

The History of the La Jolla Art Association

Compiled by Susan Self

**The history of the La Jolla Art Association
reflects the growth of La Jolla as a community and
the changes over 85 years of development.**

Constructing the History

The history of the La Jolla Art Association (LJAA) is not entirely straightforward. To provide as accurate and unbiased a view as possible, this story was constructed mainly based on historical papers, newspaper articles, and other primary sources. Retrospective interpretations are referenced to a lesser extent. The following sources were used:

1. Newspaper articles published in the *La Jolla Journal* and *La Jolla Light* and available on microfilm.
2. Newspaper articles published in the *San Diego Evening Tribune* and the *San Diego Union* and found in the vertical file *Libraries—Public Library—Branches—A-L San Diego (City)*, California Room, San Diego Central Library.
3. Papers from the vertical file *La Jolla* in the archives of the San Diego Historical Society.
4. Papers from the City of San Diego Historical Site Board Register, No. 230, regarding the Parker Building, where the LJAA currently resides.
5. Papers in the LJAA scrapbook and historical files reporting current events or history of the organization from a participant's point of view.
6. The history written and signed by Eleanor B. Parkes, first president of the La Jolla Art Association, who, according to Ellen Browning Scripps' wishes, maintained that position for as long as she could, from 1918 to 1951. The history that she wrote was published in the *La Jolla Journal* on March 24, 1949.
7. Pictures from the art catalog *Second Nature: Four Early San Diego Landscape Painters*, produced by Martin E. Petersen, curator of the exhibition by the same name at the San Diego Museum of Art [June 1 - August 18, 1991].

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Birth of the Association

The exact date when the La Jolla Art Association was formed is not certain. In her history of the group, Eleanor B. Parkes describes the occasion as April, 1918:

“It was early in the spring of 1918 that a group of artists used to meet in La Jolla, spending their time making sketches, picnicking together and finally closing the day by a visit to the home of Miss Ellen Scripps who was very much interested in their art and what they were doing, and would serve a cup of tea. On one of these occasions in April, 1918, Mrs. Eleanor Parkes conceived the idea of having an art organization in La Jolla for both artists and laymen. Much enthusiasm was expressed among the group at this time and it was decided to form such an organization and Mrs. Parkes was selected as its President.” [1]

In her report to the La Jolla Library Association on June 2, 1942, Mrs. Parkes' story is somewhat different:

It is pleasant to recall the early beginning of the La Jolla Art Association, which came about through and [sic] invitation to afternoon Tea at Miss Ellen Scripps home October 18, 1918 on her 82nd birthday, when a small group of friends either artists themselves or lovers of Art were her guests. These artists were A. R. Valentine [sic], Chas. Fries, Maurice Braun, Alfred Mitchel [sic] from San Diego and Nora Landers, Helen DeLange, Martha Bintliff, and Jene Bell of La Jolla.

The conversation naturally turned to Art, as Mr. Valentine had just completed the final book for Miss Scripps of his matchless California floral studies done in watercolor.

It was at this time the suggested idea of forming an Art Colony in La Jolla met with favor from all present, and by 1919 our new La Jolla Art Association had its first showing in the Woman's Club. [2]

An article in the *La Jolla Journal* announced that the association was formed in October, 1920, a much later date:

A new Community Birth has occurred in La Jolla this week, one that promises to add much to the pleasure and culture of our village, the name being the La Jolla Art Association. Facts given, disclose visions of a small colony of artists working together in La Jolla 10 or 12 years ago, dreaming of possibilities that might be developed here as an art center, for those who dwell within our gates, and the privilege of enjoying the abilities of those whose canvases are loaned from time to time.

With the building of our new library, a suitable room to properly house these treasures makes this a reality.

It looks now as if, among the many attractions La Jolla already has to her credit, this latest will be the greatest one of her crowning features for culture.

The charter membership contains such eminent names as:

Messrs. Maurice Braun, Valentine, Fries, W. Templeton Johnson, Miss Alice Klauber, Miss Virginia Scripps, Mrs. Fred Scripps, Mrs. June Bell, Mrs. Martha H. Bintliff, Mrs. Baxter, Miss Helen DeLange, Miss Fenn, Miss Landers, Mrs. St. John, Mrs. Braun, Mrs. Valentine, Mrs. Elenora [sic] B. Parkes.

The officers elected were: Mrs. Elenora B. Parkes, president; Mrs. Maurice Braun, vice president; Mrs. Martha H. Bintliff, secretary-treasurer. Jury: Mrs. Maurice Braun, Mrs. Valentine, Mrs. Fries, Miss Klauber, Miss Fenn, Miss DeLange, Mrs. Martha B. Bintliff. Publicity: Mrs. Maurice Braun.

We hope to have a very large associate membership and all those interested in this work will be invited to join the association in the near future. [3]

In 1964, a similar picture of the history was painted in a report presented by Jean (Eugenia) Martin, who was President of LJAA 1961-1964:

Thirteen artists used to paint together on the shores of La Jolla and at the end of the day Miss Ellen or Miss Virginia Scripps would invite them up to their homes for tea and art discussions from 1918 to 1922.

There was a meeting held at the residence of Miss Ellen Scripps on Tuesday, Oct. 5, 1920, to organize the La Jolla Art Association. There were twelve charter members present. Mrs. Elinor [sic] Parkes was elected acting chairman. They held the charter membership open and took in several more artists: 53 Charter members - First year, 19 Exhibiting members.

Mr. Mitchell and Miss Lita Klauber are the only living charter members and Mr. Mitchell is the longest exhibiting member we have. The dues were \$2.00 each for charter, active, exhibiting, or associate membership. [4]

Building the La Jolla Public Library and the Art Gallery

Since the La Jolla Art Association has occupied gallery space as a group subordinate to the Library Association of La Jolla, its fate has been closely tied to that of the Library Association. This history therefore touches on the affairs of the Library Association that affect its actions with regard to LJAA.

The expansion of the La Jolla Art Association was enabled by the development of the Library Association of La Jolla. Marjorie F. Hutchinson, President of the Library Association in 1955, wrote an article at that time describing its history.

In 1894 "The Reading Club" was formed in La Jolla....

In 1895 Miss Florence Sawyer was a guest at The La Jolla Park Hotel, which stood about where the Stuard's Ladies Shop is now. Miss Sawyer was evidently charmed by the village, or artist's colony as it was called by many visitors and residents. She was to become one of La Jolla's benefactors, for she purchased a lot on the corner of Girard and Wall Streets in 1898 for the express

purpose of building a “Reading Room” for La Jolla. “The Reading Club” met in this building for some years thereafter....

In 1897 it was decided that “The Reading Club” should become “The La Jolla Literary Club”, and join the County Federation, which it did. Thereafter this group met at Miss Scripps’ home, and later became “The La Jolla Woman’s Club.”

Miss Florence Sawyer, who was a companion to Mrs. Catherine Howard Spear, an invalid, was most anxious to see “The Reading Club” re-organized, as such. This desire was the impetus needed to bring about the organization of The Library Association of La Jolla, which thereafter was to supervise the operation of “The Reading Room”.

Mrs. Spear died on March 20, 1899, and Miss Sawyer decided to present the newly formed association with a deed to the property. The name “Reading Room” was changed to “The Spear Memorial Library”, which it kept until 1920 when the building was moved to Draper Street, at the end of Silver Street, where it now stands and is used as a residence....

On May 26, 1899, Miss Sawyer became Mrs. John Ransome Bransby [subsequently referred to as Mrs. Florence Bransby]. On June 18, 1899, “The Library Association of La Jolla” was incorporated by Miss Ellen Browning Scripps, Mrs. Olivia Mudgett, C. S. Dearborn and Anson P. Mills.

During those early days of the association members took turns acting as librarians, caretakers, etc. Everything was still quite informal. However, as the village grew, as more books were added to the shelves either as gifts or purchased from association funds, as new demand [sic] were made upon the librarian, etc., it was decided to employ a librarian. Mr. Mills consented to take the job, and was paid the salary of three dollars a month. This happened in January of 1900.

Miss Josephine Chase, a trained librarian, was hired by the association sometime during the following year, and served until October 28, 1905. Miss Nina Waddell, also a trained librarian, succeeded her, and is lovingly remembered by many old timers. She served as librarian for almost sixteen years. It was during her years of service that the present library building was envisioned and built. However, she did not live to work in the new building, nor to see it dedicated. She died in June of 1921. [5]

Miss Ellen Browning Scripps was a benefactress for many organizations in La Jolla. The photo in [Figure 1](#) appears with the biography of her found on the San Diego Historical Society web site at: <http://www.sandiegohistory.org/bio/scripps/ebscripps.htm>.



Figure 1 Miss Ellen Browning Scripps

A paper in the LJAA scrapbook titled “The Library and The Art Gallery,” dated 1951 and possibly by Mrs. Eleanor B. Parkes, describes the impetus for building a new library in La Jolla:

Shortly after the first world war public spirited citizens headed by Miss Ellen Scripps conceived the idea of a memorial to the men of the Armed Services who had fought in the war. The memorial was to take the form of a Library Building to be erected on the property given to the Library Board by Mrs. Florence Bransby in 1899. This property consisted of a plot 60 x 60 feet located at the corner of Girard and Wall Streets. The money to pay for the new Library was to be raised by public conscription and by additional funds furnished by Miss Scripps. The public subscription amounted to approximately \$10,000. a sum not nearly sufficient for the projected Memorial.

The Art Association, formed in 1918 and headed by Mrs. Eleanor B. Parkes, decided that in connection with the Library there should be an Art Gallery. This Gallery would be an integral part of the new building. To secure additional land the Art Association and Miss Scripps arranged for the acquisition of a plot of ground adjacent to the corner property of the Library Board. The house on this land was occupied by Dr. Truman Parker. Dr. Parker was persuaded through the efforts of the Art Association and Miss Scripps to vacate his property and the owner to sell it for the purpose of providing land for the Art Gallery extension to the proposed Library. The question of ample land having been settled Miss Scripps agreed to furnish the additional funds for this purpose above those required for the Library itself. [6]

Marjorie F. Hutchinson's account of the events is fairly consistent:

A word might be said here about the room in the library building known as "The Art Gallery". During the construction of the present building in 1921, Miss Waddell and Mrs. Eleanor B. Parkes, a local artist and a member of The Library Association, approached Miss Scripps with the idea of adding another room to the building under construction, to be used by the association as a museum and art gallery. Miss Scripps, with her usual generosity, agreed that this would be a fine thing, and said that she would purchase the lot immediately adjoining the library property on Girard Avenue for that purpose and the lot immediately adjoining the property on Wall Street for further expansion. This she did and presented both of these lots to the library association. [7]

"The Library and The Art Gallery" paper identifies the architect and contractor for the Library and the Art Gallery:

The services of Wm. Templeton Johnson [a founding member of the LJAA] as architect were secured and the layout of the present building was decided upon. Contractor for the erection was J. H. Nicholson.

Mr. Nicholson states that the extension to be utilized as the Art Gallery involved many structural details, especially electric wiring and arrangements and types of lighting fixtures and mountings that would be entirely unnecessary for a library but essential for proper showings of works of art. [8]

The astute observer of the Art Gallery extension would also notice that, unlike the rest of the library, the space has no windows. The use of artificial lighting enables the control of light, especially for watercolors, which are sensitive to fading. Mr. Valentien and other artists in LJAA were noted for their watercolor paintings.

In 1951, Mr. Nicholson signed a paper in front of witnesses to verify the special features used in the Art Gallery:

Mr. Nicholson was interviewed and stated facts regarding the design and construction of the Art Gallery wing of the Library Building.

Mr. Nicholson stated that the original contract called for the Library proper only.

Later, about three months, Miss Scripps and her attorney Mr. Harper consulted with Mr. Johnson, the architect and Mr. Nicholson, the contractor regarding an extension. This extension was stated by Miss Scripps to be for the sole purpose of an Art Gallery.

Mr. Nicholson stated that the plans for the Library were altered to permit the addition. Special features of lighting and heating were included in the design of the Art Gallery addition. These features consisted of recessed heating appliances and special and specially located lighting fixtures and illumination.

All these were for the purpose of protection and exhibition of the works of art which would be placed in the Gallery.

Mr. Nicholson as result of conversations with Miss Scripps is definitely of the opinion that the Gallery addition was to be specifically and solely for that purpose. [9]

The history written by Mrs. Eleanor B. Parkes in 1949 describes other details about developing the new Library property:

So the plans went into effect and Wm. Templeton Johnson was engaged to add the Art Gallery to the Library building as a separate unit and the grounds of the patio were beautified on the Art Gallery ground. Mr. Merrill Gage was engaged to build the fountain in the patio. [10]

A series of articles about the new library appeared in the *La Jolla Journal* in 1921. The second article, "Our Library (Number Two)," summarized the development and the results:

...Our Library waxed strong and lusty. The site of 60 square feet, which had been ample in the beginning, now seemed too small, and it was realized that, if other buildings should be erected next it, it would be sadly cramped for light and air, so an additional 22 feet on Girard Street and 80 on Wall Street were purchased by Miss Scripps and donated to it, thus making a fine site, with room for cultivated grounds around the building.

Finally, however, it was felt that the old building was hopelessly outgrown, and in the Winter of 1919-1920 the idea of a new one was agitated. Contributions were solicited by public spirited citizens, and the result is the beautiful building of which we are all proud. We, the people of La Jolla, gave about \$11,000 toward it and our fairy godmother (we all know her quiet and unassuming way of making generous gifts) supplied the balance, and the result is something that not only we, but the generations coming after us, may well feel proud of.

The new building satisfies both aesthetic and practical needs. There is a large entrance room, where books will be received and issued, and a fine stack room which will not only hold all our present books but give us plenty of room for future supplies. At the right is a bright, cheery reading room and library for the children; at the left a reference reading room for grown-ups. Also, there is an open court, which is to be fitted up as an outdoor reading room. Isn't that a delightful idea?

In addition to all this, there is an art gallery, which will be under the charge of the La Jolla Art Association, where exhibitions of pictures may be hoped for several times a year, and which will prove a great attraction to residents and strangers alike. [11]

Mrs. Eleanor B. Parkes described occupying the new Art Gallery:

The drive for members to the Art Association was successfully carried out and in October, 1921, when the Library opened its doors to the public the members of the Art Association contributed their very colorful and lovely canvases in a joint affair in their new gallery. [12]

The dedication of the Library and the Art Gallery were described in the *La Jolla Journal* in "Our Library, No. 6." The article led into an essay about art that showed the importance of art in making us more aware of beauty:

...Were you at the opening of Our Library last Monday evening? If you were, didn't it all go beyond your expectations? ...

The Art Gallery has a fine exhibit though it always seems to me that pictures never really reveal themselves to one by artificial light, or when a crowd is about....

The Art Gallery will open with the second Exhibition of the La Jolla Art Association, and its exhibit will remain open every afternoon (except Sundays) from 3 to 5, for one month. If you went to its first exhibition at the Woman's Club last spring, you will know there is a treat in store for us, my brothers. This Association means a great deal to La Jolla. It started only about a year ago, and now has a membership of fifty charter members, twenty-one of which are exhibitors.

Of course, we all know how blessed we are with beautiful scenery in our immediate vicinity, but an odd thing is that we can often realize its beauty far more when we have first seen it portrayed as it looked through an artist's eyes. It is like the old story of Whistler, to whom a friend remarked on a mystic twilight evening, "It is like one of your pictures!" "Oh, yes," was the answer, "Nature is catching up!" The point is that probably his friend would not have noticed the wistful beauty of the twilight had he not first seen it through Whistler's eyes in his portrayal of it... [13]

The exteriors of the Library building and the Art Gallery wing have been well-preserved and retain essentially the same appearance as they had when they were erected.

- [Figure 2](#) shows an aerial view of the library building taken in 1928. The Library is at the corner and the Art Gallery is in the wing beneath the trees. The courtyard has plants covering the grounds. The current home of the La Jolla Art Association, in the Parker Building next to the Art Gallery wing, was not built yet. [14]
- [Figure 3](#) shows the Library facade seen from Wall Street.
- [Figure 4](#) shows the corner of the Library on Girard looking toward the Art Gallery wing.
- [Figure 5](#) shows the Art Gallery wing as it looks in 2002.

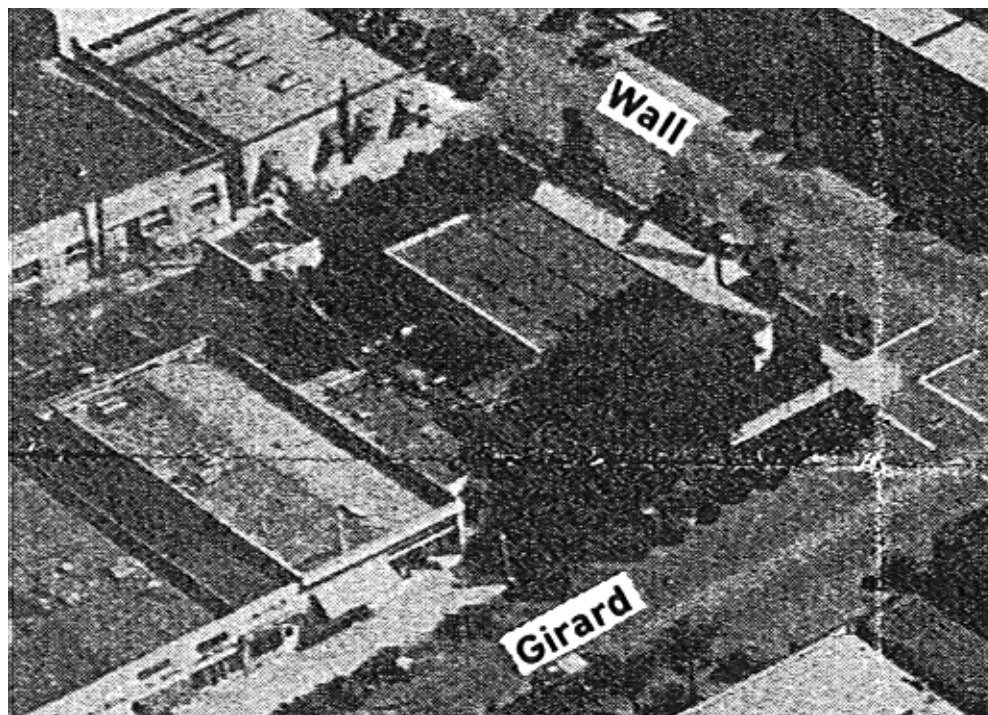


Figure 2 Aerial View of Wall St. and Girard Avenue taken in 1928. [[15](#)]



Figure 3 Corner of the Library building as it appeared on September 12, 2002.



Figure 4 Corner of the Library building looking toward the Art Gallery wing. Taken September 12, 2002.



Figure 5 Grand double-staircase entrance to the windowless Art Gallery wing. Taken September 12, 2002.

- [Figure 6](#) shows Alfred R. Mitchell and his wife Dorothea in front of the Art Gallery wing as it looked in 1966, when he had his last show there. A glass case between the two side staircases held sample paintings and an announcement of the current exhibition. The glass case was removed, and the outward-opening doors have been replaced since 1966. [\[16\]](#)



Fig. 25 Alfred R. Mitchell was an annual exhibitor at the La Jolla Art Association, which he helped form, from 1924 until 1966. Here, with Dorothea by his side, he is shown at his last exhibition for the Association in 1966. Photograph courtesy of Mrs. Mary Sadler.

Figure 6 Alfred R. Mitchell and his wife Dorothea in front of the double doors and behind the glass case of the La Jolla Art Association gallery in 1966. [\[17\]](#)

Famous Founding and Eminent Artists

Three of the four founding artists of LJAA—Fries, Braun, and Mitchell—were featured in the exhibition “Second Nature: Four Early San Diego Landscape Painters,” curated by Martin E. Petersen, at the San Diego Museum of Art, June 1 - August 18, 1991. The fourth of these landscape artists, Charles Reiffel, also exhibited at LJAA in later years. Although these artists exhibited in many places, they welcomed the opportunity to exhibit locally. Many of their paintings captured the beauty of the local environment.

Charles Arthur Fries

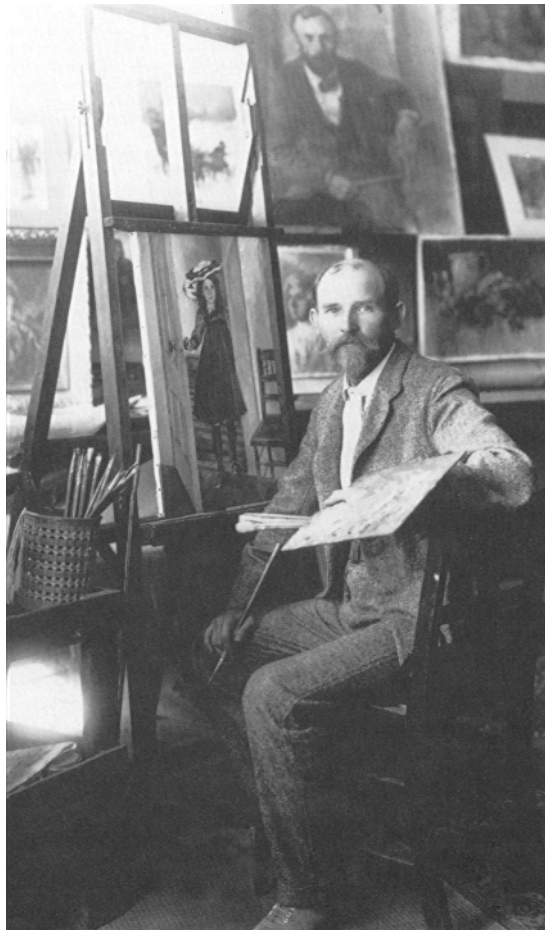


Figure 1 Charles A. Fries in His Studio [18]



Figure 7 Charles A. Fries, *San Diego Bay*, c. 1904 [19]

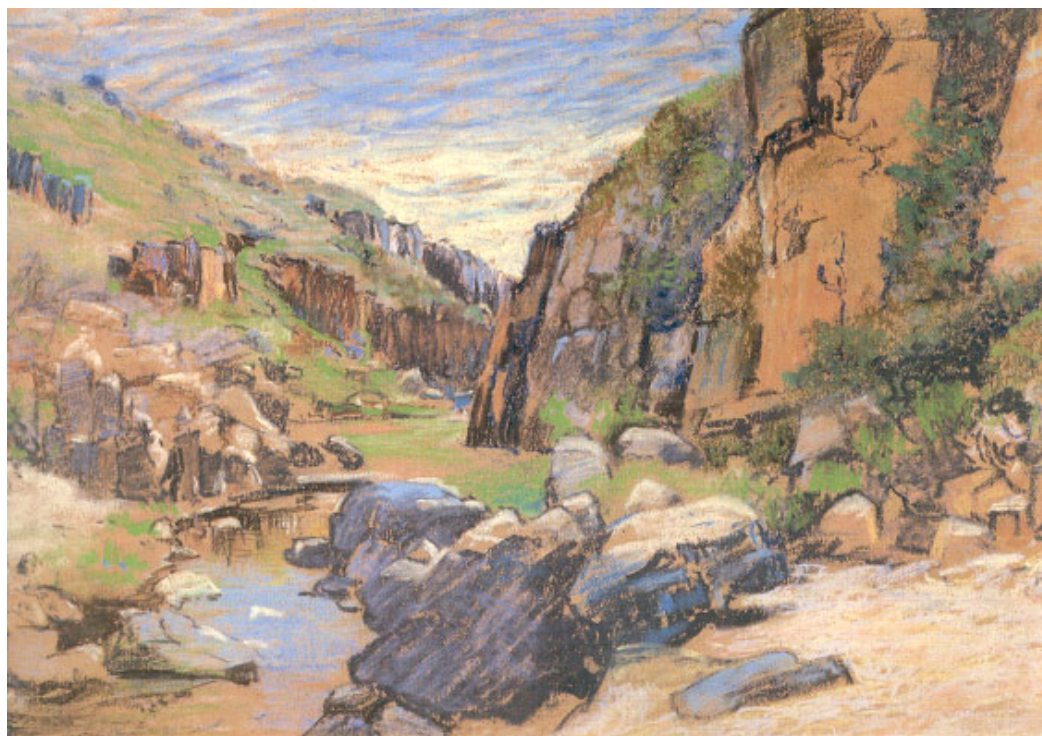


Figure 8 Charles A. Fries, *San Diego River Gorge*, c. 1905 [20]



Figure 9 Charles A. Fries, *Painted Gorge at Torrey Pines*, 1919 [21]

More images: <http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/2001-3/imagesfries.htm>

Biography: <http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/2001-3/fries.htm>

Maurice Braun



Figure 10 Maurice Braun in His Studio [22]



Figure 11 Maurice Braun, *Bay and City of San Diego*, 1910 [23]

More images: <http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/2001-3/imagesbraun.htm>

Biography: <http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/2001-3/braun.htm>

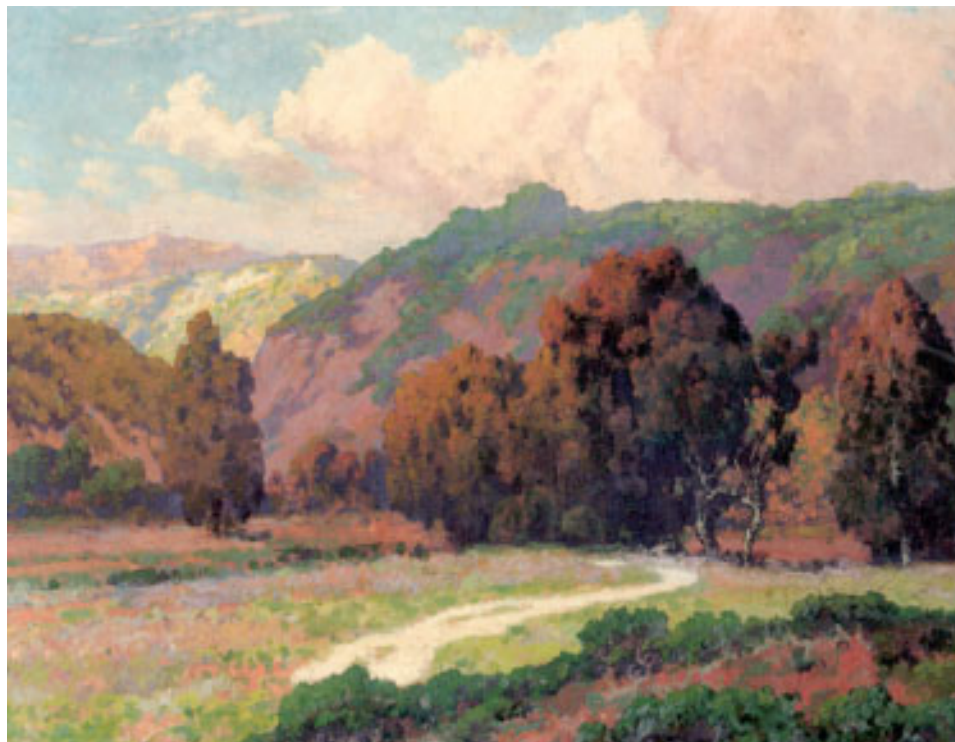


Figure 12 Maurice Braun, *The Road to the Canyon*, c. 1915 [24]



Figure 13 Maurice Braun, *San Diego Shores*, c. 1928 [25]

Alfred R. Mitchell



Figure 14 Alfred R. Mitchell in His Studio [26]



Figure 15 Alfred R. Mitchell, *Moonlight at Torrey Pines*, 1930-9 [27]



Figure 16 Alfred R. Mitchell, *The Canyon*, c. 1927 [28]



Figure 17 Alfred R. Mitchell, *Torrey Pines*, c. 1930-9 [29]

More images: <http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/2001-3/imagesmitchell.htm>

Biography: <http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/2001-3/mitchell.htm>

Charles Reiffel



Charles Reiffel [30]

More images and biography:

<http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/2001-3/imagesreiffel.htm>



Charles Reiffel, *Rainy Evening*, 1937. [31]

Managing the La Jolla Art Association

Marjorie F. Hutchinson's history of the La Jolla Library Association mentions the new status of the La Jolla Art Association after the Art Gallery was built:

Mrs. Parkes, Miss DeLange, and others have acted as chairmen of the Art Committee of The Library Association. Mrs. Parkes was also president of The Art Association of La Jolla, and gradually without any formal action, the art association took over control of exhibitions in the gallery room. [32]

Presidents

In her history of the La Jolla Art Association, Mrs. Parkes explains her long tenure as President of the association (1918-1951) as follows:

At that April 1918 meeting the group of artists elected Mrs. Parkes as the President of the Association. The By-laws provided for the election of a President every three years and the privilege of a second term. At the end of her first term, Mrs. Parkes was re-elected. At the end of six years, Miss Scripps entertained the Art group in the lath house on her grounds, at which time when the nominations for officers came up, Miss Scripps, herself, announced that she would like to make a suggestion. She said that Mrs. Parkes had created the Art Association and through her efforts had carried it on successfully; that she had really brought fine art to La Jolla, some of the finest artists in the State having contributed their canvases to exhibitions in the little Art Gallery. Therefore, Miss Scripps said, she would like to have Mrs. Parkes re-elected as President and she hoped that she would carry on the Art Association as long as she was able to stand up under it. Mrs. Parkes was again re-elected and it seems as if it is to be a life position, as the Art Association has just passed its thirtieth anniversary under her leadership. [33]

A brief history written in the early 1960s describes the changes in leadership of the association:

Mrs. Parkes served as president thirty four years, when ill health forced her to resign [1951], and Mr. Alfred R. Mitchell, a charter member and Vice President during Mrs. Parkes regime, was elected to take her place. Under Mr. Mitchell's guidance new by-laws were adopted and the board was enlarged to take care of a growing membership and new activities.

In May 1961 the association regretfully accepted Mr. Mitchell's resignation after 10 years of service. As one of his final actions, Mr. Mitchell presented the Association with a well-thought-out Code of Ethics for the artists to work under.

Mrs. Eugenia Martin, a long time member and Vice President under Mr. Mitchell, was elected the new president to carry on with past traditions and follow the ideals and aims set up by her predecessors.

Ideals and Aims

The La Jolla Art Association proposes to stand out strongly for the type and quality of painting they wish to represent; never to be confined to one small segment of art, nor to follow any eccentric trends of the moment. Good art must always be the basic pattern to follow, although stable progress and change is always necessary.

The association aims to promote the best possible art obtainable and stress the beauties of life; to give satisfying and lasting enjoyment to those who view their paintings. [34]

Eugenia (Jean) Martin, served a three-year term, 1961-1964, and none of the subsequent Presidents served more than one consecutive term, although some of them served more than once at different times. Among the Presidents were many prominent artists and art teachers.

La Jolla Art Association Presidents [35]

Eleanor B. Parkes	1918-1951
Alfred Mitchell	1951-1961
Eugenia Martin	1961-1964
Grace Pischner Miller	1964-1966
Hilda Inch	1966-1970
Barbara Taylor Roy	1970-1971
Milford Ellison	1971-1972
Georgeanne Lipe	1972-1973
Ray Schwehm	1973-1974
John C. Hooper	1974-1976
Jorge Imana	1976-1977
Lela Warr	1977-1979
George Lykos	1979-1980
Connie Relf	1980-1982
Barbara Taylor Roy	1982-1984
Cathy Collins	1984-1986
Larry Walker	1986-1987
Felice Woodworth	1987-1988
Gene Black	1988-1990
Beverly Pearson	1990-1992
Barbara Siegal	1992-1994
Gene Black	1994-1995
John C. Hooper	1995-1996
Yumi Climenson	1996-1997
Peggy Oechsle	1997-1999
Gene Black	1999-2001
Susan Mechling	2001-2001
Dorothy (Dottie) Stanley	2001-

Activities over the Years

In her report, "Old Facts about the La Jolla Art Association," in 1964, Jean Martin provides some insight into the activities of the association in the 1920s through the 1940s:

When Miss Ellen Scripps presented the gallery to the Library for the use of the La Jolla Art Association, the members held many group exhibits and one man shows. These were mentioned many times as Sketch Exhibits by the exhibiting membership.

There were guest exhibits and the school children held an exhibit each May until about 1946, when the principals did not wish to go to the work of getting up the exhibits.

During the first twenty-five years Mrs. Bintliff, Mrs. Julia Rodgers, Miss Cora Hoffman and Ann Palmer were paid the big sum of \$10.00 a month (or \$120.00 a year) to be hostesses. They also made out the reports to the La Jolla Art Assoc. and the Library Board on the activities and attendance in the Gallery. Three of them served as Secretary.

Since then each artist has been host or hostess to their own exhibit. The public enjoys meeting the artist and the artist gets the reaction of many hundreds of people that see their exhibit.

Most of the early meetings from 1918 to 1925 were either held in Mrs. F.T. Scripps home or Miss Ellen Scripps home or lath house. Mr. Valentine made a motion to elect Miss Ellen Scripps an honorary member. Miss Virginia Scripps, one of the instigators of the association, died in the first year. The President set aside Oct. 29, as a memorial day at the Gallery for her.

In those days there was mention of 505 people attended the exhibit in 3-weeks time.

A trip by the active artists to the Cuperion studio in Laguna Beach to spend the afternoon seeing his pictures and enjoy his playing the piano. They also took in the Carl Lewis Studio.

Both the following year gave the gallery an exhibit.

Also Nici Fithin [Nicolai Fechin] had his first exhibit on the West Coast in our gallery. [36]

John C. Hooper, president 1974-1976, wrote a letter, probably around 1986, in which he describes an early relationship between the La Jolla Art Association and the Laguna Art Association:

Laguna Beach and La Jolla Art Association started about the same time and we shared artists and galleries until Laguna Beach Gallery burned down in 1929. This leaves the La Jolla Art Association one of the oldest art organization in Southern California. [37]

Jean Martin reported a few other representative old facts.

In 1926 there was a mention of a \$100 dollar donation to the Library Board for books and also \$100 to the San Diego Art Gallery for a scholarship in 1926.

... The Murrell Gage exhibit had 655 attendance and the public school exhibit had 404 visitors in a months time. In 1926 it is recorded there were 6287 visitors in a year. [38]

In her 1949 history of the LJAA, Mrs. Eleanor B. Parkes mentions distinguished exhibitors, some of whom are still well known and some of whom are now obscure:

Among the many exhibitors have been distinguished names, such as the following:

The Williams Brothers, with their marvellous “under seas” pictures.

Allen Brook of Santa Barbara, with his perfection in painting birds in water colors.

A. R. Valentien’s “Wild Flowers of California”.

Colin Campbell Cooper’s flowering patios and architectural masterpieces.

John Gamble’s flowering hillsides.

Jack Smith’s moonlight vistas and horses.

Cuprion, Carl Yenz, and other Laguna artists.

Fechin, portrait artist.

San Diego contemporary group - Maurice Braun, Alfred Mitchell, Charles Fries and Alfred [Charles] Reiffle [Reiffel]. [39]

Through the difficult times of the Depression and World War II, the La Jolla Art Association nevertheless managed to survive. In her report, Jean Martin provided a glimpse into some of the activities during those years:

In August, 1932 (during the depression) the artists voted to have an all media exhibit and to sell all pictures at \$5.00 a piece during one month. It was a success.

Several artists were carried on the books that could not keep up their dues. None were suspended. Our organization has always cooperated beautifully together. Our La Jolla Art Assoc. has been the most steadfast and steady art organization in the county. We have not had any upheavals and have never had to reorganize like so many other groups.

In 1930 the Association shared a fund raising of \$2000 for one of their members—a Mr. W. T. Finn. Donating canvasses of their work, using the Art Gallery for the month of Oct. Exhibiting all of his work and the final

distribution of pictures through tickets by chance of which there were 137 sold at \$1.00 each. \$500.00 was added by sympathetic art friends—a most successful drive of \$2111.00 for him.

The artist has been free of fund raising schemes in this organization. We have been able through our management to break even and never go into debt. The one big factor is the wonderful Gallery we have and maintain. We are very grateful for the foresight of those that started and built this organization for the sound organization it is today.

In May, 1933, the Association held an art mart on the grounds of the late Miss Ellen Scripps. They sold \$380.00; the following year they held another art mart for one week and sold \$400. That helped out the 10 percent the Association receives.

In the beginning the dues were small but they took in 15% commission while we now only take in 10 percent.

During the war membership dropped off. Around 1945-46 I gave Mrs. Parkes the names of 35 artists and contacted many myself so the organization was built back from 32 to 67, many being artists that were studying with Mr. Langley. [40]

In her report to the La Jolla Library Association in 1942, Eleanor B. Parkes tries to show the pride of the organization and its ability to continue in times of difficulty:

Through the years we have cradled Art from the early beginnings of our school childrens' efforts, to the work of some of Californias finest interpreters, such as Collin Campbell Cooper, Wm. Wendt, Jack Smith, Frank Gamble, Nicoli Fechin, Wm. Griffith, Carl Yenz, and scores of others up and down the state have shown their canvases on our gallery walls. Besides our own local group and the San Diego Contemporary Group whose names are familiar and today are constantly contributing to Art.

With pride we recall the foundation stone of Art in La Jolla was laid by the La Jolla Art Association in 1918.

This has been a quiet year in selling pictures. War Bonds are checking out all surplus cash. Yet we are happy to report we have made sales and were able to present \$50.00 from our fund as a Cooperative gift to the Art Center.

Have paid Ann Palmer \$10.00 each month she acts as hostess for the Association and had new flood lights installed. More than 5000 visitors have enjoyed our exhibits this year, for in spite of depression we must hold to our Cultural needs in Art and Literature especially as a mental balance.

The Art Association are very grateful in every way to the Library Board for their kindly, helpful cooperation making it possible for us to carry on and we trust this sympathetic bond may always continue. [41]

[Figure 18](#) shows an example of an art mart held in front of the San Diego Public Library in 1944 and organized by Alfred Mitchell.



Figure 18 Art Mart in front of the public library in August, 1944, organized by Alfred Mitchell. Photo courtesy Margaret Mitchell Sadler. [\[42\]](#)

In the period of Jean Martin's presidency, 1961-1964, LJAA had two membership shows a year, one and two-man shows by members, two or three art marts a year, and participation in the National Art Week through the cooperation of local merchants. [\[43\]](#)

Affected by the Growing Pains of the Library

The La Jolla Art Association has been affected in three different phases as the growing community in La Jolla put more demands on the library and its space.

First Phase: 1951 to 1967

In 1951, after Mrs. Eleanor B. Parkes had retired as President of LJAA and Alfred R. Mitchell had assumed the role, the document “The Library and the Art Gallery” was written to present to the Library Association of La Jolla. The document contains a request that shows a sense of insecurity about the gallery space for LJAA. After some paragraphs about the history of the library and the art gallery, the following paragraphs appear:

These facts and the facts that the Library proper was to have been built on a much smaller lot, that Miss Scripps herself purchased the land originally occupied by Dr. Parker, that she and Mr. Johnson laid out the portion of the present building now used as an Art Gallery with particular emphasis on the fixtures and other structural details such as woodfaced walls to permit hanging of pictures without material defacement, to adapt it to the proper showing of objects of Art indicate that it was Miss Scripps’ intent to have this addition remain the home of the Art Association and that it should permanently be devoted to use as an Art Gallery.

Miss Scripps being by far the largest contributor to the Memorial project, although due credit must also be given to those public spirited citizens who contributed, her wishes and her intentions must be respected. It is unfortunate that no written document is known to exist to express these intentions but the existing and known facts fully indicate these intentions of Miss Scripps. It is also true that deeds and other official records show that the ownership of the land, including the Dr. Parker property, and the entire building is vested in the Library. Again, it is unfortunate that the intent of Miss Scripps was not definitely expressed in these documents.

But these omissions do not cancel the obvious intent of Miss Scripps and this intent should now be recognized by the Library Board.

The Art Association therefore requests the Library Board to embody a perpetual grant to the Art Association to continue the occupation and use of the Art Gallery wing of the Library Building. [46]

Marjorie F. Hutchinson’s article on the history of the La Jolla Library Association described its current growing pains in 1955:

As the years have passed, and as the community has continued to grow, it has become necessary from time to time to add to the staff serving the public and the association in the library building. Also, the city of San Diego realizing its responsibility to provide suitable library services for outlying communities within the municipality, became interested in establishing a branch library in La Jolla. However, in this community there existed a well established library,

which though serving the public, was supported entirely by generous donations from interested citizens in the form of endowments, and memberships of various classes.

The perfectly logical thing to happen did happen: The City of San Diego joined forces with The Library Association of La Jolla in meeting the needs of the growing community....

It would take much too long to go into every phase of the relationship that has existed since that time. Suffice to say that it has become increasingly difficult to support the expanding library from private funds so the City of San Diego has taken on more of the financial responsibility. The La Jolla Library is now listed as a branch of The San Diego City Library System, although it is truly only partially so. [47]

To keep the City of San Diego from taking over the Art Gallery space for the library, an agreement was signed between the La Jolla Library Association and the La Jolla Art Association on May 28, 1955. The first three and most significant clauses of the agreement were as follows:

1. The Art Gallery consists of the room opening onto Girard Ave. presently used for the purpose of an Art Gallery. This Gallery is a part of the Library Building and is owned by the Library Association.
2. The Library Association hereby grants to the La Jolla Art Association the use of such room for a term of 50 years commencing July 1, 1955, and such right to use by the Art Association to be terminated in the event of a sale of the Library building for purposes other than a Library.
3. The Art Association is to pay the Library Association \$1.00 at the commencement of each year as rent money for the area. [48]

In July, 1955, the Library Association of La Jolla forged an agreement with the City of San Diego to make the La Jolla Library a standard library branch.

La Jolla Library Expected to Become Part of City System

It was announced this week by the board of directors of La Jolla Library association that the local library is expected to become a standard branch of the city system.

Incorporated in 1899 the Library association was for many years a wholly private institution. Then the city agreed to pay the salary of the librarian and place her on a Civil service rating. In the meantime, the present library building on Wall st. had been erected in 1921 through the generosity of Miss Scripps and local citizens. It was enlarged some years ago. Throughout this time the local association has maintained the buildings and grounds, supplied the books and furnishings, and paid all insurance. The required money has come in from private endowments and memberships of various types. The city has paid a nominal rental for the use of the library, besides the salaries of the

librarian and staff, and, last year, included the wages of the janitor, with the local association retaining the cost of the grounds, books, magazines and operation.

For over two years the board of directors of the Library association has been trying to persuade the city to assume full responsibility for public library services in La Jolla. Reports of progress in this matter have been made at the last two annual meetings of the some 500 members and also through the local press. The board now reports that negotiations with the city appear to be drawing to a successful conclusion. A meeting of the board with the city librarian and the commissioners of the city library system was held in La Jolla on Monday, July 11. A revised agreement was carefully discussed, and then, with one or two minor changes, sent to the city council for final approval.

The city, under the agreement, would establish in La Jolla a standard branch library, using the present building for that purpose and carry full and complete responsibility for its operation, maintenance, and the purchase of books and magazines. The local association would take care of the grounds. A renewable lease for five years would be assumed.

In an advisory capacity and as a benefactor the local association will continue to serve La Jolla through the public library and try to provide distinctive features to it commensurate with the special needs of this community. From its invested funds it could supply exceptional books. Already it has reserved to itself outstanding selections of music scores, in the Bach and Palestrina collections, volumes on music and art, and plans for the continual improvement of the children's department. The present board consists of persons who are intent on doing everything possible to assist in making the La Jolla Library one of which every citizen may well be proud. [49]

On October 13, 1955, the first LJAA president, Mrs. Eleanor B. Parkes, who had been in failing health for the previous few years, died at the age of 92.

Second Phase: 1967 to 1989

In February, 1967, the city Board of Library Commissioners recommended building a new and larger library on the existing La Jolla Library site:

La Jolla Library Site Offer Urged: Board Sets \$100,000 as Bid; \$175,000 Is Asked by Association

The city Board of Library Commissioners has recommended that the city offer \$100,00 to the Library Association of La Jolla for purchase of the present La Jolla Library site at Girard and Wall Streets.

City Manager Walter Hahn outlined the board's recommendations in a report to the City Council yesterday.

The association recently recommended a purchase price of \$175,000 for the site where a new city branch library could be built.

Would View Proposals

Board recommendations outlined yesterday said that if the \$100,000 offer is not accepted, the association should be informed that the board has no authority to raise funds for another centrally located site.

However, the board said it would consider proposals from any La Jolla group suggesting a new site for the La Jolla branch library and offering to raise funds to purchase it.

The board also urged that if no other suitable site is agreed upon within six months, it should be "clearly understood by everyone that the La Jolla branch library will be built on the city-owned property at Cuvier and Marine streets."

Present Site Favored

Hahn said in his report that there "appears to be a strong sentiment in La Jolla for retaining the library at its present location."...[\[50\]](#)

The city acted on the recommendations of the Board of Library Commissioners in March, 1967:

City Seeks Library Site

City councilmen acted yesterday in an effort to break a two-year deadlock over the site of a new branch library in La Jolla.

The council, acting on the recommendation of the city Library Commission, authorized an offer of \$100,000 to the La Jolla Library Association for the land on which the existing library is located at Girard Avenue and Wall Street.

The La Jolla association had offered to sell the land to the city for \$175,000.... [\[51\]](#)

In April, 1967, Mrs. Marjorie Hutchinson talked to the Board of the La Jolla Art Association about the history of the La Jolla Library Association and brought out some of the issues between the two organizations. Kathleen Briggs summarized that part as follows:

Mrs. Hutchison stated that the Gallery was never intended to be run or occupied solely by a private group such as the La Jolla Art Assoc. but that in the relationship between the city of San Diego in running and maintaining the Library Building the situation became confused and involved. After the city took over the actual occupation and running of the Public Library in 1955 an agreement between the La Jolla Library Assoc. and the La Jolla Art Assoc. was drawn up which more or less placed the Art Assoc. in the position of tenants paying \$1.00 per year. This was done in part because the City occupying the Library Bldg. wished to include the gallery as a part of the library. [52]

On November 6th, 1967, a report to the members of the La Jolla Library Association explained how the La Jolla Art Association agreed to move to an adjacent building to enable the public library to stay in the same site in La Jolla:

Your Board of Trustees, with representatives of La Jolla Town Council, have had three fruitful conferences with Assistant City Manager Wilhelms and the San Diego Library commission to persuade the City to continue the La Jolla Branch Library at its present site. We were able to offer the City additional space, due to the cooperation of the La Jolla Art Association; and although the City has been averse to this renting, this was an inducement to remain in our building if it could be brought up to their other structural requirements....

Accordingly, your Board intends to authorize City Manager Walter Hahn to recommend to the City Library Commission at their meeting November 10th our rental proposal as follows:

That upon expiration of the present lease in 1968, the City and our association will execute a new lease on our present library building, including the area now occupied by the La Jolla Art Association, for ten years at an increased rental, with provisions for further increases at ten year intervals....

Upon approval by the Library Commission, this recommendation will go to the City Council for their approval.

Because of our Association's purchase of adjacent property on Girard Street, we are able to offer the La Jolla Art Association space in that building which we understand will be acceptable to them. [53]

The new lease implied "the termination of that certain lease between the parties dated May 28, 1955" and had the term "for a period of thirty seven (37) years, commencing on July 1, 1968." [54] In other words, the new lease would expire in 2005, in the same year that the old lease would have expired.

On May 16, 1968, the *La Jolla Light* and *La Jolla Journal* reported the final agreement between the city and the Library Association of La Jolla:

Library to Remain at Girard-Wall St. Site

La Jolla's library will positively be retained at its present Wall st. and Girard ave. site.

At Tuesday's city council meeting Deputy Mayor Helen Cobb moved that the formal agreement between the city and the Library Association of La Jolla be approved.

Last week Mrs. Cobb questioned the advisability of retaining the library at Wall st. asking whether this would fill the future needs of La Jollans.

City Manager Walter Hahn, in a written report, informed the council that retention of the present facility was in keeping with the wishes of La Jolla Library Association, La Jolla Town Council and La Jollans Inc.

The agreement approved by Council Tuesday will provide for an additional 2,020 square feet of space, better lighting, better acoustics, a new heating system plus a general refurbishing of the entire building.

This additional space will be on a second floor which will house a room for children's activities as well as a lounge for library employees.

The city will sign a new five-year lease at an increased rental of \$300 per month. Options to renew for five successive five-year terms are available to the city. For the second and third renewal periods the rent is increased to \$400 a month and for the fourth and fifth five-year periods the rent is increased to \$500 a month. [55]

Later in the summer of 1968, the La Jolla Art Association moved into its new gallery space, in what was known as the Parker Building next door:

Art Association Opens New Galleries Sunday

An institution well-known to La Jollans and art-loving visitors from all over the world will begin a new chapter in its history Sunday.

La Jolla Art Association, which has occupied the gallery at 7915 Girard ave. since 1922 when the present library building was constructed, will move one lot west to 7917 Girard.

Although the land on which the present gallery stands was purchased by Miss Ellen Scripps for the use of the Association and its lease had many years yet to run, members felt they should accede to the wishes of a majority of La Jollans who wanted the Public Library to remain in its present convenient location.

The Library could only remain if it could expand with two additional second story rooms and the art gallery's space for a children's reading room. This

building, the Athenaeum and the building housing the new galleries and La Jolla's Historical Society are all owned by Library Association of La Jolla.

The new galleries will be most attractive. Members are reconstructing and redecorating the rooms. Eventually four connected galleries will lead the visitor to a patio and displays of sculpture and paintings by members and guest artists.

The first two rooms will open Sunday with a one-man exhibit by Thomas Goff of Atascadero. Upon completion of the entire space in several weeks, a formal opening will be held to acquaint the public with the new galleries. [56]

Although the Library Association of La Jolla had given the city incentives to keep the library in central La Jolla, in 1980, some twelve years later, they sued the city to get more money:

City Sued over Library Rent

Charging breach of contract, the La Jolla Library Association is suing the City of San Diego for more than \$100,000 in back rent for the Wall Street branch library.

The association, a non-profit corporation, filed a complaint in Superior Court Jan. 25. It asks the court to declare a 1968 lease between the city and association invalid, and asks that the city be made to pay fair market rent for the building, retroactively from the date the lease allegedly expired.

In line with the terms of the lease, the city is currently paying the association \$400 per month for the space, said by the association to be worth "at least" \$7,000 per month in the rental market.

However, the association maintains the lease expired Oct. 10, 1978, since the city did not give the association 90 days notice that it wished to exercise a five year option, as required by the lease. The association is demanding the city be made to pay fair market rent and reimburse the corporation for the loss since the date the last option was due to expire. The lease provided the city with five, five year options to continue the lease at specified rental rates.

When the city gave some 60 days notice instead of 90 days notice that it desired to exercise the option and continue the old lease, the suit states, it was told by the association that the notice was "untimely" and given an opportunity to renegotiate a new lease.

When the city subsequently agreed the lease would expire, according to the suit, representatives of both groups met to renegotiate a lease on "several occasions."

After the talks "broke down," and the lease expired, the suit contends, the city changed its mind and claimed the lease was still valid.

The association, which also owns the Athenaeum Music and Arts Library next door to the library, then filed a claim with the city, the suit states. It was rejected and the city "refused to pay the plaintiff fair market rental value for use," the document says.

“There’s a feeling in La Jolla we’re trying to push the library out of the building. It’s not true,” says Terence Ponceford, an attorney and association trustee who took part in the talks with the city.

“We’re willing to allow the city to stay in the building at a figure less than fair market rental. We told them let’s negotiate a figure we can live and you can live with. We can’t live with \$400 per month. We told them you’re strangling us to death,” Ponceford recalls.

“Nobody saw what inflation would do. It isn’t practical today for them to pay \$400 for the library,” the attorney contends.

According to deputy city attorney Harold Valderhaug, however, also a member of the negotiating team, the association trustees never said they needed more money.

When the lease was signed, Valderhaug claims, the association offered the city a “great deal” on the rent to persuade it to locate the library at the Wall Street site rather than at another spot.

“We all understood it was a good deal for us. In that context they shouldn’t be saying it’s not a good enough deal...when we no longer have the option of moving,” said Valderhaug.

“Our position is we have a binding lease agreement,” says the deputy city attorney.

It was a deputy city manager who mistakenly acknowledged the lease was broken, says Valderhaug, who claims there are a “variety” of reasons why the lease is still valid.

While the city is not in the habit of seeking meetings with people who want more money out of it, Valderhaug says, he’s confident city staff is open to discussion.

“We don’t want them to go bankrupt,” he says of the association. “It’s a matter of being reasonable. If they can show they are not able to operate or pay the taxes with the old lease, the manager would probably be willing to hear them,” he said. [\[57\]](#)

In March, 1983, the gift of a generous donor opened up the way for a new library building in La Jolla:

\$2-Million Site Given for Library

La Jolla philanthropist Florence Riford said she recently rejected an offer of \$2 million for the prime 24,000-square-foot lot she owns on Draper Avenue so she could use the property for a better purpose.

Wednesday, she officially made a gift of the property to the City of San Diego so a new \$1.9-million branch library can be built for the La Jolla area.

City Library Director William Sannwald told a City Council committee that the gift is the largest known donation for a library in state history.

The Florence Riford Library Center, as the 10,000-square-foot branch library will be known, will replace the 73-year-old branch at Girard Avenue and Wall Street when it is completed in 1988, Sannwald said.

Now occupied by a nursery, the lot once was the site of an auto salvage yard. Library officials said that years ago, when a search was conducted for a new library branch site, the Riford property was not considered a suitable location.

Sannwald said the present 7,1000-square-foot branch lacks enough space for the services most of the 28 other branch libraries provide.

Under conditions of the land gift agreement, the city promised to budget not less than \$1.5 million for library construction, to spend up to \$50,000 this year for preliminary designs, to break ground by 1988 and to operate the building as a library for at least 40 years. [58]

The groundbreaking occurred in 1987, before the 1988 deadline, but the construction of the library was delayed in relation to original plans:

Construction of new library delayed

Construction of the new \$1.7 million home for the La Jolla Library has been delayed until at least November because of such things as added building requirements and construction funds not being available until this month.

But the community group Friends of the La Jolla Library will still hold a July 30 dedication ceremony at the site on Draper Avenue in honor of Florence Riford, the La Jolla benefactress who donated the land to the city in 1984. [59]

In March, 1988, the buildings belonging to the Library Association of La Jolla, and housing the La Jolla Art Association, were designated historic sites:

A Corner of La Jolla Named Historic Site

Nearly 90 years after some villagers, calling themselves the Library Assn. of La Jolla, established a community reading room in their seaside burg—then a day's walk from San Diego—the San Diego Historical Site Board has decided to designate the association's three buildings as historic sites.

The public library, Athenaeum and Parker buildings, totaling about 10,000 square feet in downtown La Jolla on Wall Street at Girard Avenue, were granted the protective historic site designation during a meeting Wednesday.

“It’s a very important corner of the community and we hope to make sure that this corner stays the way it was,” said association Director Alex Farnsley.

The library building, at 1006 Wall St., sits where the original La Jolla reading room was established in 1899. The building, constructed in 1921, was initially designed as a war memorial by prominent San Diego architect William Templeton Johnson. It served as a private library until 1958, Farnsley said.

The San Diego public library has used the building ever since, but now plans to move in the spring to a new home several blocks away. Farnsley said the building will then be restored so it can house the association’s expanding library collection, programs, and staff.

Named for the ancient Roman center of arts and music, the single-story Athenaeum building, at 1008 Wall St., was erected in 1957 and is home to the association’s Music and Arts Library and Athenaeum School of the Arts.

The third association property designated a historic site is the one-story Parker Building at 7917 Girard Ave. that was built in 1928 and named after early La Jolla physician Truman Parker. The library association leases the Parker building to a sweater store and to the La Jolla Art Assn., which pays rent of \$1 a year. [\[60\]](#)

The new La Jolla library finally opened in the spring of 1989:

Library turns pages of history, opens doors to plush new center

... At 5:30 p.m., with the last patron gone and the front door locked, the little stucco building at 1006 Wall Street ended its 68-year history as a public library.

Over the next few weeks, 30,000 books and assorted office equipment will be moved several blocks away to the sparkling new Florence Riford Library Center, 7555 Draper Ave. The old site will be renovated and taken over by its neighbor, the Athenaeum, a private arts and music library....

Patrons may return books to the old library for a few days, then to the new site before the March 17 grand opening.... [\[61\]](#)

The Athenaeum started making plans for its use of the old library site:

Old library is expected to stay a site for culture

The old La Jolla Library is now a shambles of empty book stacks and dusty, outmoded equipment.

The City of San Diego is set to move the remnants from the building by May 31, when the next door Athenaeum Music and Arts Library—the private organization which has owned the property since 1898 and has leased it to the city for a public library since 1955—reclaims the building for restoration and renovation.

“We are still in the preliminary stages of planning the new operation of the building,” said Eloise Duff, who heads the Athenaeum group. “But of one

thing we are certain. This will stay a cultural corner and the exterior of the building probably will change very little.”...

“We feel it is a very graceful old building, and feel we can restore it to be in keeping with the ambiance of the Athenaeum,” Duff said.

Since opening in 1957, the Athenaeum building has housed a collection of books, primarily on music and art, available to its 1,500 members. The organization has conducted a variety of music programs and art classes. Initial plans for expanding programs of this nature, as well as the possible opening of the Girard Avenue side of the library for leasable retail space, were presented to the association by architect David Singer early last week. [62]

The “Girard Avenue side of the library” was the old art gallery space originally used by the La Jolla Art Association. The space was not given back to the LJAA, perhaps because of its limitations. The Parker Building rooms had a little more space than the older gallery and a bathroom and kitchen facilities. Eventually, the old art gallery space was leased for retail use.

Third Phase: 1989-2005

In April, 2002, Daniel R. Kronemeyer of the Athenaeum informed LJAA in a letter that the Athenaeum would not renew the 50-year lease in 2005.

My committee was charged by the Board with making an exhaustive review of the facts surrounding the Art Association’s lease and analysis of the Athenaeum’s rights and responsibilities under this lease. It was then to make recommendations to the Board. In making these recommendations, my committee was also obliged to consider the goals and objectives of the Athenaeum and project the future space needs of the Athenaeum based on those goals and objectives.

After hearing and discussing our recommendations, the Board has voted that, in the furtherance of its goals and objectives, the Athenaeum requires the use of the space which the Art Association presently occupies. For this reason, the Athenaeum has no choice but to advise you that it cannot renew the lease on the space which the Art Association presently occupies. Given the plans which are already in place, the Board respectfully makes demand on the La Jolla Art Association to vacate this space completely on or before June 30, 2005.

It was fortuitous that you wrote your letter. The Board is hoping that the Art Association will use the time between now and June 30, 2005 to find alternative space. In this regard, I understand that some of your members are of the belief that the Athenaeum has the obligation not only to find, but to finance this alternative space for the Art Association. The Athenaeum respectfully denies that it has this obligation. The relationship between the Athenaeum and the Art Association is that of landlord and tenant. As I understand the law, such an obligation, given its unusual nature in the context of a landlord and tenant relationship and its burden on the landlord, would have to be in writing. There is no language to this effect in the Lease. [63]

The La Jolla Art Association is currently pursuing its options for finding another space in La Jolla, where its history lies, and the resources to pay for commercial rental space in such an expensive area. It has had no sources of revenue except membership fees, and it has very modest savings. It has been able to present art for art's sake without the concerns of commercial gain for 85 years. Now it must quickly adopt the strategies of other art associations to survive. Having been raised on the patronage of Ellen Browning Scripps and the Library Association of La Jolla, without the need for constant fundraising, it suddenly finds itself orphaned without the organizational structure to bring in thousands of dollars a month to pay the rent. It has attracted a new management team with more business experience than the artists on the board to try to build a strategy for success in the future. However, they have only two years to help the organization grow up to meet its new financial responsibilities.

Although the Athenaeum will help maintain the historic corner of Wall Street at Girard as a cultural center, the spot will lose another big chunk of its history when the 85-year-old La Jolla Art Association is forced to move to allow the Athenaeum to lease the space for retail use.

End Notes

1. "La Jolla's Art History Outlined by Mrs. Parkes," *La Jolla Journal*, March 24, 1949.
2. Report to the La Jolla Library Association, June 2, 1942, submitted by Mrs. Eleanor B. Parkes, as President of the LJAA. Kept in the LJAA scrapbook.
3. "Art Association Formed," *La Jolla Journal*, October 8, 1920.
4. "Old Facts about the La Jolla Art Association," a report read by Jean Martin at the December 4, 1964 meeting of the LJAA. Kept in the LJAA scrapbook.
5. Marjorie F. Hutchison, "La Jolla Library Association Was Incorporated in 1899," a printed and undated article found in the LJAA scrapbook. Internal evidence dates the article between 1952, stated as when Miss Carey retired as librarian and the then-present librarian, Miss Hazel Wheeler was appointed, and July 21, 1955, when the library was expected to become a full-fledged branch of the City of San Diego library system. Two copies of this paper, with different titles, were also found in the vertical file *Libraries—Public Library—Branches—A-L San Diego (City)*, California Room, San Diego Central Library.
6. "The Library and The Art Gallery," 1951, found in the LJAA scrapbook.
7. Marjorie F. Hutchison, loc. cit.
8. "The Library and The Art Gallery," loc. cit.
9. Paper signed by J. H. Nicholson, February 19, 1951, found in the LJAA scrapbook.
10. "La Jolla's Art History Outlined by Mrs. Parkes," *La Jolla Journal*, March 24, 1949.
11. "Our Library (Number Two)," *La Jolla Journal*, September 9, 1921.
12. "La Jolla's Art History Outlined by Mrs. Parkes," *La Jolla Journal*, March 24, 1949.
13. "La Jolla Library is Dedicated," (Our Library, No. 6), *La Jolla Journal*, October 14, 1921.
14. On November 15, 1977, an "Historic Resources Inventory" for the Parker Building housing the La Jolla Art Association was prepared by Pat Schaelchlin, supervisor of the La Jolla Research Program. This report erroneously lists the year of construction as 1921, seven years before the aerial photograph was taken. The statement of "Significance" also includes the following claims that cannot be supported by other facts: "In 1921 when the new Library was built on Wall and Girard, Miss Ellen Browning Scripps donated the funds to purchase the adjacent land on Girard and a small duplex building for the Art Gallery was built. In 1926, the Doctors Truman Parker, H. G. Lazelle and W. R. Eastman had their offices at 7515 Girard where the Art Association first met. The building looks today as it must have when it was built. The Art Association still maintains its quarters there." City of San Diego Historical Site Board Register No. 230.
15. "Early Downtown La Jolla" Evans Airplane Photo from the vertical file *La Jolla* in the archives of the San Diego Historical Society. Copied from an unnamed publication dated Thursday, August 26, 1976. Credit reads: Photo courtesy La Jolla Historical Society. Caption identifies the view as "La Jolla in 1928...."
16. In 1988, Pat Schaelchlin rendered a different unsubstantiated story of LJAA's gallery location: "The association enjoyed the beautifully designed and lighted Art Gallery until 1955 when they relocated to 7917 Girard Avenue, next door, where they remain in 1987." Patricia A. Schaelchlin, *La Jolla, The Story of a Community*, Friends of La Jolla Library, 1988, p. 186. The photograph of Alfred Mitchell and his wife in front of the Art Gallery wing in 1966 physically disproves this statement, as do other documented facts discussed later.
17. Martin E. Petersen, *Second Nature: Four Early San Diego Landscape Painters*, San Diego Museum of Art and Prestel-Verlag, Munich, 1991, p. 43.
18. *Ibid.*, p. 12
19. *Ibid.*, plate 2.
20. *Ibid.*, plate 4.

21. Ibid., plate 15.
22. Ibid., p. 24.
23. Ibid., plate 22.
24. Ibid., plate 23.
25. Ibid., plate 34.
26. Ibid., p. 36.
27. Ibid., plate 62.
28. Ibid., plate 54.
29. Ibid., plate 64.
30. Ibid, p. 47.
31. Ibid., plate 93.
32. Marjorie F. Hutchison, loc. cit.
33. "La Jolla's Art History Outlined by Mrs. Parkes," *La Jolla Journal*, March 24, 1949.
34. "History of the La Jolla Art Association," page found in the LJAA historical papers, photocopied from a book in the California Room of the San Diego Public Library. From the context, most likely written during the presidency of Mrs. Eugenia Martin, 1961-1964.
35. *La Jolla Art Association Membership Directory, 2002-2003*.
36. "Old Facts about the La Jolla Art Association," loc.cit.
37. John C. Hooper, in an undated letter to La Jolla historian, Pat Schaelchlin, in which he provides dates of past presidents up to Cathy Collins, 1984-1986. Found in the LJAA historical papers.
38. "Old Facts about the La Jolla Art Association," loc.cit.
39. "La Jolla's Art History Outlined by Mrs. Parkes," *La Jolla Journal*, March 24, 1949.
40. "Old Facts about the La Jolla Art Association," loc.cit.
41. Report to the La Jolla Library Association, June 2, 1942, submitted by Mrs. Eleanor B. Parkes, as President of the LJAA. Kept in the LJAA scrapbook.
42. "Memoirs of Alfred R. Mitchell" by Mary Mitchell Sadler, *The Journal of San Diego History*, Summer 2001, Volume 47, Number 3 (<http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/2001-3/mitchell.htm>).
43. "History of the La Jolla Art Association," loc cit.
44. "The Non Profit Status of LJAA as It Affects A) Sales Policy and B) the Status of the Gallery Lease," a report prepared by Beverly Pearson, Exhibit Chairman, February 14, 1990. Kept in the LJAA scrapbook.
45. Ibid.
46. "The Library and the Art Gallery," document found in LJAA papers, dated 1951.
47. "La Jolla Library Association Was Incorporated in 1899," by Marjorie F. Hutchinson, paper found in LJAA papers and dated 1955.
48. "Copy of Agreement with La Jolla Library Assoc.," in the LJAA papers, dated May 28, 1955.
49. "La Jolla Library Expected to Become Part of City System," *La Jolla Journal*, July 21, 1955.
50. "La Jolla Library Site Offer Urged," *San Diego Evening Tribune*, February 24, 1967, found in the vertical file *Libraries—Public Library—Branches—A-L San Diego (City)*, California Room, San Diego Central Library.
51. "City Seeks Library Site," *San Diego Union*, March 10, 1967, found in the vertical file *Libraries—Public Library—Branches—A-L San Diego (City)*, California Room, San Diego Central Library.

52. "Talk by Mrs. Marjorie Hutchinson to Board of La Jolla Art Assoc. 4/12/67," Kathleen Briggs, in LJAA papers.
53. "Report to the Members, The Library Association of La Jolla, November 6, 1967," presented by the Board of Trustees and signed by W. Roy Holleman, President. Found in LJAA papers.
54. Lease between the Library Association of La Jolla and the La Jolla Art Association dated August 23, 1968.
55. "Library to Remain at Girard-Wall St. Site," *La Jolla Light* and *La Jolla Journal*, May 16, 1968.
56. "Art Association Opens New Galleries Sunday," *La Jolla Light* and *La Jolla Journal*, August 29, 1968.
57. "City Sued over Library Rent," by Patty Morin, *La Jolla Light*, February 7, 1980.
58. "\$2-Million Site Given for Library," *Los Angeles Times*, San Diego County Edition, March 24, 1983, found in the vertical file *Libraries—Public Library—Branches—A-L San Diego (City)*, California Room, San Diego Central Library.
59. "Construction of new library delayed," Bobbie Jo Lee, Light Staff Writer, *La Jolla Light*, July 16, 1987, found in the vertical file *Libraries—Public Library—Branches—A-L San Diego (City)*, California Room, San Diego Central Library.
60. "A Corner of La Jolla Named Historic Site," Shari R. Michels, Times Staff Writer, *Los Angeles Times*, San Diego County Edition, August 2, 1988, found in the vertical file *Libraries—Public Library—Branches—A-L San Diego (City)*, California Room, San Diego Central Library.
61. "Library turns pages of history, opens doors to plush new center," Pauline Repard, Staff Writer, *San Diego Union*, February 19, 1989, found in the vertical file *Libraries—Public Library—Branches—A-L San Diego (City)*, California Room, San Diego Central Library.
62. "Old library is expected to stay a site for culture," Carol Olten, *San Diego Union*, March 19, 1989, found in the vertical file *Libraries—Public Library—Branches—A-L San Diego (City)*, California Room, San Diego Central Library.
63. Letter from Daniel R. Kronemyer of the Athenaeum to the La Jolla Art Association, addressed to the attention of Dottie Stanley, LJAA President, dated April 10, 2002.

