

**E.P. Taylor Library & Archives**

**Description & Finding Aid:  
Group of Seven Photographs Collection  
LA.SC026**

Amy Marshall

Gary Fitzgibbon, 2008

## Group of Seven Photographs collection

### Dates of creation:

Photo reproductions made [192-?]-[197-?] (originally photographed 1914-ca. 1952)

### Extent:

31 photographs : b&w prints

### Biographical sketch:

The Group of Seven was an alliance of Canadian landscape painters who came together formally in 1920. They first exhibited as a group at the Art Museum of Toronto (now the Art Gallery of Ontario) in May of that year. In the exhibition catalogue, the Group declared in favour of a consciously nationalist approach toward portraying the Canadian wilderness. After producing a body of work unprecedented in Canadian art history, they disbanded in 1933.

The original members of the Group of Seven were Franklin Carmichael (1890–1945), Lawren Harris (1885–1970), A.Y. Jackson (1882–1974), Frank Johnston (1888–1949), Arthur Lismer (1885–1969), J.E.H. MacDonald (1873–1932) and Frederick Varley (1881–1969). Tom Thomson (1877–1917) was an influential artist closely associated with the work of the Group who died before it was formed. Johnston left the Group in 1920. Others who subsequently joined were Edwin Holgate (1892–1977), L.L. Fitzgerald (1890–1956) and A.J. Casson (1898–1992). Apart from their landscapes, Varley and Holgate in particular were well known for their portraits.

The works of the Group of Seven are in the collections of the Art Gallery of Ontario (Toronto), the National Gallery of Canada (Ottawa), the McMichael Canadian Art Collection (Kleinberg, Ont.) and other public galleries.

### Custodial history:

The photographs constituting this collection were removed from the Vertical Files on Canadian artists in the E.P. Taylor Research Library and Archives ca. 1980.

### Scope and content:

Collection consists chiefly of copies of photographs of members of the Group of Seven and Tom Thomson taken between 1914 and ca. 1952, along with some original photos taken 1926–1935 of installations of exhibitions of their work in Toronto and Ottawa in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### Notes:

*Source of title proper:*

Title based on the contents of the collection.

### *Dates of creation:*

Copies of photographs were made between 1931 and the 1970s. Original photos were taken between 1926 and 1935.

### *Arrangement:*

The photographs are numbered serially. Box-folder numbers are not used.

### *Location of originals:*

Copies of photographs in the collection are chiefly from originals in public archives and galleries in Ontario.

### *Restrictions on access:*

Open. Access to Special Collections is by appointment only. Please contact the reference desk for more information.

### *Terms governing use and reproduction / publication:*

Various copyright holders. Copyright may still rest with photographers of items in the collection. It is the researcher's responsibility to obtain permission to publish any part of the collection.

*Related material:*

Photographs of Tom Thomson, members of the Group of Seven and photos of installations of their work will be found in the Photographs of Canadian Artists collection (SC024), the Frederick Horsman Varley fonds (SC023), the Arthur Lismer and Marjorie Lismer Bridges fonds (SC021) and the AGO Archives.

*General note:*

Figures in group photographs are identified from left to right.

*Description control:*

Description and finding aid prepared by Gary Fitzgibbon, 2008 (revised 2014). — Description based on *Rules for Archival Description* (Ottawa: Bureau of Canadian Archivists, 2008); with vocabulary authority from the online Art & Architecture Thesaurus of the Getty Institute (Los Angeles, Calif.).

**Provenance access points:**

Art Gallery of Ontario

**Location: box 1**

ITEM OR FILE TITLE	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NO.
Arthur Lismer	1934	1 photograph : b&w print ; 21 x 16 cm in mat 46 x 36 cm  Item is a copy of a studio portrait of Arthur Lismer taken by M.O. (Melvin Ormond) Hammond in 1930, dated 1934.	1
Arthur Lismer painting	[195-?]	1 photograph : b&w print ; 25 x 21 cm in mat 46 x 36 cm  Item is a copy (cropped) of a photo of Arthur Lismer in his studio (photographer unidentified) taken ca. 1952.	2
Edwin Holgate	[193-?]	1 photograph : b&w print ; 21 x 16 cm in mat 46 x 36 cm  Item is a copy of a studio portrait of Edwin Holgate taken by M.O. Hammond in 1930, annotated on verso.	3
Lawren S. Harris	1931	1 photograph : b&w print ; 21 x 16 cm in mat 46 x 36 cm  Item is a copy of a studio portrait of Lawren Harris taken by M.O. Hammond in 1926, dated 1931 and annotated on verso.	4
F. H. Varley	[194-?]	1 photograph : b&w print ; 26 x 20 cm in mat 46 x 36 cm  Item is a copy of a studio portrait of Frederick Varley taken by Page Toles ca. 1948.	5
A. J. Casson painting	[194-?]	1 photograph : b&w print ; 19 x 24 cm in mat 46 x 36 cm  Item is a copy of a photo of A.J. Casson painting a sketch outdoors (photographer unidentified) taken ca. 1940.	6

ITEM OR FILE TITLE	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NO.
A. Y. Jackson painting	[1964?]	1 photograph : b&w print ; 21 x 26 cm in mat 36 x 46 cm  Item is a copy of a photo of A.Y. Jackson painting a sketch outdoors taken by the National Film Board of Canada, probably in 1960.	7
Group at the Lawren Harris retrospective 1948	[194-?]	5 photographs : b&w prints ; 21 x 26 cm  File contains copies of a group photo of A.J. Casson, Lawren S. Harris, Frederick.H. Varley, A.Y. Jackson and Arthur Lismer at the Lawren Harris retrospective exhibition <i>Lawren Harris, Paintings, 1910–1948</i> at the Art Gallery of Toronto (photographer unidentified) taken in 1948, one of which is matted.	8
Group at Algonquin Park, October 1914	[197-?]	1 photograph : b&w print ; 21 x 26 cm in mat 36 x 46 cm  Item is copy of an outdoor snapshot of Tom Thomson, Frederick H. Varley, A.Y. Jackson, Arthur Lismer, infant Marjorie Lismer and Ester Lismer in Algonquin Provincial Park in Ontario (photographer unidentified) taken in 1914.	9
Group in Go-Home Bay Area (?), 1915	[197-?]	1 photograph : b&w print ; 21 x 26 cm in mat 36 x 46 cm  Item is a copy of an outdoor snapshot of J. M. MacCallum, Tom Thomson and J.E.H. MacDonald near Georgian Bay in Ontario (photographer unidentified) probably taken in 1915.	10
Tom Thomson fishing	[197-?]	1 photograph : b&w print ; 25 x 21 cm in mat 46 x 36 cm  Item is a copy of an outdoor snapshot of Tom Thomson fishing (photographer unidentified) taken in 1916.	11
J.E.H. MacDonald	[197-?]	1 photograph : b&w print ; 26 x 21 cm in mat 46 x 36 cm  Item is a copy of a studio portrait of J.E.H. MacDonald taken by M.O. Hammond in 1930.	12
Frederick H. Varley	[197-?]	1 photograph : b&w print ; 26 x 21 cm in mat 46 x 36 cm  Item is a copy of a studio portrait of Frederick H. Varley taken by Harold Mortimer-Lamb probably in the 1920s.	13

**Location: box 2**

ITEM OR FILE TITLE	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NO.
Arts and Letters Club, Toronto	[197-?]	1 photograph : b&w print ; 21 x 25 cm in mat 46 x 36 cm  Item is a copy of a photo of members of the Group of Seven	14

ITEM OR FILE TITLE	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NO.
		at lunch at the Arts and Letters Club, Toronto (photographer unidentified) taken ca. 1916.	
Canadian paintings, Art Gallery of Toronto, 1926	1926	1 photograph : b&w print ; 19 x 24 cm in mat 46 x 36 cm  Item is a photo of an installation of Tom Thomson sketches in the exhibition of Canadian paintings (Aug.–Sept. 1926) at the Art Gallery of Toronto, taken by Pringle and Booth, dated 1926, with photographer's stamp on verso.	15
Tom Thomson Gallery, Art Gallery of Toronto, 1926	1926	1 photograph : b&w print ; 19 x 24 cm in mat 46 x 36 cm  Item is a photo of an installation in the Tom Thomson Gallery inaugural exhibition (Jan. 1926) at the Art Gallery of Toronto (photographer unidentified).	16
Canadian paintings, Art Gallery of Toronto, 1926	1926	2 photographs : b&w prints ; 19 x 24 cm  File contains a photo (matted) of an installation in the exhibition of Canadian paintings (Aug.–Sept. 1926) at the Art Gallery of Toronto taken by Pringle and Booth, dated 1926, with photographer's stamp on verso, and 1 copy (1926?).	17
J.E.H. MacDonald Memorial Exhibition	1933	1 photograph : b&w print ; 20 x 25 cm in mat 46 x 36 cm  Item is a photo of an installation in the <i>J.E.H. MacDonald Memorial Exhibition</i> (Jan. 1933) at the Art Gallery of Toronto (photographer unidentified).	18
J.E.H. MacDonald Memorial Exhibition	1933	1 photograph : b&w print ; 20 x 25 cm in mat 46 x 36 cm  Item is a photo of an installation in the <i>J.E.H. MacDonald Memorial Exhibition</i> (Jan. 1933) at the Art Gallery of Toronto (photographer unidentified).	19
First Group of Seven Exhibition	[197-?]	3 photographs : b&w prints ; 21 x 26 cm or smaller  File contains copies of a photo of an installation in the (first) Group of 7 exhibition of paintings (May 1920) at the Art Gallery of Toronto (photographer unidentified).	20
First Group of Seven Exhibition	[197-?]	2 photographs : b&w prints ; 21 x 25 cm and 21 x 26 cm  File contains copies of a photo of an installation in the (first) Group of 7 exhibition of paintings (May 1920) at the Art Gallery of Toronto (photographer unidentified).	21
Canadian West Coast Art, Native	1927	1 photograph : b&w print ; 21 x 26 cm  Item is a photo of an installation in the exhibition <i>Canadian West Coast Art, Native and Modern</i> (Dec. 1927) at the National	22

<b>ITEM OR FILE TITLE</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>NO.</b>
and Modern		Gallery of Canada (photographer unidentified).	
Autumn Evening	1935	1 photograph : b&w print ; 21 x 26 cm  Item is a photo of an installation in the Ontario Society of Artists' 63rd annual exhibition (Mar. 1935) at the Art Gallery of Toronto, with <i>Autumn Evening</i> by A.J. Casson at left (photographer unidentified).	23