

Although rarely in San Francisco for some years past, Dr. Eisen still regards the California Academy of Sciences as his scientific headquarters, and this is given as his address in "American Men of Science." His many friends here and throughout the world wish him "many happy returns."



APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

NOTICE is hereby given to all *Corporate Members* that the Council at its meeting August 16, 1940, approved the applications of Dr. Joshua L. Baily, Jr., and Mrs. Blanche Meiers for *Membership* in the California Academy of Sciences. If no objection to the election of these applicants be received at the office of the Academy within two weeks after August 29, 1940, they will be considered elected.

ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

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September, 1940

September Announcement

THE REGULAR SEPTEMBER MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in the Assembly Room (third floor) of the San Francisco Public Library on Wednesday evening, September 4, 1940, at eight o'clock. The speaker of the evening will be Mr. Joseph R. Slevin, Curator of the Department of Herpetology of the California Academy of Sciences, whose subject will be "Explorations on Cedros Island, Baja California."

Mr. Slevin first visited this island in 1905, while on the Academy's Expedition to the Galapagos Islands, when a short stop was made at South Bay. He again returned on board the Mexican Patrol Boat *Tecate* in 1922, and on the U.S.S. *Ortolan* in 1925. In order to make a more extended stop a fourth visit was made during the spring of the present year, when he spent the period from April 25 to June 12 camped at the south end of the island.

Mr. Slevin will speak on the discovery of the island, its early inhabitants, plant and animal life, and his experiences on one of the largest and most arid outposts of Baja California.

The lecture will be illustrated from photographs taken on the various expeditions to this interesting region.

The public is cordially invited to hear Mr. Slevin.

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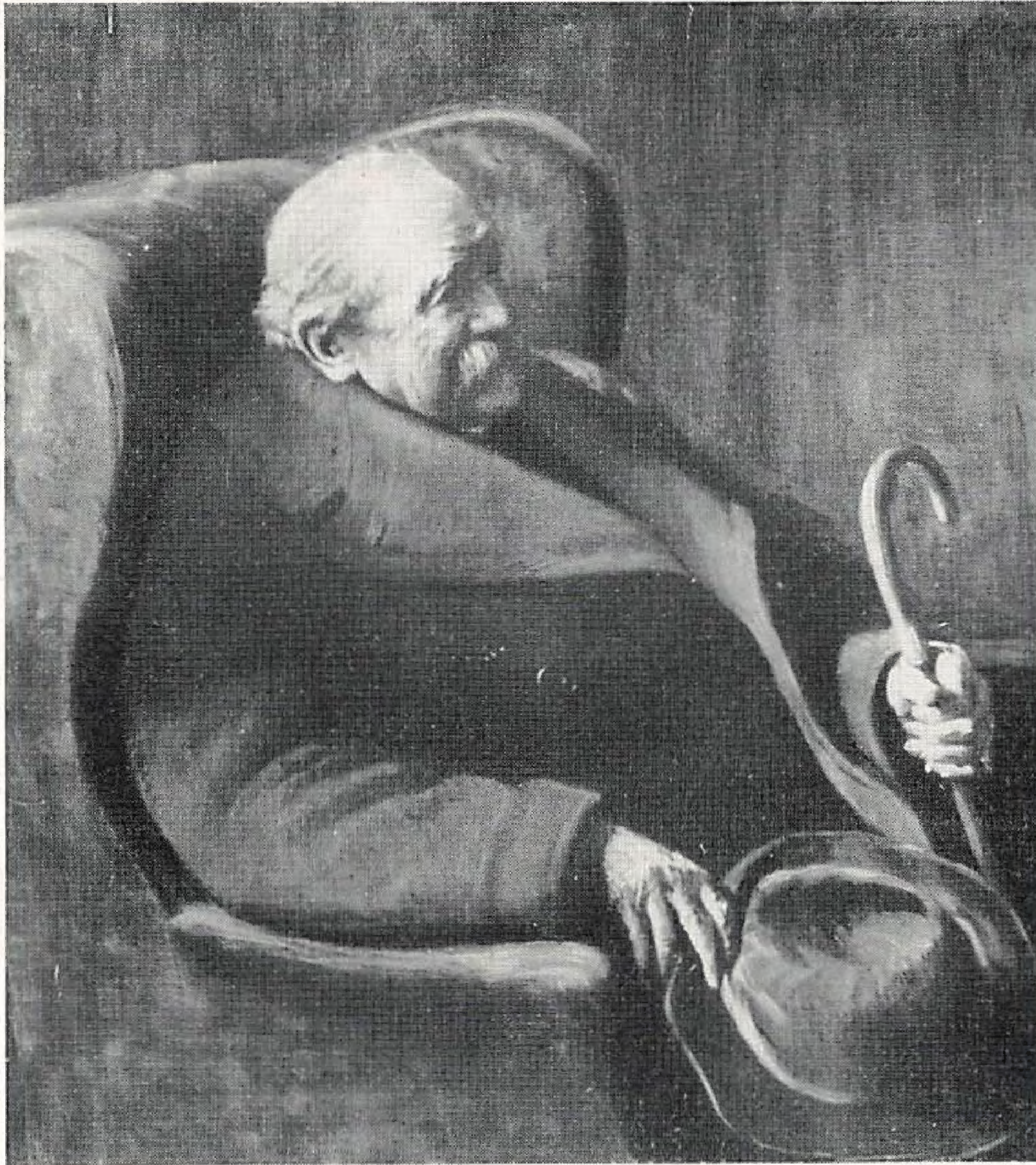
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CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

MISS ALICE EASTWOOD,



From a painting by Wilford S. Conrow

GUSTAVUS AUGUSTUS EISEN
MEMBER OF THE ACADEMY SINCE 1874

ACADEMY PERSONALITIES

DR. GUSTAVUS AUGUSTUS EISEN, one of the oldest as well as most distinguished members of the California Academy of Sciences, celebrated his ninety-third birthday on August 2. Born in Stockholm, Sweden, August 2, 1847, he graduated from the University of Upsala in 1873, and left the same year for California to conduct a biological survey under the auspices of the Swedish Academy of Sciences. So impressed was the young explorer with the wilderness beauty and untold possibilities for scientific exploration in this state that he decided to make California his home.

Awed by the grandeur and magnificence of the Sequoias or Big Trees growing in limited numbers along the western slopes of the central and southern Sierra Nevada, and consumed by the desire to protect them for all time against the incursions of commercial lumbermen, Dr. Eisen worked for many years to bring about their conservation. In this worthy effort he asked and received the full support of the California Academy of Sciences, of which he became a member in 1874 and was a Curator from 1893 to 1900. To both the man and the institution is due much credit for the ultimate establishment of Sequoia National Park—a monument to the pioneers of conservation in the West.

To Dr. Eisen, furthermore, the people of the State of California owe unending gratitude for the introduction and culture of the Smyrna fig and the alligator pear.

Few men in a lifetime have either the opportunity or ability to explore the many fields of knowledge in which Dr. Eisen is perfectly at home. Fewer still in this modern age of specialization have those rare qualifications which permit them to attain world renown in more than one or two cultural or scientific fields of endeavor. Dr. Eisen has transcended these bounds which limit most ordinary men and, like many learned scholars of centuries past, has established his name as an authority in an amazing number of diversified fields. His task has been far more difficult, moreover, than that of the great scholars of the sixteenth or seventeenth centuries, by reason of the vast increase in human knowledge.

Dr. Eisen's publications, numbering about one hundred fifty, cover such diverse fields as botany, zoölogy, cytology, geography, anthropology, archaeology, and art. Interested in miniature painting from his early youth he has produced thousands of miniatures; and this interest in portraiture led him to write a most detailed and authoritative work on *Portraits of Washington*. Perhaps most outstanding among his recent works are *Beads—Ancient, Medieval and Modern; Glass*, a complete monograph used as a basis for his two catalogues of the Freer and Gellatly collections of the United States National Museum; and his magnificent work on *The Great Chalice of Antioch*.

Dr. Eisen became a Member of the California Academy of Sciences on January 19, 1874, a Life Member on January 2, 1883, and an Honorary Member—the highest honor the Academy accords—on February 16, 1938.