

Wickenden, Robert J. (1861-1931)
Rochester, England; grew up in Ohio

EDUCATION/INFLUENCES

- Apprenticed to photographer in Dundee, MI;studied painting in NY with Chase and J. Carroll Beckwith, France-Ecole des Beaux-Arts, did teach classes and painted portraits in Detroit
- Influenced by Barbizon painters-Corot, Millet, Rousseau, Daubigny, also interested in printmaking (knew Whistler)

BIG IDEAS/THEMES

- Basically itinerant painter-moved frequently between Europe, U.S. and Canada with wife and 7 children.

- Loose but realistic style-did mostly portraits and landscapes but some genre scenes of simple folk in tender moments (influence of Barbizon artists)
- Printmaker, painter, collector,dealer, historian, researcher, poet, cataloguer-help to make ends meet-but eclectic interests kept him from making a name

KIA WORK-A *Cup of Cold Water*, oil on canvas, 1889

- Gift to the KIA in 1988. Painted while in Europe. Bible verse, "Whosoever shall give a drink unto one of these little ones a cup of water only...he shall in no wise lose his reward."
- Woman, perhaps grandmother offers a cup of water from well to young girl. Artist frames scene in three ways: gold frame, frame of green vegetation and well opening. Tender relationship between woman and the girl-metaphor for passing of nourishment, knowledge or traditions from the older generation to the younger?

