of Art and Industries, 1891. Silver medals were awarded by the Lewis and Clark Exposition in Portland, 1905; Societé des Artistes Francais, 1908; Alaska-Yukon Exposition, Seattle, 1919.

As Alice Chittenden was widely recognized as an accomplished portraitist, she was commissioned to paint seven portraits for the California Society of Pioneers. Her portrait of the Right Reverend William Ford Nicholls, Bishop of California was placed in the Episcopal Divinity School, San Francisco. The portraits of Judge and Mrs. Boalt were painted by Mrs. Chittenden for Boalt Law Hall, University of California.

She was a member of: San Francisco A.A.; San Francisco Society of Women Artists, American Federation of Artists. She was also a member of the Faculty of the California School of Fine Arts, San Francisco.

Through her friendship and association with Alice Eastwood, Curator of Botany, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, she endeavored to paint the wildflowers of the west. This exhibit in only a portion of the paintings which she produced from before the turn of the century to about 1915.

As the nature of these paintings demand that the flowers be painted fresh, almost 'in situ', the artist travelled the west extensively, tramping the foothills, mountains, valleys and deserts in search of models for her paintings. There are paintings in this exhibit which were painted on the shore of the Salton Sea, in the Yosemite Valley and up above the mansions of Hillborough.

Mrs. Elizabeth Hay Bechtel became the owner of this collection several years ago. She has donated the paintings of native trees from the collection to the Arboretum, San Francisco. A selection of wildflower paintings has also been given to the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; another to the California Historical Society and a group to the Monterey History and Art Association. Through her generosity the people of California can share in the enjoyment of the talent of this distinguished artist.

AAF - CHITTENDEN, ALICE

### Open Air Show Excels

SAN FRANCISCO was again treated to the unusual spectacle of an Open Air Show to which any and all artists were welcome to contribute works sans jury.

Originally scheduled to take place in Hotaling Place, the colorful little alley in the artists quarter that housed the last memorable undertaking which occurred in the Spring, plans were forced to be changed due to this season's early rains—and the show was transferred to the Ferry Building.

But what at first seemed a deterrent to success, actually became a blessing in disguise for San Franciscans jammed the Ferry from 10 o'clock when the exhibition opened to late into the evening when it closed—a crowd that could not possibly have fitted into the confines of the alley, as planned.

Also, last year's success stimulated nearly double the number of entries, so that even the huge corridors of the Ferry were filled. Paintings, drawings, sculpture, crafts—Sunday painters, distinguished artists, and every person hereabouts who ever finds joy in paint or stone contributed to the immense display.

Folk dancing and all sorts of colorful entertainment helped to sustain a carnival spirit. And best of all, over \$2,000.00 of Art was purchased.

Chairman of this affair was Mallette Dean, who was assisted by Ralph Stackpole, Ray Bethers, Ruth Wakefield, Vivika Timiriaseff, Fred Olmsted, Marian Cunningham, and many others.

### F. D. R. Appoints Stackpole

FOLLOWING is a copy of the telegram sent to Ralph Stackpole informing him of his appointment to the Federal Fine Arts Commission by President Roosevelt. "My enthusiastic congratulations on your appointment by the President as sculptor member of his Commission of Fine Arts. The honor seems to me not only a deserved tribute to your own distinguished achievements in sculpture, but also a fitting recognition by the President of the important contribution which Western artists have made to contemporary American culture. California has ranked third among the states in number of artists who have won mural or sculpture competitions of Section of Fine Arts during last six years. This seems to me concrete proof that they are good but I have never doubted it. I am glad that you have the distinction of being the first artist from the West Coast ever to serve on the Commission of Fine Arts."—EDWARD BRUCE.

### Alice Chittenden Honored



Alice Chittenden and Gottardo Piazzoni

The reception for Alice Chittenden, given by the San Francisco Art Association at the California School of Fine Arts, on October 3, was one of the season's high lights. The gallery and social hall were hung with about one hundred and fifty of Mrs. Chittenden's wild flower studies, part of a collection which she has executed over a period of fifty years. In all, Mrs. Chittenden's paintings of California Wild Flowers include several hundred studies, all of which have been named and tabulated by Alice Eastwood, California Naturalist. They include renderings of many specimens now extinct.

Friends, artists and former students called to honor Mrs. Chittenden, who holds the distinction of representing, in the Alumni Association of the California School of Fine Arts, the Class of 1881.

At their last meeting, the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Art Association unanimously conferred upon Mrs. Chittenden an Honorary Life Membership in recognition of her long and valued services to the artists of this community.

National Art week, November 17 to 23, is again being celebrated in San Francisco through means of an exhibition and sales gallery at 665 Market Street.

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt is National Chairman. State Chairman is Dr. Grace McCann Morley and San Francisco Chairman is Ottorino Ronchi.

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From: SFAA BULLETIN

Oct. - NOV. 1941

November 19, 1941.

Mrs. Alice B. Chittenden,  
2154 Green Street,  
San Francisco.

Dear Mrs. Chittenden:

It is with extreme pleasure that I notify  
you - by action of the Board of Directors of the San  
Francisco Art Association - you have been appointed  
an Honorary Life member of the Art Association.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Secretary, Board of Directors.

ADB:S

December 6, 1983

Ann Freeman  
Huntington Botanical Gardens  
1151 Oxford Road  
San Marino, CA 91108

Dear Ann Freeman,

Alice B. Chittenden studied at the California School of Design (now known as the San Francisco Art Institute) from 1877 until 1881. She taught at the school from 1897 through 1941 (during which time the school's name was the Mark Hopkins Institute of Art (1893-1906); San Francisco Institute of Art (1906-1925) and California School of Fine Arts (1925-1961). Enclosed is a photocopied portrait of Chittenden (c. 1940) and an exhibit announcement of her wild flower studies (1941). I hope this information proves useful for you. Let us know if you need anything further.

Sincerely,

Jeff Gunderson  
Librarian

P.S. Also enclosed is a photocopied letter concerning Chittenden's appointment as an Honorary Life member of the San Francisco Art Association in 1941.