

SALUTE TO VARLEY

The National Gallery of Canada is saluting the late Frederick Horsman Varley, considered by many critics as the most versatile member of the Group of Seven, with a small retrospective exhibition selected from its permanent collections of oils, watercolors and sketches. Though he was competent at landscapes, Varley preferred doing portraits. Nevertheless, Varley's most famous painting is the landscape "Stormy Weather, Georgian Bay", with its lone pine clinging to the rocks against the wind.



Self-portrait

Frederick Varley (1881-1969) was already a legendary figure when he died early last September at the age of 88. Born in Yorkshire, England, he remained a Yorkshireman in spirit all his life, independent and single-minded. His vitality even in his eighties led his physician to remark that "no other man of his age could live so hard and get away with it".

The Toronto photographer Peter Varley, son of the artist, estimates that his father painted or sketched about 5,000 works. Peter is at present making an inventory of his father's works with the help of a Canada Council grant. He does not expect to find more than a fraction of these works; for one thing, sketches are so often unsigned that many owners remain unaware of the artist's identity. Although Varley was convinced that his work would some day be valuable, he did not hesitate to pay his rent or buy a meal with a drawing, or to leave paintings behind when he moved. When he signed a work, it was sometimes with a thumbprint.

"He was rich only in his art," observed Arthur Lismer, a co-founder of the Group of Seven, commenting on Varley's financial status. Lismer died last March (see *Canadian Weekly Bulletin*, Vol. 24, No. 18, April 30, 1969, P. 5). The two surviving founding members of the Group are Lawren Harris, 84, of Vancouver, and A.Y. Jackson, 87, of Kleinburg, Ontario.

EPIC ARCTIC VOYAGE ENDS

Transport Minister Don Jamieson flew to Halifax recently to congratulate the crew of the icebreaker CCGS *John A. Macdonald* on their return from a historic two-month voyage through the Northwest Passage to the Alaskan oil-fields and back with the giant United States tanker *Manhattan*, which had been conducting tests to determine the size and power of ships required to make regular voyages through the difficult and dangerous Arctic waters.

The *Manhattan* visited Halifax with the *John A. Macdonald* as a gesture of gratitude for the assistance given by the icebreaker and other services rendered by the federal Department of Transport. According to Stanley B. Haas, head of Humble Oil Company's *Manhattan* tests program, satisfactory completion of the project would not have been possible without the aid of the Canadian ship and the icebreaking experience of her master, Captain Paul Fournier.

Help was also provided by the department's Meteorological Branch, which provided continuous reconnaissance from aircraft that kept the convoy informed of the ice conditions that lay ahead.

The United States Coast Guard also provided icebreaker support, but during the outward portion of the round trip of some 8,000 miles engine defects forced the American icebreaker *Northwind* to leave the convoy. The *Manhattan* and the *Macdonald* completed the crucial part of the western transit alone. The *Northwind* later was replaced by the U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker *Staten Island*.

STAMP PROGRAM FOR 1970

A change in color from orange to black for Canada's 6¢ regular-issue stamp and commemorative stamps honoring the Northwest Territories centennial and Louis Riel have been incorporated into the Canada Post Office 1970 stamp program.

The change in color for the 6¢ regular issue will be made on January 7, 1970; the issue will be available from that date. In its new color, it will have superior qualities for detection by the electronic recognition systems employed in new facer-cancelling equipment.

The design of the 1970 stamps represents the first results of the Design Advisory Committee, which has been responsible for employing several prominent Canadian artists in the designing of postage stamps.