

Peter Wishart RSA

RSA Obituary transcribed from the 1932 RSA Annual Report

Peter Wishart was born near Aberdour, in Fife, in 1846. After some years spent in business in Edinburgh he began to study art at the Royal Institution. From there he proceeded to Antwerp, where he worked in the Academy under Verlat, having as his companions quite a group of Scottish artists, MacGeorge, Charles Mackie, Hornel, and Walls.

He had a great admiration for his teacher, based no doubt on the great energy Verlat evidenced in his work, a quality which was one of the most pronounced characters of Wishart's own. While in Antwerp he painted a large number of landscapes inspired by the Scheldt, which had a considerable influence on the students of the Royal Scottish Academy.

Passionately in love with nature, he found subjects for his inspiration in the hills and rushing streams of Scotland. These he painted with tremendous vigour, in loose sweeping brushwork, creating on his canvas a parallel to the rush and turmoil of wind and cloud and tumultuous water.

Wishart was elected an Associate of the Academy in 1925, and is represented in the Thorburn Ross Collection by two beautiful small pictures, exquisite in colour, of 'A Highland River' and a harbour scene, "Mending their Nets."

A peculiarly engaging and frank personality, he was much loved by his fellows, so fresh in his appearance and youthful in his enthusiasms that it was hard to realize that at his death he was over eighty years of age.