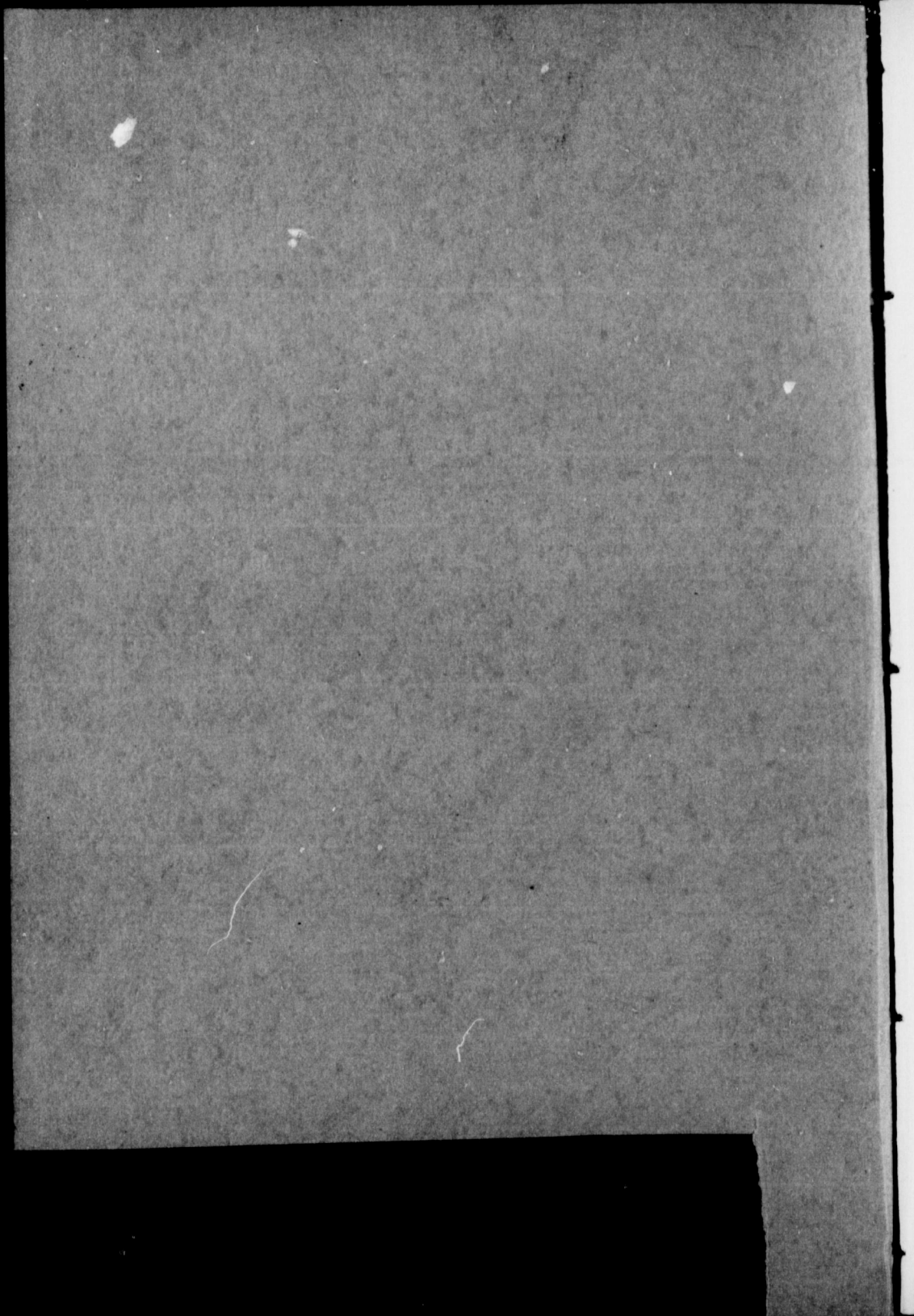


1897-98

Ontario
Society of Artists

The President's
26th Annual Report
1898





Knowles, F. McG.....144 Yonge St., Toronto
 Kelly, J. D.....17 Classic Ave., Toronto
 Manly, C. M.....York Chambers, Toronto St., Toronto
 Martin, H.....56 Gloucester St., Toronto
 Martin, T. Mower.....Crescent Rd., Rosedale, Toronto
 Martin, Miss E. May.....Crescent Rd., Rosedale, Toronto
 Matthews, M.....Bracondale, Toronto
 Muntz, Miss L.....3 Rue Bara, Paris, France
 O'Brien, L. R.....20 College St., Toronto
 Revell, Wm.....618 Ontario St. Toronto
 Reid, G. A.....Yonge St. Arcade, Toronto
 Reid, Mrs. M. H.....Yonge St. Arcade, Toronto
 Rolph, J. T.....158 St. George St., Toronto
 Sherwood, W. A.....Yonge St. Arcade, Toronto
 Spurr, Miss G. E.....248 Gerrard St. East, Toronto
 Smith, W.....St. Thomas
 Staples, O. P.....7 Maitland Place, Toronto
 Tully, Miss S. S.....176 Roxborough Ave., Toronto
 Verner, F. A.....16 Edith Villas, W. Kensington, London, Eng.
 Williamson, A. C.....Paris
 Wickson, P. G.....Paris, Ont.
 Wilkinson, T. H.....155 Harrison St., Toronto

Honorary Retired Members

Forbes, J. C.....N. Y.
 Jacobi, O. R.....care James Smith, Esq., Summerhill Ave., Toronto

Architects and Designers

Hahn, Gustav.....21 Marlboro Ave., Toronto
 Hovenden, R. J.....Toronto
 Lennox, E. J.....Cor. King and Yonge Sts., Toronto
 Radford, J. A.....Mail Building, Toronto
 Smith, James.....Summerhill Ave., Toronto

Sculptors

McCarthy, Hamilton.....28 Toronto St., Toronto

Deceased Members

Berthon, G. T.	Hannaford, M.
Baigent, R.	Humme, J.
Cresswell, W. N.	Howard, J. G.
Edson, A.	Peel, P.
Fowler, D.	Perré, H.
Fraser, J. A.	Reford, W.
Griffith, J.	Storm, W. G.
Hock, J.	White, G. H.
Hancock, H.	Whale, R.

Ontario Society of Artists

❁ 1898 ❁

The President's Twenty-sixth Annual Report



THE period of business depression (which fortunately now appears to be at an end) has been one of especial strain, not only upon the members of the Ontario Society of Artists, but upon artists almost everywhere.

Canadian art lovers whose tastes impel them to acquire works of art have been forced to forego the pleasure of buying except in a very small way, and many of those who had acquired collections of pictures have been obliged to place them on the market by means of auction sales, which, including sales made by local artists and sales of imported works, has had the effect of reducing the prices received to a minimum, and rendered the private disposal of pictures almost an impossibility. It has been, in short, a greatly increased output met by a much diminished fund for purchase.

The effect of such conditions on the artist must always be a retarding one, and that this has been the effect on our artists must be acknowledged, but it is a matter for congratulation that the work of our Society during the past year shows that its members are not discouraged, and, although making a up-hill fight, there is a strong effort being made to raise the standard of the work.

That there are signs of increased public appreciation of native art is evidenced by the fact that the Education Department of Ontario has found it desirable to make an agreement

with the Society to provide a collection of pictures by its members to be placed in the Provincial Museum, from which collection works to the amount of \$800 are selected during the year. There can be no doubt that the influence of this patronage by the Ontario Government is already being felt, and will stimulate our work very beneficially. Although the amount expended is too small to buy works which will adequately represent our artists in a Provincial Art Gallery, we must recognize that small beginnings can only be expected, and as time goes on a larger amount may be devoted to the purpose and improvements made in the method of selection.

The Toronto Guild of Civic Art, whose organization was welcomed in the report of last year, is proving to be a valuable movement in our midst. As it practically constitutes a federation of artists, architects and art-loving citizens, organized for the purpose of stimulating and guarding municipal art, it enables those who desire to do so to take part in art projects for the beautifying of the city. The exhibition of the Copley Prints, made under their auspices, and for which the Society loaned their Gallery, was an illustration of what has been done in recent years in cities of the United States, and which it is desirable that we should emulate. It is such an organization which should in time help to solve the problem of providing a permanent Art Museum and suitable galleries for our Society, besides acting in the capacity of arbitrators where a purely professional body is unable to act.

Owing to the failure for the time being of the proposition to decorate the walls of the Council Chamber in the new city buildings, your President, who was mainly responsible for the suggestion, offered to decorate a portion of the Main Entrance Hall at his own expense, provided a committee appointed by the Toronto Guild of Civic Art should be made sponsors for the work. This offer was accepted by the City Council and the work is well under way. The Guild have appointed the following professional and non-professional men as a committee :—Messrs. Darling, O'Brien, Grier, Prof. Mavor, Rev. Prof. Clark and its President Mr. B. E. Walker. It is earnestly hoped that this initial work in the decoration of our new public buildings will meet with sufficient approval to induce its continuation, and thus give our painters an oppor-

tunity of exercising their talents on a larger scale than heretofore and bring our art and its influence into closer touch with the daily life of the people.

The Annual Exhibition of 1897 was held with about the usual loss. This being the fate of all modern Art Exhibitions, which depend on the purely artistic character of the exhibition to attract support, it was to be expected; but, considering the economical manner with which our exhibitions are conducted, the showing in attendance was not good, and indicates that the unfavorable situation and unattractiveness of our Galleries contributes to this failure to secure public attention.

Two pictures, of the value of \$100 each, one by Mr. Manly and one by Mrs. Reid, were selected for the provincial collection in accordance with the terms of the Government grant to the Society.

The Toronto Industrial Exhibition Art Department was under the auspices of the Ontario Society of Artists, as has been the case for some years past. A special effort was made to elevate the exhibit to a higher plane, and without the detraction of special separated exhibits. The Gallery was redecorated under the direction of the Society, and the plan adopted of hanging pictures with spaces between, which very much improved the appearance. Much remains, however, to be done in this direction. There were 306 exhibits, some of which were loans especially procured, and the thanks of the Society are due to Messrs. E. F. B. Johnston, W. R. Johnston, G. A. Case, J. G. Kent, J. D. Wright, and also to Mrs. Schreiber, for their kindness in loaning works from their collections. Besides these loans some English and French pictures were procured from Mr. Hicks, of Montreal. This exhibition undoubtedly constitutes one of the most valuable functions of the Society, as it reaches a great mass of the people from all parts of the province. It is hoped that a more suitable Gallery may be built for the Art Department in the near future.

The exhibition of the Royal Canadian Academy has been held this year in Toronto, the Gallery of the Ontario Society having been used for the purpose. The majority of the exhibitors were our own members.

Other exhibitions held in different places at which our members were represented were the Loan Exhibition, under the direction of Mr. Tees, at Winnipeg; the Y.M.C.A. Loan, held in Toronto; the Woman's Art Club, of London; and the Art Association, of Montreal; besides which several of our members have been represented in the Royal Academy, London; the Paris Salon, and National Academy of Design, New York. The Society is glad to learn of an active and energetic Art League in Hamilton making an annual exhibition.

The 26th Annual Exhibition now open is of high average merit, but is smaller than usual, owing to the recent Academy exhibition reducing the number and size of available works. A departure has been made in the hanging, by which the works of each artist are grouped together. The result seems to be a gain in the appearance of the work, and a consequent advantage to the artist. The total number of exhibits is 179, part of which is made up of architectural drawings, drawings for illustration, and a group of 40-minute sketches by the Saturday night composition class.

His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario has consented to become an honorary patron of the Society, and has graced the recent opening of the exhibition with his presence.

There are no additions to the membership to report, several applicants not securing election at the last annual meeting. Mr. S. M. Jones' resignation has recently been accepted. Five candidates for admission to the Society are before you for consideration.

It is with deep regret that the death of John A. Fraser, one of our earliest members and founders, is recorded.

During the year the revision of the Constitution was undertaken. The Executive Committee was instructed to prepare a draft. This was done with great care, and was finally adopted by the Society with a few changes.

On account of the revision of the Constitution, and of certain legal vagueness as to the earlier incorporation of the Society, it was found desirable to seek reincorporation. This has been completed under the Act respecting Benevolent, Provident and other Societies.

The life class, held two evenings of the week under the combined management of the Royal Canadian Academy and the Society, has been very well attended. The privileges of this class are extended to all duly qualified students, as well as to members of both Societies.

The Saturday Night Club has been active as their work now in the exhibition shows. It constitutes an excellent exercise in original composition.

The Central Ontario School of Art and Design, in affiliation with this Society and so intimately associated in the same building, have shown their energy and vitality in an exhibition just held. The attendance has been above the previous year and the financial returns are correspondingly satisfactory. There is the usual loss and deficit, and on account of the pressing necessity for new casts and other materials it is hoped that the city will agree to increase the grant which the directors are applying for. The school is successful as heretofore in obtaining the highest proportion of awards in all classes and in winning the gold and silver medals.

The Society is to be congratulated on its excellent financial condition as shown by the accounts of the year and the auditor's report now laid before you.

Ontario Society of Artists

Revenue and Expenditure for Year Ending April 30th, 1898

REVENUE

Balance at credit Profit and Loss, May 1, 1897	\$2459 02
Government Grant	500 00
Members' Fees	400 00
Rent :	
Central Ontario School of Art	\$400 00
Royal Canadian Academy	250 00
	650 00
Art Union Prize Account	11 25
Interest (Home Savings and Loan Co.)	47 67
Industrial Exhibition :	
Exhibition Association, Annual Grant	\$1000 00
" " for Amateur Department	35 00
Catalogues	90 60
Commission	3 20
	1128 80
Profit and Loss Account :	
Collected on old Art Union Account	\$45 00
Commission	50
	45 50
	\$5242 24

EXPENDITURE

Art Gallery, nett	\$150 46
Government Grant :	
Mrs. Reid	\$100 00
C. M. Manly	100 00
	200 00
Members' Fees, Accounts written off	43 00
Rent, Canada Life Insurance Co.	1000 00
Annual Exhibition (25th), nett loss	104 25
	1147 71
Carried forward	\$1497 71

Ontario Society of Artists

Brought forward		\$1497 71
Industrial Exhibition :		
Exhibitors	\$305 00	
Hanging Committee	100 00	
Secretary's Allowance	100 00	
Wages Account	145 75	
W. J. Matthews	57 83	
W. T. Hearn	38 25	
Hicks & Co., Express, \$60; Packing, \$21.61..	81 61	
Insurance	26 89	
Catalogues and Tickets	56 00	
Sundries	21 05	
		932 38
Profit and Loss Account—Miss Spurr, sale of picture		10 00
General Expenses :		
Secretary's Salary	\$200 00	
Auditor's Fees	35 00	
R. J. Hovenden, sign	22 20	
Partitions in Gallery	68 50	
Sketching at Weston	10 00	
Printing and Stationery :		
Constitution and By-laws	\$17 25	
Reports	20 75	
Invitation Cards, etc	10 00	
Postage	17 00	
		65 00
		400 70
Balance at Credit Profit and Loss		2401 45
		\$5242 24

Examined and found correct.

JAS. SMITH.

May 13th, 1898.

Assets and Liabilities

ASSETS

Due by Members		\$389 15
Central Ontario School of Art		200 00
Annual Exhibition Account (26th)		3 75
G. C. Downes		24 86
Provincial Art Gallery		32 95
Home Savings & Loan Co	\$610 13	
Bank of Montreal, Savings Dept.	800 00	
Dominion Bank	525 00	
Cash on hand	18	
		1,935 31
		\$2,586 02

LIABILITIES

Due to Members		\$ 39 78
R. C. A. Life Class		144 79
Assets in excess		2,401 45
		\$2,586 02
		\$2,586 02