

**Bernard M. McEvoy**  
**(*Diogenes*)**

c1842 - February 16 1932

**R.B.A.**

**Vancouver Studio Club and School of Art**

**B.C. Society of Fine Arts**

**(Founding Member 1908)(VP 1909)(Hon. Sec.-Treas. 1917)(Life Member by 1930)**

**B.C. Art League (Founding Member)**

**British Columbia Artist (B.C.A., 1921)**

**Art, Historical and Scientific Association of Vancouver (Member 1931)**

Bernard McEvoy was very prominent in the early art circles of Vancouver. He was born in Birmingham, England, and came to Canada in 1888. He worked on the staff of the *Mail and Empire* in Toronto, before moving to Vancouver in 1906 (Harper). He was an active artist and participant in arts societies, and he also wrote a column for the local newspaper under the *nom de plume* of "Diogenes", in which he reviewed art exhibitions and discussed matters of art.

He was one of the five founding members of the B.C. Society of Fine Arts in 1908, and exhibited in the societie's debut First Annual Exhibition at the Dominion Hall in Vancouver. He also showed two paintings later that year in the Exhibition of Pictures held by the Vancouver Studio Club and School of Art.

In 1910 he had work in an exhibition held by the Island and Crafts Society in Victoria.

In 1917 McEvoy was Honorary Secretary Treasurer of the B.C. Society of Fine Arts as well as a member, showing two paintings in the annual exhibition and loaning one painting by David Cox. He had also exhibited with the group in 1910, 1912, and 1915, and later showed his work in 1921 and 1925. The BCSFA also showed his work in 1936, after his death.

In 1920 McEvoy and John Radford were chiefly responsible for the creation of the and B.C. Art League, an organization founded to help create an art school and art gallery in Vancouver.

McEvoy died in Vancouver in 1932 at the age of ninety. His artwork was displayed in retrospection exhibitions of the B.C. Society of Fine Arts in 1950 and 1960.

## **Exhibitions**

### **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

**DATE**

**EXHIBITION**

**LOCATION**

### **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EXHIBITION</b>	<b>ARTWORK</b>
1909 April 20 - 28	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>First Annual Exhibition</u>	British Columbia Road Sea And Sky In Stanley Park On The Coquahalla River, B.C. Mount Burgess
1909 June 19 - July 17	<u>Studio Club</u> <u>Exhibition of Pictures</u>	Ontario Springtime Sunset Glow
1909 November	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>Second Exhibition</u>	Hope, B.C. Bottom of Burnaby Street, Vancouver, in 1903
1910 May	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>Third Exhibition</u>	A Devonshire Cottage The Gorge, Victoria, B.C. Near the Credit River, Ontario
1912 Nov. 25 - 30	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>Annual Exhibition</u>	Landscape Landscape
1915 April	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>Works by Members</u>	On the Severn, Glocestershire, Eng. The Graveyard of Forest Land's End, Cornwall, Eng. Coast of Cornwall, Eng. After the Storm An Atlantic Wave A Bit of North Vancouver In the Kerry Hills Edge of an Ontario Farm Mountain Road, Wales Glacier B.C.
1917 Sept. 14 - 22	<u>B.C.S.F.A.</u> <u>Eleventh Exhibition</u>	Early June Coquahalla (sic) River, Hope Landmarks Ilfracombe (?), North Devon Lone Poplar
1921 Sept. 19 - 24	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>13th Annual Exhibition</u>	The Stump
1925 May 9 - 16	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>17th Annual Exhibition</u>	Marine, "Wind and Weather"
1927 June 10 - 25	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>19th Annual Exhibition</u>	Afternoon Bow Lake, B.C. On the Lillooet River
1950 April 25 - May 14	<u>BCSA</u> <u>40th Annual Exhibition</u>	A River in Wales

## References

**100 YEARS OF B.C. ART** (refer to VAG58)

**EARLY PAINTERS & ENGRAVERS IN CANADA** by J. Russell Harper  
1970 (reprinted 1972, 1976, 1981); University of Toronto Press  
ISBN 0-8020-1630-8; 376 pages; includes extensive list of abbreviations & bibliography  
Includes short reference to McEvoy.

Island Arts and Crafts Society - List of Exhibitors

### **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  
5 references listed for McEvoy.

## Clippings

"Mr. B. McEvoy in a small decorative picture entitled "It Seemed Always Afternoon" presents a subject which might be three times the size with advantage. The contrast of light and shade is well given, though a certain flatness of plane somewhat detracts from its otherwise considerable merit. This painter is seen at his best perhaps in No. 84, "Hillbore, North Devon," a simple, faithfully painted transcript of nature in which he has surmounted certain difficulties of color with considerable success. His "In Stanley Park," No. 83, is better in idea than execution, though it is full of the sentiment of nature."

From "With The B.C. Artists", by "A Visitor"  
*Vancouver Daily Province*, September 27, 1916

"The President, Mr. Bernard McEvoy, who was in the chair..."

"Important Meeting of B.C. Art League"  
*Western Woman's Weekly*, April 23, 1921

"Mr. Bernard McEvoy, the "Diogenes" of the "*Daily Province*", whose "Street Corners" are so eagerly looked for in the Sunday Edition, became a member of the society. Coming to Canada in 1888 from Birmingham, Eng., he was first on the "*Toronto Mail and Empire*". While in Ontario, he designed for the late Sir. Wm. MacKenzie, the church at Kirkfield, Ontario. As an author, he is better known than an artist, but, as he still wields a powerful pen, he still indulges in landscape painting. His lectures before the society have always been features of much interest."

"History of the A.H.S.A.V.-Biographical: Founders & Members"  
*Museum Notes*, Vol. 1, No. 2 June 1926

Article, *Vancouver Province* February 7 1932

"Bernard McEvoy and John Radford were chiefly responsible for arousing the public's interest in this new society, and in a very short time make-shift premises were acquired where showings of paintings, drawings, and sculpture took place."

From "A Short Art History of British Columbia", by Charles H. Scott  
*Behind The Palette*, June 1947



