

THE DEANE SISTERS



George Percy Jacomb-Hood (1857-1929) oil on canvas. 150cms X 130 cms.

This accomplished Edwardian triple portrait was painted around 1908 and now hangs in the marriage room at The Guildhall. The pictures in the main public rooms in Bath are all part of the Victoria Art Gallery collection.

Jacomb - Hood trained at the Slade and was a founder member of the New English Art Club and Honorary Secretary of the Chelsea Arts Club. He was a member of the Royal Society of Portrait Painters and was a favourite of the Royal Family with whom he travelled in Europe.

The three ladies are Dorothy Juliette, Ella Marjory and Violet Constance Deane who were the daughters of Maj. Hugh Pollexfen Deane. Ella was born in Bath and her sisters in Malta. They lived at 27, St James Square and were nieces of Emmeline Deane who is well known in the Victoria Art Gallery for her commanding portrait of Anna Bilinska-Bohdanowicz.

The Deanes were a Bath family and Emmeline and Hugh were two of thirteen children of the Rev John Bathurst Deane. Another of his daughters was the mother of P G Wodehouse.

There is a strong family resemblance between the sitters and Emmeline whose self portrait is in the Gallery collection. Also in the collection is the Jacomb-Hood portrait of the sitters' mother, Juliette, that can be seen in the wonderfully detailed background of the picture of the sisters. The Deanes have been described as a large somewhat bohemian family which may account for the sitters' grandmother buying the enormous Cheyney Court, at Box, when widowed with three daughters still at home.

The picture was given to the Gallery by Mrs. Ella Dorothy Waldron the daughter of Ella, one of the sitters. It was conserved under the Adopt a Picture scheme by Hotel Villa Magdala.