

Shire of Northam ART COLLECTION



Upper Reaches of the Seine



Artist - Will Ashton (1881—1963)

Dates - 1914

Sir John William (Will) Ashton was born in York, England in 1881 and moved to Australia with his family in 1884. He studied in Adelaide under his father, James Ashton; in St Ives, Cornwall under Julius Olsson and Algernon Talmadge and at the Academie Julien. From then on he spent much of his life travelling and repeating this initial success.

As a prolific painter of this type of picturesque work Ashton became a strong and influential opponent of the modern movement in Australia. He was Art Advisor to the trustees, National Gallery of South Australia from 1913-1916 and director-secretary of the Art Gallery of New South Wales, 1937-1944. From 1953-1963 Ashton was chairman of the Commonwealth Art Advisory Board.

He was awarded OBE in 1942 and a knighthood in 1960.

Ashton died in New South Wales in 1963.