

MARION WILLIAMS GODDARD (1893-1918), c.1912

Mary L. Cheney (?)

Oil on canvas

33 x 28"; 83.8 x 71.1 cm.

Gift of Bruce Daniels and Eleanor Daniels Bronson-Hodge, 2001

Hewes Number: 59

Ex coll: Harry W. and Georgia Grace W. Goddard to their daughter, Eleanor Grace Goddard Daniels to her children, the donors.

Marion Goddard was not quite twenty-five years of age when she died on board the ship, *City of Athens*, en route from Savannah, Georgia, to New York. Her health was always delicate and she was returning from the South where she had spent the winter. Eleanor Daniels Bronson-Hodge was an infant when her aunt died, but she recalls that her aunt prized an elegant doll with a hand-painted head, had a beloved dog named Bunty, and collected pink lusterware.

The signature on the painting appears to read May K. Cheney, 1912, possibly the artist, Mary L. Cheney, born in Minneapolis and a graduate of the University of Minnesota. Cheney received further professional training at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. She was a pupil of Denman W. Ross (1853-1935) and George Elmer Browne (b. 1871), both respected artists in Boston. Cheney left Boston to become director of the Minnesota School of Art (1917-1926).¹

¹ Mantle Fielding, *Dictionary of American Painters, Sculptors, & Engravers* (Poughkeepsie, N.Y.: Apollo Books, 1986), 149.