

Ottawa Ont.



The National Gallery Of Canada,

Retrospective Exhibition Of Painting By The Group Of Seven 1919-33.

1936.



## GE OTTAWA, Ontario

The National Gallery

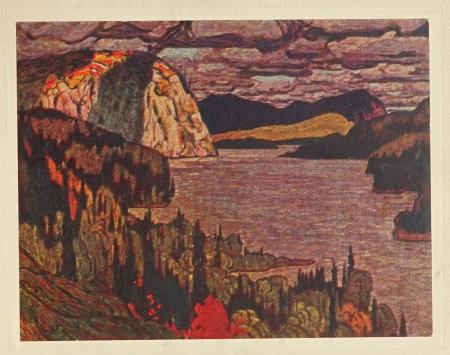
Retrospective Exhibition of Painting by the Group of Seven 1919 - 1933 1936

## 1.º Group Of Seven.

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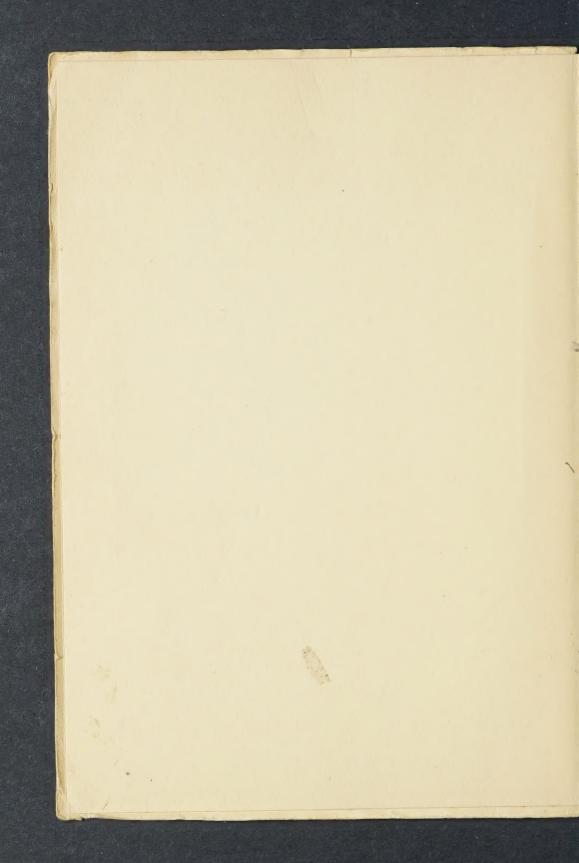
# RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION OF PAINTING BY THE

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# GROUP OF SEVEN

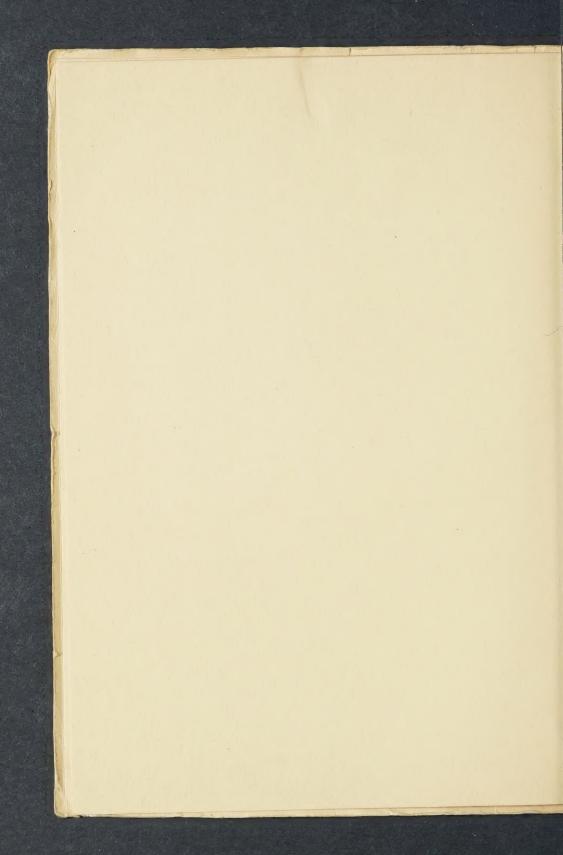
# THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA OTTAWA 1936



THE AGNES FT. TON ART CENTRE QUEEN'S UNIT AT HINGSTON

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Gift of Mr. and Mrs. André Biéler



# THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF CANADA

RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION OF PAINTING by MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF SEVEN 1919 \* 1933

> OTTAWA 1936

Cover Illustration "THE SOLEMN LAND" James E. H. MacDonald, R.C.A. 1873 - 1932

## THE FOLLOWING ARTISTS

are represented in the Exhibition:

FRANKLIN CARMICHAEL, A.R.C.A.

Alfred Joseph Casson, A.R.C.A.

LIONEL LEMOINE FITZGERALD

LAWREN S. HARRIS

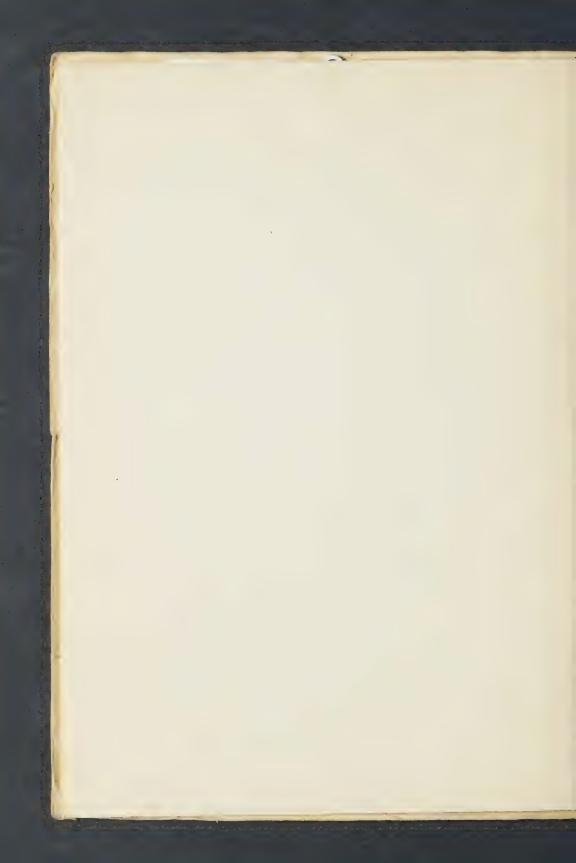
Edwin Headley Holgate, R.C.A.

Alexander Young Jackson

Arthur Lismer, A.R.C.A.

JAMES E. H. MACDONALD, R.C.A. (1873-1932)

FREDERICK HORSMAN VARLEY, A.R.C.A.



## FOREWORD

HIS exhibition of Canadian painting by the Group of Seven follows those of the work of James W. Morrice, R.C.A., and Tom Thomson, 1932, Cornelius Krieghoff, 1934, and of a group of Canadian Artists, 1935. These exhibitions carry forward the National Gallery's programme of building up the story of Canadian art as completely as possible and at the same time bring into greater prominence the work of those who have made valuable contributions to it. Other outstanding artists and movements will be dealt with in similar exhibitions as opportunity offers.

The exhibition has been made possible by the co-operation and kindness not only of the artists, but also of public institutions and private collectors, and the National Gallery is glad to take this opportunity of expressing its gratitude to the following, -

J. G. Althouse, Esq., Toronto The Art Gallery of Toronto, Toronto Baron Byng High School, Montreal Arnold O. Brigden, Esq., Winnipeg Bertram R. Brooker, Esq., Toronto M. Jean Chauvin, Montreal R. A. Daly, Esq., Toronto Mrs. H. P. DePencier, Porcupine, Ontario East York Collegiate, Toronto Ernest Ely, Esq., Toronto Huntly K. Gordon, Esq., Toronto Hart House, University of Toronto, Toronto Miss Prudence Heward, Montreal R. S. Hewton, Esq., R.C.A., Glen Miller, Ontario F. B. Housser, Esq., Toronto F. T. Jenkins, Esq., Montreal H. Mortimer Lamb, Esq., Vancouver

A. D. A. Mason, Esq., D.D.S., Toronto Thoreau MacDonald, Esq., Toronto Mrs. H. O. McCurry, Ottawa Miss Isobel McLaughlin, Toronto J. S. McLean, Esq., Toronto W. G. Mills, Esq., Toronto C. Wilfred Palmer, Esq., Montreal George L. Robinson, Esq., Toronto Miss Anne Savage, Montreal Russel S. Smart, Esq., K.C., Ottawa I. W. C. Solloway, Esq., Montreal H. S. Southam, Esq., Ottawa Harold M. Tovell, Esq., M.D., Toronto University of Alberta, Edmonton University of Toronto, Toronto Mrs. T. R. Wilson, Montreal Women's Canadian Club, Orillia, Ontario Women's Conservation Art Association, Sarnia, Ontario.

> ERIC BROWN Director



## THE GROUP OF SEVEN

"HE origin of the Group of Seven is to be found in friendships formed and ideals shared by a small group of Canadian artists in pre-war days. Arthur Lismer, F. H. Varley, Frank Carmichael and J. E. H. MacDonald were working together as designers for the firm of Grip, Limited, Toronto. Their only opportunity to paint in the country was on Sundays and holidays. Through Lawren Harris, just returned from the European art schools, they met A. Y. Jackson, who had been living in Montreal. Tom Thomson was also employed by the Grip company. They were all strongly attracted to the brilliance and splendour of Canadian landscape and the desire of the whole group was to paint it in a freer and more spontaneous way than the European tradition had so far permitted Canadian artists to do. Not all of them were Canadian born, Lismer and Varley were of English birth and parentage, but each of them felt that Canada was his homeland. Their development coincided with the growth of nationalist aspirations among Canadians, and their art reflects the spirit of the period. "Our atmosphere was clear and sharp, our colours were bright—crude, if you will—and on top of this were four changes of scenery such as they never knew in Europe", declared A. Y. Jackson. "In summer it was green, raw greens all in a tangle; in autumn it flamed with red and gold; in winter it was wrapped in a blanket of dazzling snow, and in the springtime, it roared with running water and surged with life."

At first, most of these men painted more or less according to the accepted traditions of impressionism. The French impressionists had during the nineteenth century introduced primary colours into modern art. They depicted with scientific precision the sunlit atmosphere enveloping trees and grass and flowers; they painted vivid reds and greens and blues, and shadows that were not black but combinations of correlative colours. J. W. Morrice and, more particularly, Maurice Cullen had first applied this technique to Canadian landscape and it had gained ground among the younger painters.

Yet the fleeting effects of atmosphere, which the impressionists recorded, while charming in colour, lacked definite design and solid construction. It might be necessary to break away from the naturalistic recording of atmospheric light and colour in order to achieve strong forms in composition. The men who, after the war, joined themselves together informally as the Group of Seven realized this. "We felt,"

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wrote A. Y. Jackson, "there was a rich field for landscape motifs in the north country and we frankly abandoned our attempts at literal painting and treated our subjects with the freedom of the decorative designer. We tried to emphasize colour, line and pattern, even, if need be, at the sacrifice of atmospheric qualities." That is to say, they were saying farewell to traditional impressionism. Retaining from it only a sense of rich colour, they went forward to paint Canadian landscape in broad, simple designs. In this they were following the reaction from European impressionism. But their movement was personal and sincerely Canadian. They set about with romantic thoroughness to describe the rough elements of Canadian geography, from the fishing villages of Nova Scotia and the hamlets of the lower St. Lawrence, through the lake and forest country of northern Ontario to the Rocky Mountains and the Arctic Ocean.

The original members, when the group was formed in 1919, were Lawren Harris, A. Y. Jackson, J. E. H. MacDonald, Arthur Lismer, Frank Johnston, Frank Carmichael and F. H. Varley. Frank Johnston shortly afterwards resigned. In 1926 the addition of A. J. Casson brought the number to seven again. J. E. H. MacDonald died in 1932. Edwin Holgate joined in 1931 and L. L. FitzGerald in 1932.

The effect of the Group of Seven on painting in Canada has been marked and far reaching. Like all pioneers in art, they encountered opposition from the defenders of the more traditional painting. That battle is largely over now and the work of the Group has taken an important place in the history of Canadian art. If it is true that its emphasis has been more on the sterner aspects of the Canadian scene than upon humanity, it leaves later movements further ground to break in making equally important contributions along more humanistic lines.

The Group of Seven was disbanded in 1933 after fourteen years of activity during which seven exhibitions were held in Toronto, Montreal and the United States.

## FRANKLIN CARMICHAEL, A.R.C.A.

Born at Orillia, Ontario. Studied at l'Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts, Antwerp, and the Ontario College of Art, Toronto. Elected a member of the O.S.A., 1917, and A.R.C.A., 1935. A member of the Staff of the Ontario College of Art since 1933.

- 1. THE HILLTOP
- 2. THE WHITEFISH HILLS (Water-colour) Property of the National Gallery of Canada.
- 3. SNOW CLOUDS Lent by Hart House, Toronto.
- 4. A NORTHERN VILLAGE Lent by the Women's Canadian Club, Orillia.

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- 5. SPRING
- 6. AUTUMN
- 7. HILLTOPS
- 8. RED PINES
- 9. REFLECTIONS
- 10. LEAF PATTERN
- 11. CRANBERRY LAKE
- 12. MINES, COBALT
- 13. STILL EVENING
- 14. SILVERY TANGLE
- 15. LAKE WAHAGISHIK
- 16. AUTUMN HILLSIDE
- 17. BAY OF ISLANDS
- 18. IN THE NICKEL BELT
- 19. THE WHITEFISH HILLS
- 20. UPPER OTTAWA, NEAR MATTAWA
- 21. NORTH SHORE, LAKE SUPERIOR
- 22. EVENING, NORTH SHORE LAKE SUPERIOR
- 23. A NORTHERN VILLAGE

Lent by the Artist

#### ALFRED JOSEPH CASSON, A.R.C.A.

Born at Toronto, Ontario. Studied under Harry Britton, A.R.C.A. Elected a member of the O.S.A., 1923, and of the Society of Canadian Painter-Etchers. Elected A.R.C.A., 1926.

- 24. CLEARING
- 25. APPROACHING STORM, LAKE SUPERIOR (Water-colour) Property of the National Gallery of Canada.
- 26. ICE HUMMOCKS
- 27. PARRY SOUND
- 28. THUNDERSTORM
- 29. MILL HOUSES
- 30. ONTARIO VILLAGE
- 31. BLACKSMITH SHOP
- 32. OLD HOUSE ON PARRY SOUND
- 33. LAKE KUSHOG, EARLY MORNING
- 34. CHURCH AT MAGNETAWAN
- 35. MILL IN WINTER (Water-colour)
- 36. WINTER AFTERNOON (Water-colour)
- 37. IN ERIM, ONTARIO (Water-colour)
- 38. SAPLINGS, AUTUMN (Water-colour)
- 39. ROAD NEAR LLOYDTOWN (Water-colour)
- 40. EARLY SUMMER, NORVAL (Water-colour)
- 41. NORTHERN ONTARIO FARM (Water-colour)
- 42. RAPIDS ON THE MAGNETAWAN (Water-colour)
- 43. ON THE MAGNETAWAN (Water-colour) Lent by the Artist.

## LIONEL LeMOINE FITZGERALD

Born at Winnipeg, Manitoba. Studied at the Keszthelyi School of Art, Winnipeg, and at the Art Students' League, New York. Principal of The Winnipeg School of Art.

- 44. DOC SNIDER'S HOUSE (Presented by P. D. Ross, Esq., Ottawa) Property of the National Gallery of Canada.
- 45. ASSINIBOINE RIVER, SILVER HEIGHTS Lent by Arnold O. Brigden, Esq., Winnipeg.
- 46. STILL LIFE Lent by Bertram Brooker, Esq., Toronto.
- 47. SUMMER Lent by Hart House, Toronto.
- 48. STILL LIFE
- 49. NUDE STUDY

#### DRAWINGS

- 50. NUDE STUDY
- 51. PRAIRIE
- 52. PRAIRIE
- 53. PRAIRIE
- 54. WHEATFIELD
- 55. MAPLE TREE
- 56. GARDEN POOL
- 57. DAIRY FARM
- 58. ST. NINETTE
- 59. PEPPERS FARM
- 60. RUTLAND STREET
- 61. CORNER OF BARN
- 62. ASSINIBOINE PARK
- 63. CHICKEN HOUSE AND BARN Lent by the Artist.

## LAWREN S. HARRIS

Born at Brantford, Ontario. Studied in Germany and in other European countries. Member of the O.S.A. Awarded Gold Medal at the Sesquicentennial Exposition, Philadelphia, 1926, and a prize of five hundred dollars at the Baltimore Pan-American Exhibition, 1931.

- 64. SHACKS
- 65. NORTH SHORE, LAKE SUPERIOR
- 66. AFTERNOON SUN, LAKE SUPERIOR Property of the National Gallery of Canada.
- 67. ABOVE LAKE SUPERIOR
- 68. DR. SALEM BLAND Lent by The Art Gallery of Toronto.
- 69. ALGOMA SWAMP
  - Lent by Harold M. Tovell, Esq., M.D., Toronto.
- 70. BYLOT ISLAND
- 71. NORTHERN LAKE
- 72. MORNING, LAKE SUPERIOR
- 73. GREY DAY IN TOWN
- 74. LAKE SUPERIOR
- 75. ONTARIO HILL TOWN
- 76. LAKE AND MOUNTAINS
- 77. LAKE, NORTH LABRADOR
- 78. SPRING, GRIMSBY PARK
- 79. HILLS ON LAKE SUPERIOR
- 80. TONQUIN VALLEY IN SNOW
- 81. ICEBERGS, DISCO ISLAND
- 82. BLACK COURT, HALIFAX
- 83. BEAVER DROWNED LAKE, ALGOMA
- 84. MINERS' HOUSES, GLACE BAY
- 85. ICEBERGS AND MOUNTAINS, GREENLAND
- 86. JANUARY THAW, EDGE OF TOWN
- 87. WINTER MORNING ON A BACK STREET
- ICE HOUSE, COLDWELL, LAKE SUPERIOR Lent by the Artist.

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## EDWIN HEADLEY HOLGATE, R.C.A.

Born at Allandale, Ontario. Studied at the Montreal Art Association under William Brymner, R.C.A., and in Paris under Lucien Simon, René Ménard and Adolph Milman. Elected A.R.C.A., 1934, and R.C.A., 1935.

- 89. SUZY
- 90. NUDE IN LANDSCAPE Property of the National Gallery of Canada.
- 91. INTERIOR
- 92. NUDE IN LANDSCAPE Lent by The Art Gallery of Toronto.
- 93. M. JEAN CHAUVIN Lent by M. Jean Chauvin, Montreal.
- 94. GARDE FORESTIER Lent by Hart House, Toronto.
- 95. LAURENTIAN LANDSCAPE Lent by C. Wilfred Palmer, Esg., Montreal.
- 96. THE LUMBERJACK Lent by The Women's Conservation Art Association, Sarnia.
- 97. TOTEM POLES OF GITSEGUIKLAS
- 98. WOMAN KNITTING, LABRADOR INTERIOR Lent by the Artist.

#### ALEXANDER YOUNG JACKSON

Born at Montreal, P.Q. Studied first at the evening classes of the Council of Arts and Manufactures, Montreal, under Edmund Dyonnet, R.C.A.; later at the Art Institute, Chicago, under Clute and Richardson; and at the Académie Julian in Paris, under Jean-Paul Laurens. Elected a member of the O.S.A., 1914; A.R.C.A., 1914; and R.C.A., 1919. Resigned R.C.A., 1932. Served as an official artist for the Canadian War Memorials. Represented in the National Gallery of British Art, London

- 99. EARLY SPRING, QUEBEC
- THE BEOTHIC AT THE BACHE POST, ELLESMERE ISLAND 100. Property of the National Gallery of Canada.
- 101. LAURENTIAN HILLS
- Lent by J. G. Althouse, Esq., Toronto. 102. BARNS
- WINTER, CHARLEVOIX COUNTY 103.
- Lent by The Art Gallery of Toronto.
- 104. ST. FIDÈLE
- Lent by the Baron Byng High School, Montreal. 105. CASNASHENE LAKE
- Lent by R. A. Daly, Esq., Toronto. NORTH SHORE, BAFFIN ISLAND 106
- Lent by the East York Collegiate, Toronto. 107. OCTOBER MORNING, ALGOMA
- Lent by Hart House, Toronto.
- FRENCH RIVER 108.
  - Lent by Miss Prudence Heward, Montreal.
- A LAKE IN THE HILLS Lent by R. S. Hewton, Esg., R.C.A., Glen Miller, Ontario.
- 110. WINTER ROAD
- Lent by F. B. Housser, Esg., Toronto. THE ST. LAWRENCE IN WINTER 111.
- Lent by F. T. Jenkins, Esq., Montreal.
- 112. NIGHT, PINE ISLAND
- Lent by Mrs. H. O. McCurry, Ottawa. 113. RED CEDAR
- Lent by J. S. McLean, Esq., Toronto.
- WINTER, GEORGIAN BAY 114
- Lent by George L. Robinson, Esq., Toronto. ROAD TO BAIE ST. PAUL 115.
- Lent by Miss Anne Savage, Montreal.
- ST. TITE DES CATS 116.
- Lent by Russel S. Smart, Esq., K.C., Ottawa.
- LE CALVAIRE 117.
- 118. RED BARN, PETITE RIVIERE
- Lent by I. W. C. Solloway, Esq., Montreal.
- 119 ALGOMA, NOVEMBER
- SUMMER DAY, LAURENTIANS Lent by H. S. Southam, Esq., Ottawa. 120. 121. MAPLES AND BIRCH
- Lent by Mrs. T. R. Wilson, Montreal.
- LABRADOR COAST 122.
- TERRE SAUVAGE 123.
- 124. PANGNIRTUNG, BAFFIN ISLAND
- INDIAN HOME 125.
  - Lent by the Artist.

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## ARTHUR LISMER, A.R.C.A.

Born at Sheffield, England. Studied first at the Sheffield School of Art, where he was awarded a scholarship; later at l'Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts, Antwerp. Came to Canada in 1911. A member of the O.S.A., and the Society of Graphic Art, Toronto. Elected A.R.C.A., 1919. Vice-Principal of the Ontario College of Art, Toronto, 1920-1926. Represented in the collection of the Ontario Provincial Government. Worked for the Canadian War Memorials at Halifax, 1917-18.

- 126. SEPTEMBER GALE Property of the National Gallery of Canada.
- 127. ROCK, PINE AND SUNLIGHT Lent by The Art Gallery of Toronto.
- 128. ISLES OF SPRUCE Lent by Hart House, Toronto.
- 129. OLD PINE Lent by F. B. Housser, Esq., Toronto.
- 130. LITTLE MOUNTAIN LAKE, ONTARIO Lent by H. S. Southam, Esq., Ottawa.
- 131. QUEBEC VILLAGE
- 132. QUEBEC UPLANDS
- 133. SUNLIGHT IN A WOOD
- 134. McGREGOR BAY ISLANDS
- 135. NORTHERN TOWN, MATTAWA
- 136. A NOVA SCOTIA HARBOUR
- 137. OLD MILL, FRENCH CANADA
- 138. LITTLE HAVEN, NOVA SCOTIA
- 139. PIC ISLAND, LAKE SUPERIOR
- 140. RAIN IN THE NORTH COUNTRY
- 141. A GEORGIAN BAY BACKWATER
- 142. HAPPY ISLES, GEORGIAN BAY
- 143. OLD PINES, McGREGOR BAY
- 144. SOUTH WIND, McGREGOR BAY
- 145. QUEBEC FARM, ILE D'ORLEANS
- 146. NOVA SCOTIA FISHING VILLAGE
- 147. MORNING SUNLIGHT, GEORGIAN BAY
- 148. EVENING SILHOUETTE, GEORGIAN BAY
- 149. CATHEDRAL MOUNTAIN, CANADIAN ROCKIES
- 150. OCTOBER ON THE NORTH SHORE, LAKE SUPERIOR Lent by the Artist.

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### JAMES E. H. MacDONALD, R.C.A. 1873-1932

Born at Durham, England, of Canadian parents. Came to Canada in 1887. Studied at the Hamilton Art School and the Ontario School of Art, Toronto. Elected a member of the O.S.A., 1909; A.R.C.A., 1912, and R.C.A., 1931. Principal of the Ontario College of Art, 1928-1932.

- 151. THE SOLEMN LAND
- 152. AUTUMN IN ALGOMA (Presented by P. D. Ross, Esq., Ottawa) Property of the National Gallery of Canada.
- 153. BEAVER DAM
- 154. MIST PHANTASY
- 155. FALLS ON THE MONTREAL RIVER, ALGOMA Lent by The Art Gallery of Toronto.
- 156. GLEAMS ON THE HILLS

Lent by Bertram R. Brooker, Esq., Toronto.

- 157. GOAT RANGE
  - Lent by Mrs. H. P. DePencier, Porcupine, Ontario.
- 158. OCTOBER SHOWER GLEAM
  - Lent by Hart House, Toronto.
- 159. THE LITTLE FALL

Lent by F. B. Housser, Esq., Toronto.

160. LEAVES IN THE BROOK

Lent by A. D. A. Mason, Esq., D.D.S., Toronto.

- 161. YOUNG CANADA
  - Lent by Miss Isobel McLaughlin, Toronto.
- 162. MOUNTAIN SNOWFALL

Lent by W. G. Mills, Esq., Toronto.

- 163. ALGOMA HILLTOP
  - Lent by H. S. Southam, Esq., Ottawa.
- 164. RAPIDS
- 165. THE ELEMENTS
- 166. THE WILD DUCKS
- 167. MOUNTAIN CHAOS
- 168. AUTUMN COLOUR
- 169. ALGOMA WATERFALL
- 170. ATLANTIC SHORE
- 171. FOREST WILDERNESS
- 172. THE TANGLED GARDEN
- 173. CATHEDRAL MOUNTAIN
- 174. THE FRONT OF WINTER
- 175. RAIN IN THE MOUNTAINS Lent by Thoreau MacDonald, Esq., Toronto.

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## FREDERICK HORSMAN VARLEY, A.R.C.A.

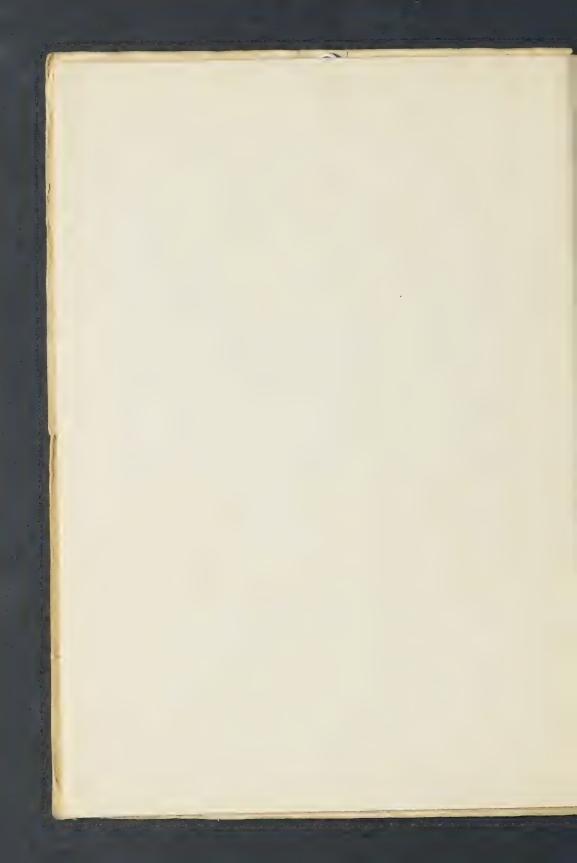
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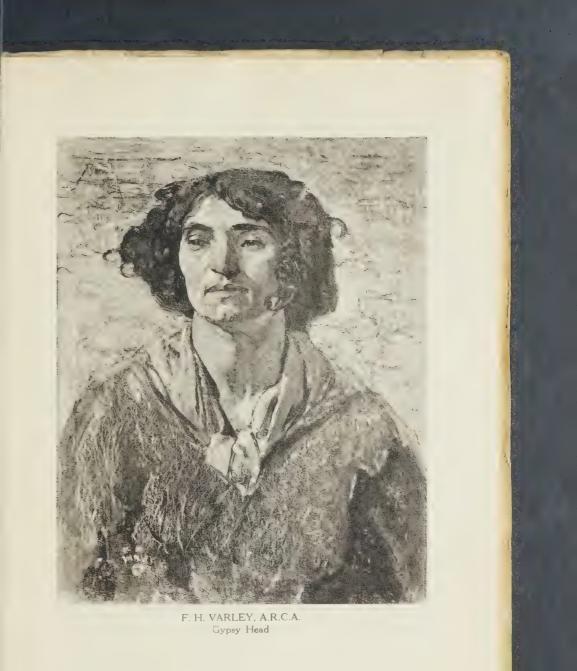
176.	JOHN
177.	GEORGIAN BAY
	Property of the National Gallery of Canada.
178.	MRS. DALY AND CHILDREN
	Lent by R. A. Daly, Esq., Toronto.
179.	GYPSY BLOOD
180.	MRS. ELY
	Lent by Ernest Ely, Esq., Toronto.
181.	MRS. GORDON
	Lent by Huntly K. Gordon, Esq., Toronto.
182.	HON. VINCENT MASSEY
	Lent by Hart House, Toronto.
183.	GYPSY HEAD
	Lent by H. Mortimer Lamb, Esq., Vancouver.
184.	SUNFLOWER GIRL
185.	WOMAN AND BABE
	Lent by A. D. A. Mason, Esq., D.D.S., Toronto.
186.	IRVING H. CAMERON, M.B., F.R.C.S., LL.D.
	Lent by the University of Toronto.
187.	CHANCELLOR STUART
	Lent by the University of Alberta, Edmonton.
188.	WOMAN
189.	NORMA
	DHÂRÂNA
191.	THE CLOUD
192.	KATHERINE
193.	OPEN WINDOW
194.	WINTER TIME
195.	SELF PORTRAIT
196.	COMPLIMENTARIES
	PORTRAIT, GREEN AND GOLD
	DECORATIVE PANEL—IMMIGRANTS
199.	SUMMER NIGHT IN CAMP
	Lent by the Artist

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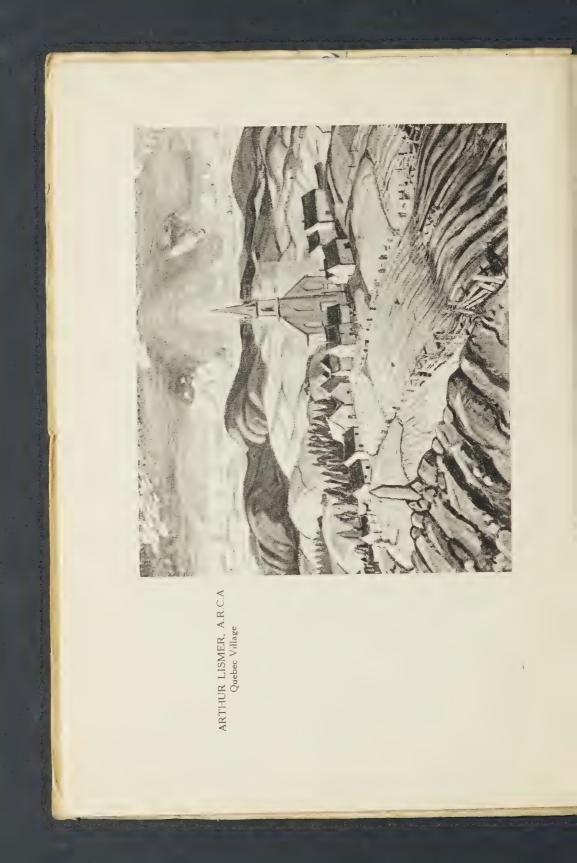
# REPRODUCTIONS





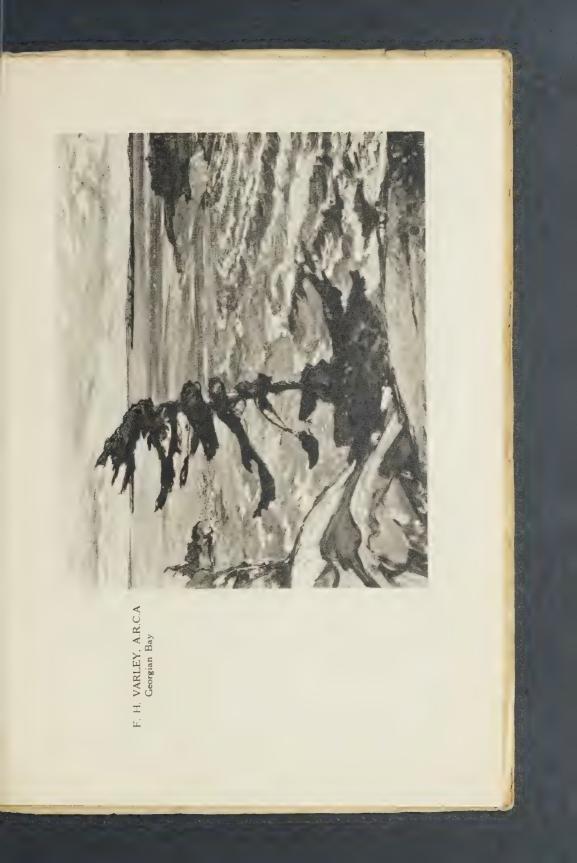


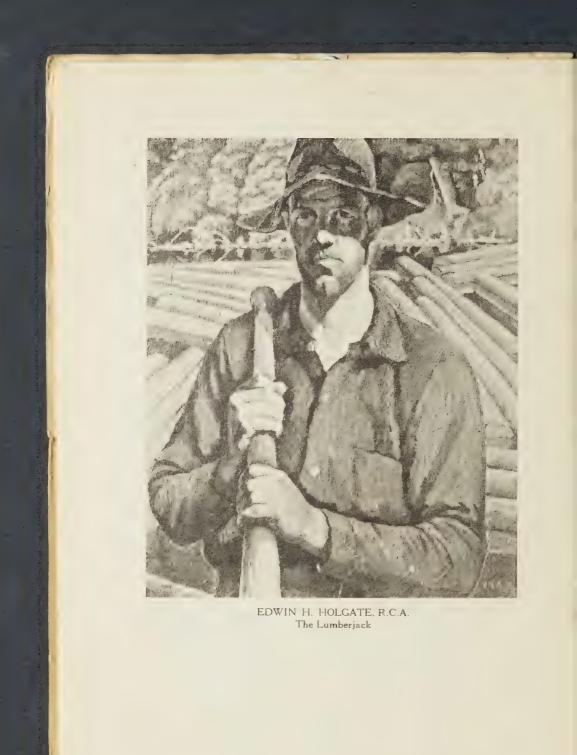














F. H. VARLEY, A.R C.A. Irving H. Cameron, M.B., F.R.C.S., LL.D

