

Canadian

ACADEMY OF ARTS



REPORT FOR
1886.

RULPH SMITH & CO

1887



ROYAL CANADIAN
ACADEMY OF ARTS.

REPORT

OF THE

COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR

1886.

Toronto:

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1887.

ROYAL SOCIETY

ACADEMY

1870

1870

PRINTED BY W. BARNES & CO. LONDON

Royal Canadian Academy of Arts.

1886-7.

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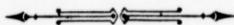




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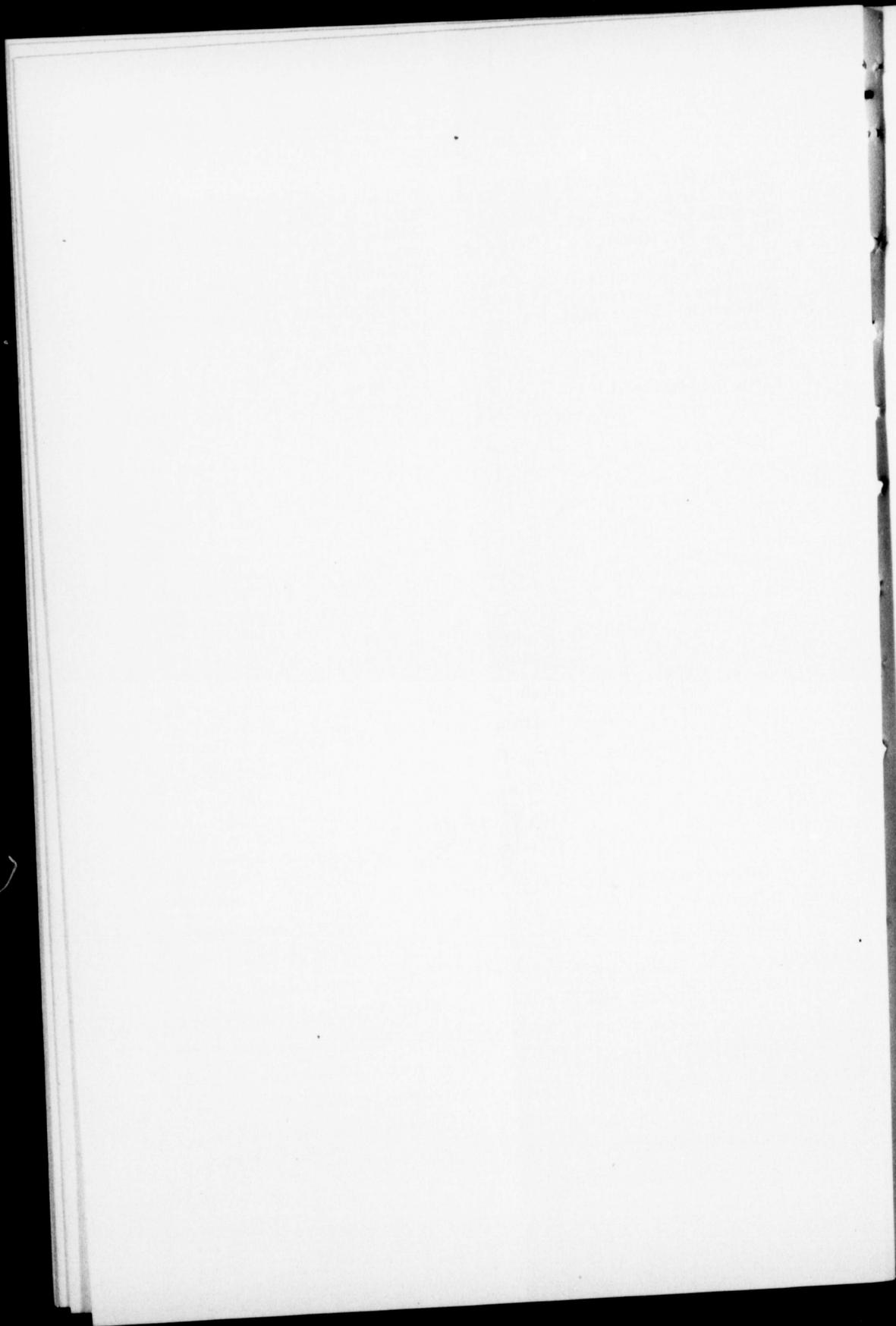
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REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR 1886.

The Annual Meeting and Exhibition of the Academy was held in Ottawa, opening with the Evening Assembly on the second of February. His Excellency the Governor-General presided as patron, and the rooms were filled by the assemblage of the honorary members and supporters of the Academy.

At the request of His Excellency on behalf of the Academy the Government and the Judges of the Supreme Court allowed us the use of the Supreme Court building, including the rooms of the National Gallery, for the use of the Exhibition. The lighting was of course inadequate, and the pictures suffered to some extent in consequence, but no better arrangement could be made.

It was the desire of the Government of Canada, and also of His Excellency the Governor-General, that Canadian Art should be represented at the Exhibition of the Colonies and India in London. The co-operation of the Academy was requested.

It was arranged that all pictures intended for the Canadian exhibit in London should be sent to Ottawa, and that those selected should form part of our Academy Exhibition. The selection was made by a committee representing the Academy and the other leading Art associations of the country, with His Excellency Lord Lansdowne as chairman. Other pictures by Canadian artists were lent by Her Majesty the Queen, and by private owners here and in England, making in all a representative collection which we are glad to learn from the concurrent testimony of impartial witnesses compared most favorably with the collections sent to the same exhibition by the other colonies of the Empire.

The attendance at the Exhibition during the time it was open was large, and the interest evinced fully justified the holding of it in Ottawa. This was the more gratifying as we were obliged to have it during the vacation of the Supreme Court and before the session of Parliament. We hope that before the time comes to visit Ottawa again in our rotation of cities, the Government may see their way to erecting a commodious and suitably lighted gallery both for the reception of the pictures presented to and purchased by the country, and also for the holding of Exhibitions. It is most important that the Art of Canada should be represented at the metropolis, and that this as well as the other interests should be brought before the notice of Parliament when it meets for deliberation.

At the Annual Meeting of the Academy the officers for the past year were re-elected.—Three painters, viz.: Messrs. Brymner, Woodcock and Bell-Smith; two architects: Messrs. Darling and Connolly; and one sculptor; Mr. L. P. Herbert, were elected to the rank of academician.

Mr. Hamilton MacCarthy, sculptor, was elected as an associate of the Academy.

Six years having passed since the institution of the Academy, a period long enough in some measure to test its stability, gauge its usefulness and estimate its resources, the President was requested to prepare a full report to be submitted to His Excellency the Governor-General dealing especially with the financial history, position and resources of the Society, as well as the manner in which the council desired to carry out the intention of its founders. This report having been approved by the Council and by His Excellency, is now submitted for the information of the members and honorary members of the Academy.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :

On behalf of the Council of the Royal Canadian Academy, I have the honour to present the following report, reviewing its resources, present financial position and prospective policy.

The balance sheet for 1885 is submitted, and also the accounts for the present year up to date, showing our position after the close of the exhibition, the main business of the year being completed.

Our accounts show that for two years we have carried forward a balance of cash apparently somewhat out of proportion to our revenue. This has been done, not because there was no purpose to which we could apply it, but because the sum at our disposal was not large enough to deal successfully with the projects we had in view, and we deemed it wiser to husband our resources until we could effect permanent good, rather than fritter them away in premature attempts. We have felt this to be especially necessary in view of the uncertain nature of our income.

It may be well to deal first with the several sources from which our income has been derived. These, so far, have been three :

- 1st. Annual subscriptions of Artist members.
- 2nd. Subscriptions of honorary members.
- 3rd. Grants from the Dominion Government.

Upon the first item we ought to be able to reckon with some certainty, but allowance has to be made for arrears arising from the very precarious income derived from the practice of Art. This has been seriously felt during the past three years of depression, during which it has been impossible to collect our members' subscriptions, and much remains unpaid. Our revenue for the current year from this source should be \$510 ; so far we have only received \$435, of which \$215 was for arrears. In 1885 we only collected \$175.

The second item is the amount contributed annually by our honorary members.

In Lord Lorne's address at the opening of the Academy in 1880, he expressed a hope that every gentleman of note in Canada would be found upon this roll of honorary members, and give aid "as entertaining a love for Art, and a desire that Art should be enabled to assist in the most practical manner the interests of the country." This appeal of our founder met, at first, with a liberal response,

Lord Lorne himself heading the list with \$500. Exclusive of the Governor-General's subscription, we received from hon. members in 1880, \$1,123; in 1881, \$511; in 1882, \$1,083; in 1883, \$710; in 1884, \$540; in 1885, \$235; and this year \$308, exclusive of your Excellency's donation.

Our published list of honorary members retains the names of many persons who have not continued to subscribe, or to subscribe regularly, and thus conveys an exaggerated idea of the support thus accorded to us. We were reluctant to omit the names of those who had subscribed and promised to continue, but it has been decided by the Council that the list should now show only those who have subscribed regularly, or have otherwise given us valuable assistance.

From the Dominion Government we received, in 1884, a grant of \$2,500, and in 1885, \$2,000.

In considering our expenditure, it is necessary to refer to the objects we have mainly in view, as being those from which most practical benefits to the cause of Art may be expected.

Organization is the first necessity. The administration of the society therefore forms the first main item of expenditure. Under this heading are included the secretary's salary, stationery and printing, and mileage allowed to members of the Council attending meetings. Last year the expense of administration amounted to \$515.93, which is rather less than the average amount.

Our annual meeting and exhibition is the most important feature of the year's proceedings. First, undoubtedly, among the objects of the Academy should come whatever helps and encourages the artists to the attainment of a higher standard of excellence in their work. Meetings for exhibition and comparison of their works, interchange of thought and mutual criticism, are indispensable.

As an artist can learn nothing from the exhibition of his work unless he himself sees the exhibition, it is most desirable that all should be enabled to attend. In order to attain this it is necessary

that some allowance for travelling expenses should be made to those at a distance from the place of exhibition, as well as the payment of freight upon exhibits.

The expense of framing is heavy, and so few pictures are sold that few artists derive pecuniary gain from the exhibitions, and they are unwilling or unable to afford long journeys to attend them. Hitherto all those not officially required to be present at the annual meeting and exhibition have been obliged to do so at their own expense.

The outlay for the annual meeting and exhibition includes the travelling expenses of the Committee of Arrangements, members of the Council and officers officially required to attend, all necessary costs of rooms, hanging, lights, printing etc., and the carriage of pictures to the exhibition. This year we have also paid the return freight of works by members of the Academy.

As an offset to these charges we have, except when the exhibition is held in Montreal, the admission fees of visitors to the exhibition; these, however, have never as yet been sufficient to balance the expenses and a loss of varying amount has been the result. In 1880, at Ottawa, the net loss was \$901.26; in 1881, at Halifax, \$922.28; in 1882, at Montreal, \$1,045.30 (this included \$300 for the engraving of diplomas, and the Art Association, in giving us the use of their gallery, reserved the admission fees to the Exhibition); in 1883, at Toronto, \$861.84; in 1884, at Montreal, \$597.73—an extra exhibition held in St. John, N. B., costing \$736.33; in 1885, at Toronto, the loss was \$252.46; this year, 1886, at Ottawa, the net loss, after paying return freight on pictures is \$305.47.

In the earlier years of the existence of the Academy, it was our practice to give such small sum as we could afford in aid of Art education in the city where our meeting was held. Our resources, however, with a continually diminishing income from our honorary members' subscriptions, were found barely sufficient for the maintenance of the Society, and keeping up the exhibitions. In the

hope of being able to accomplish more, we applied to the Dominion Government for an annual grant, such as is given to the Royal Society, stating our objects and claims in a memorandum which was laid before the Government of Canada, the members of Parliament and our friends throughout the country. The memorandum set forth the services that the Academy had rendered to the cause of Art by its exhibitions and organization, as well as the establishment, by the gift of our pictures, of the National Gallery at Ottawa. It set forth further the need of higher Art education than that attempted by the existing Art Schools, and prayed for aid to enable us, while keeping up our meetings and exhibitions, to give artists and advanced Art students some such facilities for study as are to be had in other countries.

In reply to this appeal the Government gave the grants already stated, and we hope the aid may be continued; but of this we have no positive assurance.

In 1885 and 1886, we placed \$800 at the disposal of the committees of resident Academicians in Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto, to be by them expended in aid of study from the life. These grants were intended to enable the Academicians in each city to feel their way to the best method of accomplishing our purpose in each place. In Montreal and Ottawa, the resident committees deemed it best to aid the higher classes of the Art Schools in connection with the Art Associations; this mode of dealing with the question may require some modification in order to give our efforts a wider scope. In Toronto an independent drawing class, for study from the living model, was opened under the direction of the resident Academicians, but has been temporarily discontinued, as it was found that without competent instruction in anatomy, illustrated by suitable casts, etc., the good results to be expected from serious study of the living model could not be attained. All this requires the expenditure of a much larger sum than the committee had at their disposal, and they therefore determined not to spend more money until they had enough to make their work really effective.

Applications have been made to the Academy for grants in aid of Art Schools on the ground that our grant from the Government was given for distribution among Art Schools. We have already shown that this was not the ground upon which Government aid was asked or obtained. To become the distributing medium for Government aid to Art Schools would be to assume functions outside of our province and destructive to our usefulness. If the Government of Canada desire to give aid to Art Schools, it would be better to give it to them direct. The part assigned to the Academy in Art education is not the same as that of existing Art Schools, but in continuance of it. At present Art students who have gone through the Art School course, and desire such further facilities for study as will fit them for the successful practice of their profession, are obliged to go abroad. While we recognize most fully the value of the artistic training of the Old World, we feel the necessity of making the home education of our artists as complete as possible, and it is this that we are hoping to accomplish.

We are now face to face with the question—How can we best use the means we have in hand, and how can the amount be increased if sufficient?

To recapitulate. The work we have before us is threefold:

1. The administration of the Society.
2. Exhibitions and meetings of members.
3. Higher Art education.

Our financial resources are also threefold:

1. Subscriptions of artist members.
2. Subscriptions of honorary members.
3. Grants from the Dominion Government.

The annual subscriptions of artist members should nearly cover the ordinary expenses of administration.

It is certainly desirable that we should rely as much as possible upon the support of the public, and as little as possible upon Government aid. To this end it is desirable that the subscriptions of our

honorary members should be devoted to some object in which they may feel a distinct local and personal interest; for higher Art Schools, such as we have indicated, we believe a strong financial support could be obtained in the large cities where, for convenience of artists and Art students, they must necessarily be located.

The exhibition and meetings of the Academy, although the most important to the cause of Art of all the subjects upon our programme, do not appeal in the same way to individuals among our supporters; therefore, these seem the most fitting objects to which the aid of the General Government should mainly be applied, so as to set free the subscriptions of our honorary members and enable them to be devoted entirely to our scheme of higher Art education.

We have already pointed out the desirability of facilitating the attendance of all our artist members at the annual meetings and exhibitions. To do this paying $2\frac{1}{2}$ c. per mile for the journey as a partial allowance of the expenses, would involve an outlay of about \$1,050, supposing all the members to attend. If we secured the attendance of two-thirds of our present membership, it would add about \$700 to the expense of the annual meeting.

It is manifest that the work of the Academy, be it much or little, must be continuous. Money spent upon any of our objects one year, if not continued the next, is almost thrown away. A comparatively small sum, such as the \$2,000 granted last year by the Government, continued annually, can be employed so as to lay a foundation of Art culture, widening with the progress of the country, and providing for present wants. Much more could be advantageously and profitably done with a larger sum, but whatever amount the Government may see fit to entrust us with can be used to infinitely more advantage if we can rely upon its continuance.

Your Excellency will observe from the foregoing figures :

1. That we calculate upon our expenses of administration being nearly provided for by the annual subscriptions of our artist members.

2. That we must expect to provide for the deficit upon our annual meeting and exhibition say	\$500
To which it is desirable to add for travelling allowance to members, say	700
	\$1,200

We should then be in a position to devote the remainder of the Government grant and all the subscriptions of our honorary members to such projects of Art education as we have suggested.

We need not remind your Excellency that by our constitution all our acts must be submitted to the Governor-General for his approval, and that we are glad to and do present the account of our expenditure for your Excellency's consideration.

All of which is respectively submitted.

L. R. O'BRIEN.

President.

TORONTO, March 30th, 1886.

A matter which has engaged the attention of your council for several successive years, has been the necessity of having a building which should be the official residence of the Academy.

This proposal is in no sense a departure from our settled policy of holding our Annual Meeting and Exhibition in rotation in the chief cities of the Dominion, but it is felt that we should have a more stable and assured position if we had a home of our own and were not absolutely dependent upon the hospitality and courtesy of our friends. For convenience in the transaction of business it is evident that our official residence must be in one of the large cities where a sufficient number of Academicians reside, or are likely to reside. This limits the choice to Montreal, or Toronto. A further consideration is that we are bound to work everywhere in accord with the local Art Associations and to avoid any rivalry or competition with them.

In Montreal the ground is fully occupied by the Art Association of that city, which requires and deserves the undivided support of its members and of the artists of the country.

In Toronto, where the largest number of artists reside, an Art Gallery is urgently required and it is the desire of the local society of the Ontario Society of Artists, that we should co-operate with them in securing it.

Upon these grounds the council, backed by the unanimous approval of the Academicians and of His Excellency the Governor-General, decided to purchase a site in Toronto and appropriated \$3,000 for that purpose. For the remainder of the cost of the site, and for the erection of the building we must rely upon the liberality of the citizens of Toronto, the proposed gallery being mainly for their benefit.

In Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto, both Artists and Art students have availed themselves of the facilities afforded by the Academy for drawing and painting from the living model. This importance and extent of this branch of our work must increase year by year with the development of serious Art study, the study of nature being the foundation of all real progress.

The meeting of the Academy this year, will be in Montreal and the Exhibition will open on the 20th of April, in the gallery of the Art Association of Montreal which has been most courteously placed at our disposal for that purpose.

The Evening Assembly of Members, Honorary Members, and their families, will take place on the 19th of April, when His Excellency the Governor-General has promised to be present.

The accounts of revenue and expenditure for the years 1885 and 1886 are appended, both being necessary to complete the financial review given in the report.

L. R. O'BRIEN,
President.

BALANCE SHEETS.

ROYAL CANADIAN ACADEMY OF ARTS.

Balance Sheet, 1885.

RECEIPTS.

Cash from 1884	\$1,554 12
Subscriptions—	
From Members.....	\$175 00
From Honorary Members.....	235 00
	410 00
Grant from Dominion Government	2,000 00

\$3,964 12

EXPENDITURE.

Administration—	
Secretary's Salary	\$400 00
Mileage.....	28 00
Printing, Postage, Stationery, etc., etc.....	87 93
	\$515 93
Loss on Exhibition, 1885	252 46
Expended for Advanced Art Study—	
Toronto.....	\$100 00
Montreal	100 00
Ottawa	100 00
	300 00
Balance	2,895 73

\$3,964 12

H. LANGLEY, Auditor.

ROYAL CANADIAN ACADEMY OF ARTS.

Balance Sheet, 1886.

RECEIPTS.

Cash from 1885	\$2,895 73
Subscriptions—	
From Members	\$461 80
From Governor-General	250 00
From Honorary Members	318 00
Interest from Peoples' Loan Co	\$1,029 80
Grant from Dominion Government	3 55
Grant from Do minion Government	2,000 00
	\$5,929 08

EXPENDITURE.

Administration—	
Secretary's Salary	\$400 00
Postage, Stationery, etc.	53 07
Printing, etc.	25 85
Mileage to Council Meetings, 131 00	\$589 92
Annual Meeting and Exhibition, 1886—	
Loss	435 41
Advanced Art Study—	
Montreal	\$175 00
Ottawa	150 00
Toronto	175 00
	500 00
Endowment Fund invested by Trustees..	1,000 00
Real estate purchased	3,000 00
Balance	403 75
	\$5,929 08

H. LANGLEY, Auditor.