

Semi-Annual Exhibition of the Vancouver Sketch Club

(By Bertha Lewis.)

British Columbia is in truth an artists' paradise. The pictures at the mid-winter exhibition reveal the fact that in this province the painter finds in nature a poetry of contrasts in tints and textures, studies and themes; the delicacy of flower petals in contrast to chilly glaciers hemmed in by rocky walls; space, light, color in marine views, in contrast to deep shadows and gleams of sunlight among the boles of giant trees; depth, mystery, emotion in the changing relationship of cloud and mountain, in calm or storm, upon a misty morning or after rain. And he who delights in rich emblazonry finds his desire fulfilled in the broad splashes of gorgeous color in broom-bordered field, meadows of Alpine flowers, and sunsets.

In British Columbia there are countless beautiful lakes. So capricious are some of these lakes, their moods changing so rapidly and flowing into each other with such dissolving effects, that it requires a nimble mind and an active brush to capture a portion of the loveliness before it fades into a dull and sullen mood.

There were nearly two hundred pictures on exhibition, groups of china painting, hand woven rugs, Batick work, decorative shades, rich embroideries, Aztec feather work, and modelling. The writer regrets that limited space permits special mention of only a few examples from each group.

There were a number of attractive flower studies—"Yellow Roses," by Mrs. A. M. Winlow, is a picture poem of subtle light, splendidly handled, and one of the best things at the exhibition.

"Peonies," by Mrs. Verral, is an exquisite composition of dewy flowers.

In the realm of still life there is a beautiful fruit study by Mrs. Maw. And a delightful interior by Mrs. M. Pollock.

Among a group of well-done animal pictures are: "Lo Hop Toy," by Miss D. Thompson; "Setters," by Mrs. F. Cox; "Champion," by Mr. G. Thorn.

Some ambitious compositions in figure-painting are: "Wood Nymphs," by Miss M. Peck; "Portrait," by Mr. J. Scott, A.B.W.S.; "Study of Bermuda Children," by Mrs. E. Peplar; and "Studies from Life," by Mrs. Creery.

In the larger realm of landscape subjects are: "Mount Babel, Moraine Lake," by Mr. T. Fripp—an artist who excels in interpreting the stormy aspects of nature, the wind-swept and cloud-draped wild glacial regions of British Columbia; "The Edge of Burnaby Lake," a restful picture, poetic in color and atmosphere, by Mr. R. S. Tytler; "A Breezy Day," by Major R. E. Leslie; "Queen's Beach, Jervis Inlet," full of atmosphere, by Mr. D. McEvoy; "Dawn of Day," a lovely picture, by Major Fowler; "June," by Miss M. Pollock, a picture with a fairy-like foreground of dandelion clocks; "View at Savary Island," by Miss M. Wake; "Douglas Fir," by Miss M. Shearman; "Northumberland Coast," by Mrs. A. J. Pilkington; "The Coming Storm," full of life, by Mrs. Gilpin; "Venetian Scenes," by Miss W. Ross; "The Lost Lagoon," by Miss Conran; "Early Spring," by Miss Wrigley; "Caulfeilds," by Miss Beldon—a harmonious composition; "Savary Island," by Miss H. Bachelor; "Beech Trees," by Mrs. Hartley; "Marble Head," by Mrs. Bissett; "Sister Marguerite," by Mrs. A. M. Stephen—a bust in plasticine, remarkable for the spir-

itual expression of the face, and the artistic handling of the robes of the order.

Artistic rugs and rich embroideries by Mrs. Hartley; Batick and hand-painted shades, by Mrs. C. B. Jones.

A special feature of the Vancouver Sketch Club is an exhibition of Japanese art. Mr. Kawhoo Ishii, a young and promising Japanese artist, is visiting this city. In the year 1917 he took a prize at the Royal Academy of Japan. For some time this artist has been travelling and painting in Canada. It is interesting to note the underlying principle of Japanese art. The Buddhist priests have taught the Japanese to realize the spiritual essence of things as the essential, and the outward and visible world as merely a temporary and changing phase. In their art the Japanese aim not at a literal transcription of nature, but at an expression of its inner significance. The pictures Mr. Kawhoo Ishii is showing are remarkable for their simplicity and breadth of composition and coloring.

The success of this exhibition is due to the splendid organizing ability of the Sketch Club's enthusiastic secretary, Mrs. Gilpin, and her assistants, and the hearty co-operation of the members in sending in their work.

The social gatherings at the Sketch Club this season have been the means of promoting a spirit of good fellowship among the devotees of art.

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