

Frederick Arthur Amess

April 7 1909 - December 31 1970

Vancouver School of Decorative and Applied Arts (Diploma 1929)

P.A.S.O.V.A.S.

B.C. Society of Fine Arts (Member ?- 1938-43 -?)

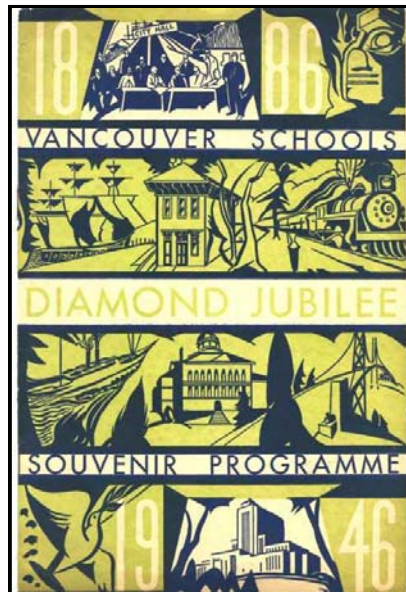
Federation of Canadian Artists (Founding Member 1941)

Frederick Amess was born in London, England, the son of James Henry Osborne Amess. The family arrived on the West Coast in 1911. Fred was in the first class at the Vancouver School of Decorative and Applied Arts when it opened in 1925, and was in its first graduating class in 1929.

In 1939 Amess held the position of Evening School Supervisor at the art school, and wrote an article for *Behind The Palette*, the Vancouver School of Art Annual for 1939-40, titled Evening School, in which he discussed the courses given in the evening classes, and student activities such as production of *Behind The Palette*. With the outbreak of war in Europe making the headlines in the daily newspapers and on the radio, Amess wrote that "the fever of destruction" must be counteracted by "the stimulus of creation".

Amess was a Founding Member of the Federation of Canadian Artists in 1941.

Amess was on a list titled "Leading Vancouver Artists," provided to the Labour Arts Guild on April 10, 1946 by the Vancouver Art Gallery to assist in the Guild's call for entries to the second annual *B.C. At Work* exhibition.



Amess did the cover images for the 1946 programme for the Vancouver School Board Diamond Jubilee.

He exhibited artwork in the juried 1948 17th Annual B.C. Artists exhibition at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

He entered four pen and wash drawings to the 1949 B.C. Graphic exhibition at the Vancouver Art Gallery, but none of them were selected for the exhibition as they "did not come in".

Amess was a charter member of the B.C. Industrial Design Committee.

He had solo exhibitions at the Vancouver Art Gallery in 1950 and 1951, as well as a duo show with his father in 1941. He also showed work at the National Gallery, Ottawa, and at the Seattle Art Museum. He exhibited work with the B.C. Society of Fine Arts and won two awards of merit for his work. He also won a Bronze Medal from an exhibition at the Vancouver Art Gallery.



Amess took over as director of the Vancouver School of Art when Charles H. Scott retired. Amess died in North Vancouver in 1970, aged 60.

Exhibitions

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

DATE	EXHIBITION	LOCATION
1941 June 3 - 15	<u>J.H.O. Amess & Fred Amess</u>	<u>Vancouver Art Gallery</u>
1950 Oct. 31 - Nov. 19	Solo show	<u>Vancouver Art Gallery</u>

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

DATE	EXHIBITION	ARTWORK
1929 Nov. 16 - 30	<u>BCSFA Winter Exhibition</u>	Housie Housie, Hastings Park The Barker
1930 Nov. 27 - Dec. 7	<u>PASOVAS Art Club Exhibition</u>	Pen and Ink Christmas Decoration Cold Water Stream Sunlight, Grouse Mountain Seymour Valley Granite Falls Olson Lake

		Firewood
		Burrard Inlet
		Theodosa Valley
		Portrait
1932 May - July	<u>VAG</u> <u>All Canadian Exhibition</u>	A Mill on the Fraser
1932 Oct. 5 - 30	<u>VAG</u> <u>1st Annual B.C. Artists</u>	The High Dive
		The Street Scene
1933 May 3 - 18	<u>VAG</u> <u>VSAGA 1st Annual Exhibition</u>	Buccaneer Bay
		The Canal
		Yacht
		The Old Barn
		Tom
		At Work
		Studio Corner (Pen and Ink)
		In a Chinese Vegetable Garden (Lithograph)
		Unemployed (Dry Brush)
		The Mourner
		Studio Corner
1933 Sept. 22 - Oct. 15	<u>VAG</u> <u>2nd Annual B.C. Artists</u>	Hot Hills
		Wind Twisted Trees
1934 Sept. 21 - Oct. 14	<u>VAG</u> <u>3rd Annual B.C. Artists</u>	The Record
		Torture and Calm
		Sketch, Savary Island
1942 May 15 - 31	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>32nd Annual</u>	Mission
1946 July 2 - 28	<u>VAG</u> <u>Jubilee Exhibition</u>	Valley Farmer
1948 Sept. 18 - Oct. 10	<u>VAG</u> <u>17th Annual B.C. Artists</u>	Beach

References

EVENING SCHOOL

Behind The Palette, Vancouver School of Art Annual 1939-40

WHO'S WHO IN NORTHWEST ART edited by Marion Brymner Appleton

"A Directory of Persons in the Pacific Northwest Working in the Media of Painting, Sculpture, Graphic Arts, and Handicrafts".

1941; published by Frank McCaffrey, Seattle Washington.

VANCOUVER SCHOOLS DIAMOND JUBILEE SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

1946; 4 pages; published by Vancouver School Board

Cover images by **Fred Amess**

SOUVENIR CATALOGUE OF EXHIBITIONS OPENING THE NEW VANCOUVER ART GALLERY (refer to VAG51)

100 YEARS OF B.C. ART (refer to [VAG58](#))

CREATIVE CANADA - VOLUME TWO

Compiled by Reference Division, McPherson Library, University of Victoria, B.C.
1972; ISBN 0-8020-3285-0

"A biographical dictionary of twentieth-century creative and performing artists."
Includes 2/3 of a column of information about Amess, confirmed by the artist.

PRINTMAKING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA 1889-1983 (refer to [AGGV83](#))

VANCOUVER: ART & ARTISTS 1931 - 1983 (refer to [VAG83](#))

BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX OF ARTISTS IN CANADA

2003, Evelyn de R. McMann, University of Toronto Press, ISBN 0-8020-2790-3
250 pages; 9 pages of *works cited* referenced to 8,800 artists
3 references *cited* for Amess.

VISIONS OF THE WEST COAST - ROBERT ALLER & HIS COMMUNITY (refer to [UVIC05](#))

OUR CHANGING LANDSCAPE (2008) (refer to [BAG08](#))

VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY - B.C. ARTISTS FILES (refer to [VPL](#))

Clippings

"The other large canvas is by **Fred Amess** and represents a log hut in the woods."
From "[Pasovas Club Has Splendid Annual Show](#)"
Vancouver Province, November 6, 1934

"Among the larger paintings on display is **Frank (sic) Amess'** "Woodland Temple," mural-like in style, and with unusually fine light-and-shadow effects."
From "[Pasovas Art Show](#)"
Vancouver Sun, November 6, 1934

"Fred Amess in "Mission" scores high, too, in a new vein."
From "[B.C. Society of Fine Arts Display Sets New High Mark,](#)" by [Palette](#)
Vancouver Daily Province, May 16, 1942