

Passages: Susan E. Schilling



Sue Schilling

Long-time Gallery staff member Susan E. Schilling died February 18, 2008 at the age of 96.

Fresh from Mount Holyoke College and graduate study at Harvard, Susan Eisenhart came to MAG in 1937 to head the education department and quickly made herself indispensable. As assistant director Isabel Herdle once said, “You could always count on Sue to come through in splendid fashion.”

Over her 40-year career, Schilling developed and directed educational outreach programs; was a tireless researcher, writer and editor; and helped train the first docent classes. She also gave a number of cherished artworks to the Gallery collection. Schilling retired in 1978 with the title of research curator emeritus but continued editing the scholarly journal *Porticus* and contributing to other MAG publications. Her husband, UR professor Bernard Schilling, died in 2001.

A passionate preservationist and book lover, Schilling was a long-time trustee of the Landmark Society and a

founding board member of the Friends of the UR Libraries. In 1996 she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Arts and Cultural Council.

Over the years, Schilling donated many hundreds of art books to MAG’s Charlotte Whitney Allen Library, and after her death, the gifts will keep coming, thanks to the Susan E. Schilling Book Fund, a major permanent endowment.

LEFT: Sue Schilling, ca. 1945, gets a closer look at the Thorne Miniature Rooms, subject of three immensely popular exhibits in the 1940s.