



Lillian Scalzo **1900 ~ 1984**

Miss Lillian Scalzo undoubtedly inherited her artistic talent from her maternal grandfather, Joseph Maggenti of Florence, Italy. He came to America with a contractor whose specialty was the construction and decoration of ornate cathedrals and elaborate state capitols. In this capacity, he came to Springfield to make casts for plaster designs and bronze figures to be used in the Capitol. He bought a house at 325 West Washington Street. Later, Miss Scalzo's parents lived in this same house. It is the home in which she was born on April 17, 1900.

Lillian Scalzo received her first art training from George Robb at the Springfield Art Association. She studied illustration and costume design at the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts. She also studied at the Chicago Art Institute and the Chicago Academy of Design.

When Springfield Junior College opened in 1929, she developed and directed their Art Department until World War II, when art classes were discontinued. While still teaching at the Junior College in 1936, she started teaching painting at the Springfield Art Association. After World War II, the Art Association was able to hire a full-time director and Miss Scalzo resigned and became affiliated with the State Department of Health, illustrating medical pamphlets.

She returned to teaching at the Art Association in the early 50s and continued until 1974. During over 40 years of teaching, she has demonstrated her ability to inspire and guide thousands of persons to achieve their maximum ability. It is unusual to find a talented artist who can also communicate techniques so ably to students of varying degrees of capabilities.

Her versatility as an artist is demonstrated by her pen and inks; linoleum block prints and etchings of the early 30s. She also did watercolor plates for costume designs used in several of the early Beaux Arts Balls, which were really extravaganzas "almost like a Zeigfield performance".

Miss Scalzo devoted her life to her own expression and to helping others find ways to express themselves visually.

*From the Lillian Scalzo Memoir - Archives/ Special Collections
Norris L. Brookens Library - University of Illinois at Springfield*