

= Ina Coolbrith =

Ina Donna Coolbrith (March 10 , 1841 ? February 29 , 1928) was an American poet , writer , librarian , and a prominent figure in the San Francisco Bay Area literary community . Called the " Sweet Singer of California " , she was the first California Poet Laureate and the first poet laureate of any American state .

Coolbrith , born the niece of Latter Day Saint movement founder Joseph Smith , left the Mormon community as a child to enter her teens in Los Angeles , California , where she began to publish poetry . She terminated a youthful failed marriage to make her home in San Francisco , and met writers Bret Harte and Charles Warren Stoddard with whom she formed the " Golden Gate Trinity " closely associated with the literary journal Overland Monthly . Her poetry received positive notice from critics and established poets such as Mark Twain , Ambrose Bierce and Alfred Lord Tennyson . She held literary salons at her home ? in this way she introduced new writers to publishers . Coolbrith befriended the poet Joaquin Miller and helped him gain global fame .

While Miller toured Europe and lived out their mutual dream of visiting Lord Byron 's tomb , Coolbrith was saddled with custody of his daughter , and the care of members of her own family , so she set up house in Oakland and accepted the position of city librarian . Her poetry suffered as a result of her long work hours , but she mentored a generation of young readers including Jack London and Isadora Duncan . After she served for 19 years , Oakland 's library patrons called for reorganization , and Coolbrith was fired . She moved back to San Francisco and was invited by members of the Bohemian Club to be their librarian .

Coolbrith began to write a history of California literature , including much autobiographical material , but the fire following the 1906 San Francisco earthquake consumed her work . Author Gertrude Atherton and Coolbrith 's Bohemian Club friends helped set her up again in a new house , and she resumed writing and holding literary salons . She traveled by train to New York City several times and , with fewer worldly cares , greatly increased her poetry output . On June 30 , 1915 , Coolbrith was named California 's poet laureate , and she continued to write poetry for eight more years . Her style was more than the usual melancholic or uplifting themes expected of women ? she included a wide variety of subjects in her poems , which were noted as being " singularly sympathetic " and " palpably spontaneous " . Her sensuous descriptions of natural scenes advanced the art of Victorian poetry to incorporate greater accuracy without trite sentiment , foreshadowing the Imagist school and the work of Robert Frost . California poet laureate Carol Muske @-@ Dukes wrote of Coolbrith 's poems that , though they " were steeped in a high tea lavender style " , influenced by a British stateliness , " California remained her inspiration . "

= = Early life = =

Ina Coolbrith was born Josephine Donna Smith in Nauvoo , Illinois , the last of three daughters of Agnes Moulton Coolbrith and Don Carlos Smith , brother to Joseph Smith . Coolbrith 's father died of malarial fever four months after her birth , and a sister died one month after that ; Coolbrith 's mother then married Joseph Smith , in 1842 , becoming his sixth or seventh wife , depending on whether Fanny Alger is counted as a wife or as a lover . No children came of the union ? Agnes felt neglected in her unfruitful Levirate marriage , the only such marriage of Smith . Over the next two years , Smith married some 20 to 30 more wives , angering non @-@ Mormons in the area . In June 1844 , Smith was killed at the hands of an anti @-@ Mormon , anti @-@ polygamist mob . Losing her faith and fearful of her life , Coolbrith 's mother left the Latter @-@ day Saint community and moved to Saint Louis , Missouri , where she married a printer and lawyer named William Pickett . Twin sons were born to the couple , and in 1851 Pickett traveled overland with his new family to California in a wagon train . On the long trek , the young Ina read from a book of Shakespeare 's works and from a collection of Byron 's poems . As a ten @-@ year @-@ old girl , Ina entered California in front of the wagon train with the famous African @-@ American scout Jim Beckwourth , riding with him on his horse , through what would later be named Beckwourth Pass . The family settled in Los Angeles , California , and Pickett established a law practice .

To avoid identification with her former family or with Mormonism , Ina 's mother reverted to using her maiden name , Coolbrith . The family resolved not to speak of their Mormon past , and it was only after Ina Coolbrith 's death that the general public learned of her origin . Coolbrith did keep in touch with her Smith relations , however , including a lifelong correspondence with her first @-@ cousin Joseph F. Smith to whom and for whom she frequently expressed her love and regard .

Coolbrith , sometimes called " Josephina " or just " Ina " , wrote poems beginning at age 11 , first publishing " My Ideal Home " in a newspaper in 1856 , writing as Ina Donna Coolbrith . Her work appeared in the Poetry Corner of the Los Angeles Star , and in the California Home Journal . As she grew into young womanhood , Coolbrith was renowned for her beauty ; she was selected to open a ball with Pío Pico , the last Mexican governor of California . In April 1858 at the age of 17 , she married Robert Bruce Carsley , an iron @-@ worker and part @-@ time actor , but she suffered abuse at his hands , and further emotional pain came from the death of the couple 's infant son . An altercation between Pickett and Carsley resulted in a bullet mutilating Carsley 's hand , requiring amputation . Carsley accused Coolbrith of infidelity , and she divorced him in a sensational public trial ; the dissolution was final on December 30 , 1861 . Her later poem , " The Mother 's Grief " , was a eulogy to her lost son , but she never publicly explained its meaning ? it was only upon Coolbrith 's death that her literary friends discovered she had ever been a mother . In 1862 , Coolbrith moved with her mother , stepfather and twin half @-@ brothers to San Francisco to ward off depression , and changed her name from Josephine Donna Carsley to Ina Coolbrith .

= = Poet = =

Coolbrith soon met Bret Harte and Samuel Langhorne Clemens , writing as Mark Twain , in San Francisco . In 1867 , four of Coolbrith 's poems appeared in The Galaxy . In July 1868 , Coolbrith supplied a poem , " Longing " , for the first issue of the Overland Monthly , and served unofficially as co @-@ editor with Harte in selecting poems , articles and stories for the periodical . She became a friend of actress and poet Adah Menken , adding to Menken 's credibility as an intellectual , but was unable to impress Harte of Menken 's worth . Coolbrith also worked as a schoolteacher for extra income . For a decade , Coolbrith supplied one poem for each new issue of the Overland Monthly . After the 1866 publication of four of her poems in an anthology edited by Harte , Coolbrith 's " The Mother 's Grief " was positively reviewed in The New York Times . Another poem , " When the Grass Shall Cover Me " , appeared unattributed in an anthology of John Greenleaf Whittier 's favorite works by other poets , entitled Songs of Three Centuries (1875) ; Coolbrith 's poem was judged the best of that group . In 1867 , recently widowed Josephine Clifford arrived at the Overland Monthly to take a position as secretary . She formed a lifetime friendship with Coolbrith .

Coolbrith 's literary work connected her with poet Alfred Lord Tennyson and naturalist John Muir , as well as Charles Warren Stoddard who also helped Harte edit the Overland Monthly . As editors and arbiters of literary taste , Harte , Stoddard and Coolbrith were known as the " Golden Gate Trinity " . Stoddard once said that Coolbrith never had any of her literary submissions returned from a publisher . Coolbrith met writer and critic Ambrose Bierce in 1869 , and by 1871 when he was courting Mary Ellen Day , Bierce organized friendly card games between himself , Day , Coolbrith and Stoddard . Bierce felt that Coolbrith 's best poems were " California " , the commencement ode she wrote for the University of California in 1871 , and " Beside the Dead " , written in 1875 .

In mid @-@ 1870 , Coolbrith met the eccentric poet Cincinnatus Hiner Miller , newly divorced from his second wife , and introduced him to the San Francisco literary circle at the suggestion of Stoddard . Miller quoted Tennyson in describing Coolbrith as " divinely tall , and most divinely fair " . Coolbrith discovered that Miller was appreciative of the heroic , tragic life of Joaquin Murrieta , and she suggested that Miller take the name Joaquin Miller as his pen name , and that he dress the part with longer hair and a more @-@ pronounced mountain man costume . Coolbrith helped Miller prepare for his trip to England , where he would lay a laurel wreath on the tomb of Lord Byron , a poet they both greatly admired . The two gathered California Bay Laurel branches in Sausalito and took portrait photographs together . Coolbrith wrote " With a Wreath of Laurel " about this enterprise . Miller went to New York by train , calling himself " Joaquin Miller " for the first time , and was in

London by August 1870 . When he placed the wreath at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene , Hucknall , it caused a stir among the English clergy who did not see any connection between California poets and the late lord . They sent to Constantine I , the King of Greece for another laurel wreath from that country of Byron 's heroic death , accompanied by some Greek funding which was joined in kind from the purse of the Bishop of Norwich to rebuild and refurbish the 500 @-@ year @-@ old church . The two wreaths were hung side by side over Byron 's tomb .

= = Librarian = =

Coolbrith had hoped to tour the East Coast and Europe with Miller , but stayed behind in San Francisco because she felt obliged to care for her mother and her seriously ill , widowed sister Agnes who was unable to care for herself or for her two children . In late 1871 she took on the care of another dependent when Joaquin Miller brought her a teenaged Indian girl (widely rumored to be his own daughter) to care for while he went abroad again , this time to Brazil and Europe .

At a literary dinner on May 5 , 1874 , Coolbrith was elected honorary member of the Bohemian Club , the second of four women so honored . This allowed the members of the club to discreetly assist her in her finances , but their help was not enough to cover her full burden . Coolbrith moved to Oakland to set up a larger household for her extended family . Coolbrith 's sister Agnes died late in 1874 , and the orphaned niece and nephew continued to live with Coolbrith . Coolbrith wrote " Beside the Dead " in grief from the loss of her sister . Her mother Agnes died in 1876 .

To support the household , in late 1874 Coolbrith took a position as the librarian for the Oakland Library Association , a subscription library that had been established five years earlier . In 1878 , the library was reformed as the Oakland Free Library , the second public library created in California under the Rogers Free Library Act (Eureka was first) . Coolbrith earned a salary of \$ 80 per month , \$ 1 @,@ 960 in current value , much less than a man would have received . She worked 6 days a week , 12 hours a day . Her poetry suffered as a result . She published only sporadically over the next 19 years ? working as Oakland 's librarian was the low point of her poetic career .

At the library , her style was personal : she discussed with the patrons their interests , and she selected books she felt were appropriate . In 1886 , she befriended and mentored the 10 @-@ year @-@ old Jack London , guiding his reading . London called her his " literary mother " . Twenty years later , London wrote to Coolbrith to thank her .

Coolbrith also mentored young Isadora Duncan who later described Coolbrith as " a very wonderful " woman , with " very beautiful eyes that glowed with burning fire and passion " . Magazine writer Samuel Dickson reported that , at a soiree in 1927 , an aging Coolbrith told him of the famous lovers she had known , and that she had once dazzled Joseph Duncan , Isadora 's father . Coolbrith said that his attentions led to the breakup of his marriage . Duncan 's mother left San Francisco and settled her four children in Oakland , little knowing that Coolbrith would soon meet one of her children , and help the young dancer develop a wider knowledge of the world through reading . Duncan wrote in her autobiography that , as a librarian , Coolbrith was always pleased with the youthful dancer 's book choices , and that Duncan did not find out until later that Coolbrith was " evidently the great passion of [Joseph Duncan 's] life " .

Coolbrith 's nephew Henry Frank Peterson came to work with her at the library , and began to organize the books into a faceted classification scheme that she specified , one which used one-and two @-@ digit numbers to stand for general subjects , and three @-@ digit numbers to indicate individual books in that subject . Before this , Coolbrith had resisted library trustee attempts to classify the books ; she had wished to continue the reading @-@ room atmosphere that she had established .

In 1881 , Coolbrith 's poetry was published in book form , entitled *A Perfect Day , and Other Poems* . Henry Wadsworth Longfellow , after Coolbrith 's publisher sent him a copy , said " I know that California has at least one poet . " Of the poems , he said " I have been reading them with delight . " Yale poet Edward Rowland Sill , professor at the University of California and a keen critic of American literature , gave Coolbrith a letter of introduction that he wished her to send to publisher Henry Holt . It said , simply , " Miss Ina Coolbrith , one of our few really literary persons in California

, and the writer of many lovely poems ; in fact , the most genuine singer the West has yet produced . " Quaker poet and former abolitionist John Greenleaf Whittier wrote to Coolbrith from Amesbury , Massachusetts , to share his opinion that her " little volume " of poetry , " which has found such favor with all who have seen it on this side of the Rocky mountains " , should be republished on the East Coast . He told her " there is no verse on the Pacific Slope which has the fine quality of thine . "

Beginning as early as 1865 in San Francisco , Coolbrith held literary meetings at her home , hosting readings of poetry , and topical discussions , in the tradition of European salons . She helped writers such as Gelett Burgess and Laura Redden Searing gain wider notice .

Once warmly social with her , in the 1880s Ambrose Bierce turned his caustic pen to criticism of Coolbrith 's work , and thus lost her as a friend . In 1883 , he wrote that her finely @-@ wrought poem " Our Poets " should have been made a dirge , as the great poets of California were dead . He wrote that the periodical she worked for should be named the Warmed @-@ Overland Monthly because it delivered nothing new . Regarding her poem " Unattained " , Bierce complained of " this dainty writer 's tiresome lugubriousness . " In response , Coolbrith sided with those who said his incessant needling led local writer David Lesser Lezinsky to suicide .

Coolbrith published poems in *The Century* in 1883 , 1885 , 1886 and 1894 . All four poems were included in Coolbrith 's 1895 book , *Songs from the Golden Gate* ? a re @-@ issue of her earlier 1881 collection , with some 40 poems added . In New York , Coolbrith was acknowledged by a reviewer in the monthly journal *Current Opinion* as " a true , melodious and natural singer . Her work is characterized by great delicacy and refinement of feeling , and comprises dainty love songs , verses of deep religious feeling , stately odes , written for special occasions , and charming bits of description . "

In September 1892 , Coolbrith was given three days ' notice to clear her desk , to be replaced as librarian by her nephew Henry Frank Peterson . A library trustee was quoted as saying " we need a librarian not a poet . " Coolbrith 's literary friends were outraged , and published a lengthy opinion piece to that effect in the *San Francisco Examiner* . Peterson 's plans for the library were quite successful , however ; under his guidance circulation quickly grew from 3 @,@ 000 to 13 @,@ 000 . Peterson opened the library on Sundays and holidays and increased accessibility to the stacks ? he was praised by trustees for his " management improvements " .

In 1893 at the World 's Congress of Representative Women , held at the beginning of the World 's Columbian Exposition in Chicago , Coolbrith was described by Ella Sterling Cummins (later Mighels) as " the best known of California writers ... who stands peerless at the head . " Coolbrith was commissioned to write a poem for the Exposition , and in October 1893 she brought with her to Chicago the poem " Isabella of Spain " to help dedicate Harriet Hosmer 's sculpture Queen Isabella which stood before the Pampas Plume Palace within the California Pavilion . Listening to Coolbrith were well @-@ known women such as suffragist Susan B. Anthony and journalist Lilian Whiting . During Coolbrith 's visit , Charlotte Perkins Stetson , her friend from the Pacific Coast Woman 's Press Association (the two women served as president and vice @-@ president , respectively) , wrote to May Wright Sewall on her behalf ; Stetson observed that Coolbrith could benefit from introductions to Chicago 's best writers .

Coolbrith 's difficulties in Oakland followed by her trip to Chicago unsettled her friends who did not wish to see her move away and " become an alien " to California . John Muir had long been in the habit of sending Coolbrith letters , and the occasional box of fruit such as cherries picked from the trees on his Martinez estate , and he made such an offering in late 1894 , accompanied by a suggestion for a new career which he thought would keep her in the area ? she could fill the position of San Francisco 's librarian , recently vacated by John Vance Cheney . Coolbrith sent a response to Muir , thanking him for " the fruit of your land , and the fruit of your brain " . After signing the letter " your old @-@ time friend " , she added a post @-@ script comment : " No , I cannot have Mr. Cheney 's place . I am disqualified by sex . " San Francisco required that their librarian be a man .

In 1894 , Coolbrith honored poet Celia Thaxter with a memorial poem entitled " The Singer of the Sea " . Thaxter had been to the *Atlantic Monthly* what Coolbrith was to the *Overland Monthly* : its " lady poet " who submitted verse containing " local color " .

A second poetry collection , *Songs from the Golden Gate* , was published in 1895 ; it contained " *The Mariposa Lily* " , a description of California 's natural beauty , and " *The Captive of the White City* " which detailed the cruelty dealt to Native Americans in the late 19th century . As well , the collection included " *The Sea @-@ Shell* " and " *Sailed* " , two poems in which Coolbrith described a woman 's love with deep sympathy and an unusually vivid physical imagery , in a way that presaged the later Imagist school of Ezra Pound and Robert Frost . The book included four monochrome reproductions of paintings by William Keith that he had devised as visual representations of the poetry . The book was well received in London where editor Albert Kinross of *The Outlook* papered the London Underground walls with posters announcing " his great discovery " .

Connections among Coolbrith 's circle of friends resulted in a librarian job at San Francisco 's Mercantile Library Association in 1898 , and she moved back to Russian Hill in San Francisco . In January 1899 , artist William Keith and poet Charles Keeler obtained for her a part @-@ time position as librarian of the Bohemian Club , of which Keith and Keeler were members . Her first assignment was to edit *Songs from Bohemia* , a book of poems by Daniel O 'Connell , Bohemian Club co @-@ founder and journalist , following his death . Her salary was \$ 50 each month , less than she had been earning in Oakland , but her duties were light enough that she was able to devote a greater proportion of her time to writing , and she signed on as sometime staff of Charles Fletcher Lummis 's *The Land of Sunshine* magazine . As a personal project , she began to work on a history of California literature .

= = Earthquake and fire = =

By February 1906 , Coolbrith 's health was showing signs of deterioration . She was often sick in bed with rheumatism , and hard @-@ pressed to continue her work at the Bohemian Club . Still , in March 1906 she gave a lengthy reading to the Pacific Coast Woman 's Press Association entitled " *Some Women Poets of America* . " Coolbrith , third vice president and life member of the club , briefly discussed the most prominent early American women poets but focused more fully on ones that became known in the second half of the 19th century , reciting example verse , and critically evaluating the work . A month later , disaster struck in the form of calamitous fire following the April 1906 San Francisco earthquake : Coolbrith 's home at 1604 Taylor Street burned to the ground . Directly after the earthquake but before fire threatened , Coolbrith left her house carrying a pet cat , thinking she would soon return . Her student boarder Robert Norman and her companion Josephine Zeller were unable to carry more than another cat , a few small bundles of letters and Coolbrith 's scrapbook . Immediately after he spotted heavy smoke from across the bay , Joaquin Miller took the ferry from Oakland to San Francisco in order to assist Coolbrith in saving her valuables from encroaching fire , but was prevented from doing so by soldiers who had orders to use deadly force against looters . In the blaze , Coolbrith lost 3 @,@ 000 books including priceless signed first editions , artwork by Keith , many personal letters from famous people such as Whittier , Clemens , George Meredith and , above all , her nearly complete manuscript that was part autobiography and part history of California 's early literary scene .

Coolbrith never resumed the work of writing the history , as she was unable to balance its revelatory autobiographical truth with the scandal that would then ensue . In her life , there were rumors that she had accepted men such as Harte , Stoddard , Clemens and Miller as occasional lovers ? a book discussing these liaisons was one she considered too controversial .

Coolbrith spent a few years in temporary residences while friends rallied to raise money to build a house for her . From New York , Coolbrith 's old associate Mark Twain sent three autographed photographs of himself that sold for \$ 10 apiece ? he was subsequently convinced to sit for 17 more studio photographs to add further to the fund . In February 1907 , the San Jose Women 's Club hosted an event called " *Ina Coolbrith Day* " to promote interest in legislating a state pension for Coolbrith , and in a book project being put forward by the Spinners ' Club . In June 1907 , the Spinners ' Club printed a book entitled *The Spinners* ' book of fiction whose proceeds were to be given to Coolbrith . Frank Norris , Mary Hallock Foote and Mary Hunter Austin were among the authors who contributed stories . The poet George Sterling , a friend from the Bohemian Club ,

submitted an introductory poem , and Bohemian Maynard Dixon was among the illustrators . The driving force behind the effort was Gertrude Atherton , a writer who saw in Coolbrith a connection to California 's literary origins . When the book failed to produce sufficient funding , Atherton added enough from her own pocket to start construction . A new house was built for Coolbrith at 1067 Broadway on Russian Hill . Settled , there , she resumed hosting salons . In 1910 , she received a trust fund from Atherton . During 1910 ? 1914 , with money from Atherton and a discreet grant from her Bohemian friends , Coolbrith spent time going between residences in New York City and in San Francisco , writing poetry . In four winters , she wrote more poetry than in the preceding 25 years .

= = Poet laureate = =

In 1911 , Coolbrith accepted the presidency of the Pacific Coast Woman 's Press Association , and a park was dedicated to her , at 1715 Taylor Street , one block from her pre @-@ earthquake home . Coolbrith was named honorary member of the California Writers Club around 1913 , a group that quickly expanded to include Lummis and other Southern Californians . In 1913 , Ella Sterling Mighels founded the California Literature Society which met informally once a month at Coolbrith 's Russian Hill home , newspaper columnist and literary critic George Hamlin Fitch presiding . Mighels , who has been called California 's literary historian , credited her breadth of knowledge to Coolbrith and the society meetings .

In preparation for the 1915 Panama ? Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco , Coolbrith was named President of the Congress of Authors and Journalists . In this position she sent more than 4 @, @ 000 letters to the world 's most well @-@ known writers and journalists . At the Exposition itself on June 30 , Coolbrith was lauded by Senator James D. Phelan who said that her early associate Bret Harte called her the " sweetest note in California literature . " Phelan continued , " she has written little , but that little is great . It is of the purest quality , finished and perfect , as well as full of feeling and thought . " The Overland Monthly reported that " eyes were wet throughout the large audience " when Coolbrith was crowned with a laurel wreath by Benjamin Ide Wheeler , President of the University of California , who called her the " loved , laurel @-@ crowned poet of California . " After several more speeches were made in her honor , and bouquets brought in abundance to the podium , Coolbrith , wearing a black robe with a sash bearing a garland of bright orange California poppies , addressed the crowd , saying , " There is one woman here with whom I want to share these honors : Josephine Clifford McCracken . For we are linked together , the last two living members of Bret Harte 's staff of Overland writers . " McCracken was then ushered up from her seat in the audience to join Coolbrith . Coolbrith 's official status as California Poet Laureate was confirmed in 1919 as the " Loved Laurel Crowned Poet of California " by the California State Senate with no financial support attached .

Several months after the San Francisco fair , at the Panama ? California Exposition held in San Diego , festivities included a series of Authors ' Days , featuring 13 California writers . November 2 , 1915 , was " Ina Coolbrith Day " : her poems were recited , a lecture on her life was given by George Wharton James , and her poetry was set to music and performed on piano and voice , with compositions by James , Humphrey John Stewart , and Amy Beach .

In 1916 , Coolbrith sent copies of her poetry collections to her cousin Joseph F. Smith who publicized her sending them to him and her identity as a niece of Joseph Smith , which upset her . She told him that " To be crucified for a faith in which you believe is to be blessed . To be crucified for one in which you do not believe is to be crucified indeed . " She assured him she was not angry but she certainly was not pleased .

Coolbrith continued to write and work to support herself . From 1909 to final publication in 1917 , she painstakingly collected and edited a book of Stoddard 's poetry , writing a foreword and joining her short memorial poem " At Anchor " to verse submitted by Stoddard 's friends Joaquin Miller , George Sterling and Thomas Walsh . At the age of 80 , McCracken wrote to Coolbrith to complain to her dear friend of still having to work for a living : " The world has not used us well , Ina ; California has been ungrateful to us . Of all the hundred thousands the state pays out in pensions of one kind and another , don 't you think you should be at the head of the pensioners , and I somewhere down

below ? "

= = Death and legacy = =

In May 1923 , Coolbrith 's friend Edwin Markham found her at the Hotel Latham in New York , " very old , ill and moneyless " . He asked Lotta Crabtree to gather help for her . Crippled with arthritis , Coolbrith was brought back to California where she settled in Berkeley to be cared for by her niece . In 1924 , Mills College conferred upon her an honorary Master of Arts degree . Coolbrith published *Retrospect* : In Los Angeles in 1925 . In April 1926 , she received visitors such as her old friend , art patron Albert M. Bender , who brought young Ansel Adams to meet her . Adams made a photographic portrait of Coolbrith seated near one of her white Persian cats and wearing a large white mantilla on her head .

Coolbrith died on Leap Day , February 29 , 1928 , and was buried in Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland . Her grave (located in Plot 11 at 37 @. @ 8332 ° N 122 @. @ 2390 ° W ? / 37 @. @ 8332 ; -122.2390) was unmarked until 1986 when a literary society known as The Ina Coolbrith Circle placed a headstone . Her name is commemorated by Mount Ina Coolbrith , a 7 @, @ 900 @- @ foot (2 @, @ 400 m) peak near Beckwourth Pass in the Sierra Nevada mountains near State Route 70 . Near her Russian Hill home , Ina Coolbrith Park , established earlier as a series of terraces ascending a steep hill , received a memorial plaque placed in 1947 by the San Francisco parlors of the Native Daughters of the Golden West . The park is known for its " meditative setting and spectacular bay views " .

Wings of Sunset , a book of Coolbrith 's later poetry , was published in the year after her death . Charles Joseph MacConaghy Phillips edited the collection , and wrote a brief memorial to Coolbrith 's life .

In 1933 , the University of California established the Ina Coolbrith Memorial Poetry Prize , given annually to authors of the best unpublished poems written by undergraduate students enrolled at the University of the Pacific , Mills College , Stanford University , Santa Clara University , Saint Mary 's College of California , and any of the University of California campuses .

In 1965 , the actress June Lockhart played Coolbrith in the episode " Magic Locket " of the syndicated western television series , *Death Valley Days* , hosted by Ronald W. Reagan . In the story line , Coolbrith develops a tenuous friendship with the teen @- @ aged " Dorita Duncan " (Kathy Garver) , later the dancer Isadora Duncan . The two have identical portions of a broken locket . Sean McClory played the poet Joaquin Miller , author of *Songs of the Sierras* .

The California Writers Club (CWC) occasionally selects a member , one distinguished by " exemplary service " , to receive the Ina Coolbrith Award . In 2009 , the award was given to Joyce Krieg , editor of the CWC Bulletin . In 2011 , Kelly Harrison received the award for work on the anthology *West Winds Centennial* . In his 1997 novel *Separations* , author Oakley Hall set Coolbrith and others of her 1870 literary circle as main characters in the story . Hall was sympathetic to Coolbrith 's legacy , himself helping to develop new California writers through the forum Squaw Valley Writer 's Conference .

In 2001 , a \$ 63 @, @ 000 sculpture by Scott Donahue was placed in Oakland 's central Frank Ogawa Plaza , adjacent to Oakland City Hall . The artist said his 13 @- @ foot @- @ 2 @- @ inch (4 @. @ 01 m) polychrome patchwork statue was a composite image of 20 women , historic and current , important to Oakland , including Coolbrith , Isadora Duncan , Julia Morgan and more . Entitled *Sigame / Follow Me* , the sculpture elicited protests because the city did not follow its own process for acquiring public art and because " some people " , according to Ben Hazard , Oakland 's Craft and Cultural Arts Department leader , " just don 't like the sculpture 's looks " . By late 2004 , the sculpture had been removed to a remote former industrial site called Union Point Park on the Oakland Estuary , opening to the public in 2005 .

The City of Berkeley in 2003 installed a series of 120 poem @- @ imprinted cast @- @ iron plates flanking one block of a downtown street , to become the Addison Street Poetry Walk . Former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Hass determined that one of Coolbrith 's works should be included . A 55 @- @ pound (25 kg) plate bearing Coolbrith 's poem " *Copa De Oro* (The California Poppy) " in

raised porcelain enamel text is set into the sidewalk at the high @-@ traffic northwest corner of Addison and Shattuck Avenues .