



HAWTHORNE Fine Art



Anna E. Hardy (1839-1934)

The Rose Terrace

Oil on canvas

17.5 x 14.25 inches (sight)

Signed at lower right

Partial Exhibition label on stretcher

Pencil inscription on stretcher: This painting belongs to Lillian M. Sullivan given to her by Mrs. C.A. Eckstrom of Chicago, May 1929

Anna Eliza Hardy was born in 1839 in Bangor, Maine to Catherine Sears (Wheeler) and Jeremiah Pearson Hardy (1800-1888), an artist. Her father studied painting in Boston, and in New York under Samuel F.B. Morse. Her paternal aunt, Mary Ann Hardy (1809-1887), was also an artist known for her portrait miniatures.

Hardy's interest in painting began at the age of 16 when her father promised to give her one of his landscapes if she would copy it. She went on to study under her father's tutelage and later shared his studio in Bangor. Hardy also studied briefly in Paris under George Jeannin and with American artist Abbott H. Thayer.¹ Devoted to floral subjects, Hardy gained a reputation as a still life painter. Lithographs of her flower paintings were made by Louis Prang Chromolithographs.

This rare landscape by Hardy features a white house with steps leading from a trellised porch to a garden flourishing with pink, white, and red flowers. The remnant of an exhibition label on the stretcher indicates the painting was exhibited at a Maine gallery. It may have been the Poland Spring Art Gallery where

¹ "Library Gets Fine Painting," *The Bangor Daily News* (Bangor, Maine), Sat, May 29, 1936, 3.



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Jeremiah Pearson Hardy (1800-1887), *Watering Roses (The Garden of the Hardy Family, Bangor Maine)*, Private Collection

Hardy exhibited a painting entitled *The Rose Terrace* in 1909 during the 15th Annual Exhibition of Paintings by Prominent Artists. The exhibition was held in the Maine State Building in the town of South Poland and included the work of well-known artists such as J.G. Brown, Rhoda Holmes Nicholls, Alexander Pope, Abbott Graves, and Colin Campbell Cooper, to name a few.² The house depicted may be the Hardy family home. A painting by her father entitled *Watering Roses (The Garden of the Hardy Family, Bangor Maine)* captures the figure of a woman, perhaps Anna herself, caring for the family garden.

A pencil inscription on the stretcher indicates that the painting was given to a Lillian M. Sullivan by Mrs. C.A. Eckstrom of Chicago in May 1929. Eckstrom [or Eckstorm] was a cousin of Hardy. She was born in Brewer to Emma (Wheeler) and Manly Hardy. She married prominent Chicago architect Christian Albert Eckstorm.³

² *Fifteenth Annual Exhibition of Paintings by Prominent Artists* (South Poland, Maine: Hiram Ricker & Sons, 1909) 6.

³ "Mrs. Annie H. Eckstrom Dies in Evanston, Ill." *The Bangor Daily News* (Bangor, Maine), Sat, May 17, 1952, 13.