

Ontario  
Society of Artists



The President's Report  
1896-97



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# Ontario Society of Artists

INSTITUTED 1872



## Honorary Patrons

THE MARQUIS OF LORNE.  
HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS LOUISE.  
THE EARL OF DUFFERIN.  
THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE.  
THE EARL OF ABERDEEN.  
HON. G. A. KIRKPATRICK.



## Officers

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HON. PRESIDENT,                      PRESIDENT,                      SECRETARY,  
C. M. MANLY, VICE-PRESIDENT AND TREASURER.



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F. MCG. KNOWLES.                      M. MATTHEWS.                      F. S. CHALLENGER.  
W. D. BLATCHLY.                      E. WYLY GRIER.                      R. F. GAGEN.  
F. M. BELL-SMITH.



## Members

Atkinson, W. E.....203 Crawford St., Toronto  
Bell-Smith, F. M.....336 Jarvis St., Toronto  
Blatchly, W. D.....119 Rose Ave., Toronto  
Bruenech, G.....32 Bismarck Ave., Toronto  
Challener, F. S.....43 Adelaide St. East, Toronto  
Coleman, Dr. A. P.....School Practical Science, Toronto  
Cox, Arthur.....39 Huntley St., Toronto

Cutts, W.	43 Adelaide St. East, Toronto
Ford, Miss H.	Toronto
Forster, J. W. L.	Manning Arcade, Toronto
Foster, F. L.	Medical Council Building, Toronto
Gagen, R. F.	90 Yonge St. O. S. A. Gallery, Toronto
Grier, E. Wily	Imperial Bank Buildings, Toronto
Knowles, F. McG.	144 Yonge St., Toronto
Kelly, J. D.	17 Classic Ave., Toronto
Manly, C. M.	75 Adelaide St. East, 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
Verner, F. A.	16 Edith Villas, W. Kensington, London, Eng.
Williamson, A. C.	Toronto
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	Roxborough Ave., Toronto
Hovenden, R. J.	Toronto
Jones, S. M.	King St. West, Toronto
Lennox, E. J.	Cor. King and Yonge Sts., Toronto
Radford, J. A.	40 McGill College Ave., Montreal
Smith, Jas.	Summerhill Ave., Toronto



#### Sculptors

MacCarthy, Hamilton	28 Toronto St., Toronto
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# Ontario Society of Artists

... 1897 ...

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## The President's Twenty-fifth Annual Report.

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The past can scarcely be called an eventful year in the Art history of the Dominion, including that of the Province of Ontario.

It has, however, been a healthy one so far as the Ontario Society of Artists was concerned, notwithstanding the dull times still prevailing in all lines of industry and consequent sparsity of patronage, otherwise than under the auctioneer's hammer. The return of old and valued members who had for a period remained aloof, as well as the noticeable increase of interest displayed by others in the doings of the Society, are strong indications of the vitality and usefulness of our organization; and though fashionable society may not seek us as eagerly as it does similar associations in older lands possessing perhaps more literary, intellectual, and artistic culture, it is very evident that there is a fairly large and growing element in our population in which love and respect for Art and goodwill towards its votaries is not lacking.

The Annual Exhibition of 1896 was but moderately attended and purchasers were few. This was not very surprising when all circumstances are taken into account. One important feature of past seasons seems to be missing since the cessation of the old-time Art Union, with its list of subscribers and prospective prize winners, and it seems regrettable that any honorable means of stimulating popular interest should have to be abandoned after serving its purpose for so many years.

An Exhibition held in our neighboring city of Hamilton, by the "Arts and Crafts" Association followed close upon that of our Society here and contained some works of our members.

The invitation received from the Winnipeg Industrial Association was energetically responded to and a large collection sent to that city in July, Mr. Knowles very ably representing us there and taking care of all the necessary arrangements, which appear to have met with the hearty appreciation of the Directors and Officers of the Winnipeg Society, who expressed themselves warmly in regard to the desirable and satisfactory feature which our exhibit formed. Looked on from a mere pecuniary standpoint the results were discouraging, owing, perhaps, to the time of the year, but in the general interests of Art this enterprise was quite a success, and though from the large calls on the capacity of the Society, it is scarcely likely that it can be repeated this year, it is to be sincerely hoped that we may in future continue this work so well begun.

A small collection was also sent in October to Orillia at the suggestion of the Rev. R. Green; this also appears to have been quite satisfactory, as also was a similar collection sent to Owen Sound under the management of Messrs. G. A. Reid and J. M. Kidd, and it must be felt that in these affairs the Ontario Society of Artists is doing a useful and important public work tending to the increase and dissemination of art-taste in this Province.

The Toronto Industrial Exhibition again afforded an opportunity to place our little Art World in some degree before the great mass of the people, not only of Toronto, but of the Province, the Dominion, and even to some extent those of other countries, who visit in such multitudes this very successful and important Exhibition. The Professional collection was most admirably supplemented by several fine works loaned by Mr. Wm. Christie, Mr. J. A. Livingston and others. It was hoped that the Industrial Association would be enabled to erect a new Art Building this year, but at present that does not seem probable, through disappointment met with in their appeal to the Dominion Government for a grant of money for the purpose of rendering a Dominion Exhibition practicable.

Mr. Bell-Smith was awarded the privilege of making a special exhibit of his large and interesting pictures illustrating the sad death of our prominent statesman, the late Sir John Thompson, in Windsor Castle. These pictures possess some historical importance and proved fairly attractive to the public, and their exhibition in a degree profitable to the artist and the Industrial Association.

It is felt, however, that these special exhibits or side shows are very doubtful advantages and that the benefit of them is questionable, from the points of view of both Societies, and there is an evident disposition to wish to discontinue them.

The Exhibition of 1897, now on our walls, is larger than that of last year, and is generally considered to be of better average merit. It contains but few large or important works, but its general standard is higher. It comprises two hundred and ten works, including oil-paintings, water-colors and sculpture. But little of architectural or decorative character is shown. One wall is occupied by minor works and sketches which are not included in the catalogue. The Hanging Committee seems to have given more general approval than usually falls to the lot of that arbitrary tribunal.

An arrangement has been made with the Department of Education for the Society to supply a collection to fill the fine new gallery lately added to the Museum, all such works to remain on the walls a year. Encouraged by some

patronage from the Government, this should mark the commencement of a movement in the right direction, while affording another opportunity to the artist to accomplish public service.

Besides the various exhibitions above mentioned it must not be omitted to state that a large proportion of the Exhibition of the Royal Canadian Academy, held in Ottawa, in March, was the product of members of the Ontario Society.

As regards membership, some changes have occurred, several names have been dropped from the roll for various reasons. The additions are Mr. E. Wylie Grier and Mr. L. R. O'Brien.

Some of our members have been enterprising in the direction of decorative art, and have placed before the City Council designs for mural painting very suitable to the Council Chamber in our fine new Civic Buildings. This is a movement of import and should pave the way for more work of a like nature in the future. One outcome of this movement is the formation of a "Guild of Civic Art," comprised chiefly, at present, of gentlemen of taste who have patronized Art as well as some artists. This body volunteers its services to the city as an advisory board in matters connected with Art.

Upon the occasion of the sitting of the Government Commission on Tariff Reform a committee of our members and others interested waited upon the Ministers and suggested a modification or removal of the duties on artists' materials, but so far no change of that nature has been made.

Altogether the indications of the year point towards centralization of the Art elements of Ontario in the Ontario Society of Artists, and it is much to be wished that our more prominent men will attend its meetings as regularly as they can find convenient.

#### Life Classes

The life classes held in the rooms during the past winter were more numerous and retained a fuller attendance than any heretofore, and with the facilities afforded were doubtless the best in the Dominion, being very efficiently and economically conducted. This privilege was not confined to our own members, but under strict regulations it was thrown open to all duly qualified students.

Sketch-club meetings were also held weekly with the object of fostering the exercise of the faculties of imagination and originality.

#### Central Ontario School of Art and Design

The Central Ontario School of Art and Design, whose report is now in preparation, has prosecuted its work with unrelaxed energy, and with the accommodation the Society of Artists has been able to supply, has a good showing to make. Though the attendance was not so large as in the preceding season, the financial returns were slightly in excess, as the students more generally attended various classes. The school was again successful in the Annual Provincial Examinations, obtaining a larger proportion of awards than any other school, including the gold medal for the advanced class and the silver medal for

industrial design. The life class privileges were highly appreciated, as is shown by the number of students attending. Yet with all this the financial position has not much improved, and it certainly is discouraging to find that the public bodies of the city are so slow to lend a helping hand where so much substantial return is awaiting a small outlay.

The accounts of the year and Auditor's Report are now laid before you and may be pronounced satisfactory.





Secretary's  
Report



Revenue and Expenditure for Year  
Ending April 30th, 1897.

**Revenue**

Balance at Credit P. and L., May 1, 1896.....		\$2,916 31
Government Grant .....		500 00
Members' Fees.....		400 00
Rent :—		
Canada Life Insurance Co. Rebate.....	\$ 39 20	
Central Ontario School of Art.....	400 00	
		439 20
Interest, Home Savings & Loan Co. ....		46 06

INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

Exhibition Association, Annual Grant.....		\$1,000 00
“ “ (Amateur Department) .....	35 00	
“ “ for Account, Special Pictures.....	100 00	
Catalogues .....	77 00	
Sundries.....	4 75	
		1,216 75
		\$ 5,518 32

## Expenditure

Art Gallery :—		
Net .....		\$132 00
Government Grant :—		
W. E. Atkinson .....	\$ 100 00	
F. McG. Knowles .....	100 00	
		200 00
Members' Fees :—		
Accounts written off uncollectable .....		331 50
Rent :—		
Canada Life Insurance Co. ....		1,000 00
Art Union :—		
Written off.....		18 75
Annual Exhibition (24th) :—		
Net loss.....		139 72
Industrial Exhibition :—		
Exhibitors .....	\$ 350 00	
Hanging Committee.....	100 00	
Secretary's allowance .....	100 00	
Wages account.....	138 75	
H. J. Matthews .....	69 43	
W. T. Hearn.....	35 82	
Roberts & Son .....	9 05	
Catalogues.....	50 00	
Insurance.....	26 00	
Sundries .....	40 30	
		919 35
General Expenses :—		
Secretary's Salary .....	\$ 200 00	
Auditor's Fees .....	35 00	
R. J. Hovenden .....	17 98	
Reports. ....	26 00	
Sundries, Stationery, etc.....	23 60	
		302 58
Winnipeg loss. ....		6 40
Legal expenses in re Express Co .....		9 00
Balance at credit of P. and L. account.....		2,459 02
		<u>\$ 5,518 32</u>

## Assets

Due by members .....	\$ 370 90	
Central Ontario School of Art and Design.....	200 00	
Annual Exhibition Account (25th).....	9 25	
G. C. Downes .....	4 98	
Home Savings & Loan Co.....	\$1,362 46	
Dominion Bank.....	658 73	
	<u>2,021 19</u>	
Less Cash overpaid.. .....	1 32	
	<u>2,019 87</u>	
		<u>\$2,605 00</u>

**Liabilities**

Due to members.....	\$ 23 28
R. C. A. Life Class .....	109 45
Art Union Prize account .....	11 25
Assets in excess.....	2,450 02
	<u>\$ 2,605 00</u>

Examined and found correct.

TORONTO, May 18th, 1897.

JAMES SMITH, Auditor.



THE MAIL JOB PRINTING CO.

TORONTO

