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PORTRAIT OF HELEN WILLS



Oil portrait by Augustus John, ca. 1933.
Gift of Helen Wills to the University of California.

A MEMBER OF THE CLASS OF 1927, Helen Wills (later Helen Wills Moody Roark) was known as the world's outstanding woman tennis player in the second quarter of this century. Between 1924 and 1938, she won twelve Wimbledon Championships; between 1922 and 1931, she won thirteen United States Championships; and in the four-year span 1928-1932, she won four French Singles Championships, along with two French Mixed Doubles. Wills served on the Wightman Cup team for ten years, and at the 1924 Olympics in Paris, she achieved the gold medal in both singles and doubles. She was elected to the National Lawn Tennis Hall of Fame in 1959.

Her benefactions to the University of California include funding for the Helen Wills Neurosciences Institute in memory of her parents and her collection of tennis trophies to the California Athletic Hall of Fame in Memorial Stadium. She died in Carmel, California in 1998.