



# HAWTHORNE

## Fine Art

### **Rose Champion de Crespigny (1859-1935)**

An English novelist and artist, Rose Champion de Crespigny [nee Annie Rose Charlotte Key] was born in 1859 in Kensington, England to Lady Charlotte Lavinia McNeil and Admiral Sir Astley Cooper Key, a Royal Navy officer. Admiral Cooper Key was appointed the principal naval aide de-camp to the Queen in 1879.<sup>1</sup> Rose was raised in naval ports including Greenwich and received an education with an emphasis on science.<sup>2</sup>

At the age of 19, Rose married Philip Augustus Champion de Crespigny (1850-1912), a Royal Navy officer and son of Claude William Champion de Crespigny, 3rd Baronet. They had four children including Frederick Philip Champion de Crespigny (1884-1947), who inherited the baronetcy becoming the 7<sup>th</sup> Baronet.<sup>3</sup> After her husband retired from the Navy the family settled in New Forest. De Crespigny began to sell paintings of landscapes and marine scenes in order ease the family's financial strain.<sup>4</sup>

In 1889, Rose illuminated a large roll of the Highland clans including tartans and badges which was chromolithographed and published.<sup>5</sup> In 1891, she exhibited "*The Mouth of the Dun, Co. Antrim*" at Dudley Gallery which a critic described as "moderately successful..."<sup>6</sup> She submitted 5 entries to the London Salon of the Allied Artists' Association in 1908 held at Royal Albert Hall. Her subject matter included the Tower of London, London Bridge and marine scenes.<sup>7</sup>

De Crespigny was an honorary fellow of the Philosophical Society of England, a chairwoman of the Writers' Club, vice chairwoman of the Lyceum Club and the British College of Psychic Science. She was also a member of the Ridley Art Club and exhibited at a number of galleries.<sup>8</sup>

A watercolor by de Crespigny titled *Charing Cross Bridge, London* is in the collection of the Ulster Museum in Northern Ireland.

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<sup>1</sup> "Death of Admiral Cooper Key," *The Argus* (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848-1957) , Wed Mar 7, 1888, 7.

<sup>2</sup> Sandra Kemp, "The Oxford Companion to Edwardian Fiction," (Oxford University Press, 1997)

<sup>3</sup> "Rose Champion de Crespigny: Artist Biography," Sulis Fine Art, accessed April 1, 2021,

<https://www.sulisfineart.com/catalog/product/view/id/88623/s/rose-champion-de-crespigny-1859-1935-watercolour-sunset-co-antrim/>

<sup>4</sup> Sandra Kemp, "The Oxford Companion to Edwardian Fiction," (Oxford University Press, 1997)

<sup>5</sup> "Notes on Art and Archaeology," *The Academy*, Volume XXXVI, (London: Alexander and Shephard, 1889), 428.

<sup>6</sup> "Fine Arts," *Public Opinion: a Weekly Review of Current Thought And Activity*, (London: G. Cole (etc.), 1891), 27.

<sup>7</sup> "Mrs. Phillip Champion de Crespigny." In *Database of Modern Exhibitions (DoME). European Paintings and Drawings 1905-1915*, Accessed January 31, 2021 <https://exhibitions.univie.ac.at/person/13130>

<sup>8</sup> "Victoriennes" and Modern Girls are "Sisters Under Their Skins," *Daily Standard* (Brisbane, Qld.: 1912-1936), Tue, Oct 22 1929, 2.