

Robertson

Eric Harold Macbeth

1885 - 1965

His Life

Eric Harold Macbeth Robertson was born in Dumfries on 13th February 1887.

His father was Andrew Macbeth Robertson (1839 - 1900) who was a commercial traveller who was born in Shetland and died in Dumfries. Eric's mother was Jane Fairburn, born in 1842, Glasgow. Died 1905. The couple married in Dumfries in 1869 and lived there most of their married life. Eric was the youngest of nine children.

Eric attended Edinburgh College of Art and had a wide circle of artistic friends who were known for their rather wild lifestyle. He became well known for his nude paintings which were said to 'scandalise' Edinburgh society. He often painted his friends and in particular his future wife Cecile.

In 1914, in Edinburgh, he married Cecile Walton (1891 - 1956), daughter of Edward Arthur Walton (one of the Glasgow Boys group of artists) and his wife Helen. The match was not entirely approved by Cecile's parents because of Eric's reputation. Cecile was also an artist.

Eric and Cecile had 2 sons - Gavril born in 1915, Edinburgh and Edmund born 1919.

During World War I, Eric served with the British Red Cross and St John's Ambulance in Europe. While in France he started painting landscapes.

The group known as 'The Edinburgh Boys' formed in 1919, of which Eric H M Robertson was a member.

In 1921 Eric and Cecile spent several months visiting Cecile's parents in Gatehouse. The Waltons had rented a house in Ann Street (Durweston, part of the Cally Estate Office building). During this time Eric painted 'Fleet Estuary' and 'Boreland Wood' and is credited with encouraging other Edinburgh artists such as Alick Sturrock, to come to Gatehouse.

Eric's marriage to Cecile broke up in 1923 and he moved to the Liverpool area.

In 1927 he married for a second time to Agnes Walker in Liverpool.

In the 1939 Register he was a patient at Liverpool

Sanatorium, Kingswood. He gave his profession as

'portrait painter' although after he left Edinburgh his work was no longer highly regarded.

Eric Harold Macbeth Robertson died in 1941 in Birkenhead, Cheshire



His Work

Try following the links to find examples of this artist's work.. When you have viewed the contents, remember to use your browser's "back" button to return to this page.

[In the Artist's Footsteps](#)

[ArtUK](#)



Boreland Wood, Gatehouse



Fleet Bay, Kirkcudbrightshire ex National Galleries Scotland



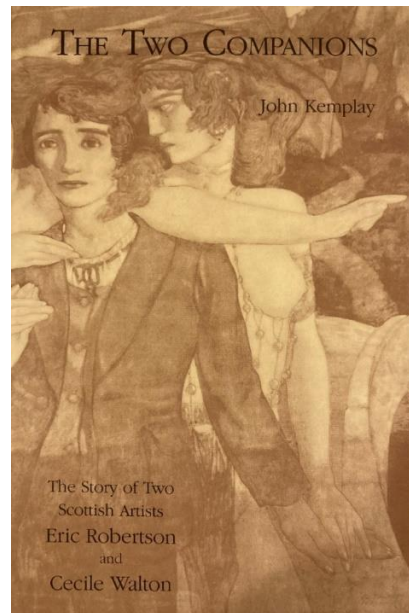
Cecile by Eric Robertson ex ArtUK



Cecile Walton sketch by Eric Robertson



The Artists Wife
(Cecile Walton by Wynne Walker ex ArtUK)



“The Two Companions” by John Kemplay, Edinburgh 1991, tells the story of Eric Robertson and wife Cecile Walton.