

EHM HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Caroline Dupee Wade

(1857-1947)

Caroline Dupee Wade was born in Chicago in 1857, and her family moved to Cottage Hill (later renamed Elmhurst) in 1863 where she lived for most of her life. Wade was an accomplished artist who was trained at the Art Institute of Chicago by Henry F. Spread and Lawrence Earle, and she also studied in 1888 at the *Academie Colarossi* in Paris with Gustave Courtois and Jean-Andre Rixens.



Caroline Wade was a member of the Art Institute faculty for many years, teaching oil and water color painting and initiating a highly popular Saturday class for children. She was a charter member of the Palette Club, and served as president of the Art Students League of Chicago. Wade maintained an art studio in Chicago and spent her summers painting on the Maine coast.

When the Columbian Exposition made its debut in Chicago in 1893, Caroline Wade's artwork was prominently featured in both the Illinois Building and the Fine Art Palace. Her displayed works included: *Ethel*, *Landscape*, *A Little Maid*, *Hollyhocks*, *Yellow Roses*, *Yellow Hollyhocks*, *Portland on a Bright Day*, *Memory Sketch*, *Watercolor Head*, *Across the Bay*, and *Portrait of a Lady*. Wade also was tapped for the fair's decorating committee for the Illinois State Building, an honor that was only given to the best female artists in the state.

Miss Wade also exhibited paintings at other American World's Fairs and various Art Institute exhibitions. Her contributions as a fine painter, art teacher and exhibitor are an important facet of Chicago's World's Fair history. Caroline Wade died at the age of 90 in Elmhurst in 1947.

"The reception room is a dream of art and a delight forever. A landscape by C.D. Wade occupies a position over the entrance...Besides being one of the most charming spots in the exposition the reception room will prove one of the loveliest gems in the crown of woman's endeavor, not only in Illinois, but in the world."

- Chicago Herald, 1893, regarding the Illinois Building décor

"Perhaps her greatest artistic triumph was the exhibition of her work at the Columbian exposition in Chicago in 1893. Women artists faced an almost solid wall of prejudice in that day – especially in the Middle West."

- Caroline Wade obituary, Elmhurst Press, April 2, 1947

Written by Nancy Wilson, 2013

