

# Walton

Cecile

1891 - 1956

## Her Life

Cecile Walton was born in Glasgow on 29th March 1891. Her father was Edward Arthur Walton, one of the Glasgow Boys group of artists. Her mother was Helen Law née Henderson. Her mother had given up her artistic career when she married and she encouraged Cecile's artistic ambitions.

In 1894 Cecile and her parents moved to the Chelsea area of London before returning to Scotland in 1904. Cecile was largely educated at home by a governess. Her father encouraged her to draw, which she did at every opportunity. In 1906, aged 15, she designed a programme for a pageant, before she briefly attended Edinburgh College of Art in 1908/9, where she became friendly with the young artists who became known as 'The Edinburgh Group'

She then studied art in Paris, and chaperoned by her aunt, she spent a year in Florence, Italy.

While in Florence she was asked to illustrate a book by Professor Agoletti, an Italian lecturer at Glasgow University. Her mother vetoed the project because of the professor's reputation with ladies.

On her return to Edinburgh, she began mixing with various artistic people including her future husband, artist Eric Robertson. Cecile and Eric married in 1914, in Edinburgh. Her parents did not fully approve of the marriage because Eric had a rather wild reputation.

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

During this period Cecile continued to work. In 1911 she illustrated a book of Hans Christian Andersen fairy tales and in 1920 a book of Polish fairy tales, which was a translation by her aunt Maude A. Briggs.

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 what became Cally Estate Office). Whilst it is known that Eric painted several landscapes of the area, it is not known if Cecile painted at this time.

Sadly the marriage did not survive and the couple divorced in 1923. After her marriage break up she lost the inspiration to paint.

In 1932 she joined the BBC in Edinburgh and became the organiser for Children's Hour and was known as Aunty Wendy. In 1936 she married again to Gordon Gildard, a producer with the BBC, but after 9 years of marriage she divorced again.

In the late 1940s Cecile moved to Kirkcudbright where once again she started to paint. She lived in Kirkcudbright until her death on 23rd April 1956. She was cremated in Edinburgh.

She found Galloway an inspiration and commented in her unpublished autobiography 'More Lives than One'

*"I live on a slender income, but at least have a roof over my head. The surrounding country is unparalleled in Scotland for its romantic, diverse beauty, which commences each year with the flight of swans and the white snowdrops piercing last Autumn's fall of leaves beneath the oak scrub."*



The booklet "Two Companions" tells the story of Cecile and her husband Eric Robertson.

## Her Work

This artist was not known for landscape painting, so we do not know which paintings, if any, were made in Gatehouse. But she did visit her parents when they lived in Ann Street.

[In the Artists Footsteps](#)

[Wikipedia](#)

[National Galleries Scotland](#)

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River in the Hills, Galloway (ex Invaluable link above)



Little Sphinx (ex Invaluable link above)



The Meeting of the Sisters



The Reward of the Good Little Girl



Romance

Self-portrait with baby Edward  
and child Gavril

Source : National Galleries of Scotland