

Charles Hepburn Scott

November 29 1886 - June 28 1964

Glasgow School of Art (Diploma 1909)

B.C. Society of Fine Arts (Life Member, President 1920 - 1922)

B.C. Art League (Organizing committee 1920)

British Columbia Artist (BCA, 1921)

Canadian Group of Painters (Member)

Royal Canadian Academy of Arts (ARCA 1940 Senior 1956)

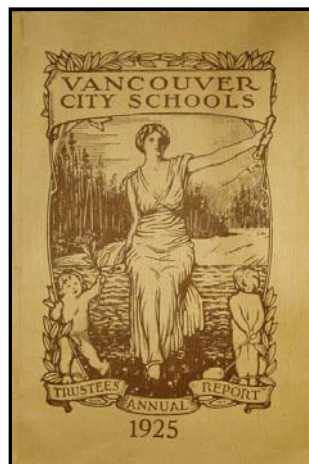
Royal Society of Artists (Fellow)

Canadian Society of Graphic Arts (Member/Regional Representative)

Federation of Canadian Artists (Member/Vice-President 1947)

It is not too much to say that Charles Hepburn Scott was one of the most important artists in Vancouver history. He was an excellent artist and draughtsman, with a vast range of output in a number of mediums. He was born in Newmilns, Ayrshire, Scotland. After taking his art training in Glasgow, graduating from the Glasgow School of Art in 1909, Scott moved to Canada and took up the position of Art Supervisor for Calgary schools from 1912 to 1914.

He moved to Vancouver to be Art Supervisor for the city's schools, a position he held from 1914 until 1925. His first annual report to the School Trustees in December 1914 details his early observations and plans for teaching art in the City.



He served overseas in the Canadian infantry in World War One, from 1915 to 1918, where he was wounded on the Western Front. He returned to Vancouver, where he returned to his job with the Vancouver School Board, as noted in his report on drawing in the 1919 Trustees Annual Report.

He illustrated the Honor Roll of the Vancouver School Board published in *The Gold Stripe, Volume One*, Christmas 1918.

Scott exhibited in the 1920 Annual Exhibition of the B.C. Society of Fine Arts, held at the Vancouver School Board offices on Hamilton Street. The same year he was appointed to the Organizing Committee of the B.C. Art League, the group formed to promote the creation of an art gallery and art school in British Columbia.

In 1924 Scott joined W.P. Weston and S.P. Judge in writing the textbook "*Drawing & Design - A Teacher's Manual*", subtitled as "*Manual of Drawing and Design for Elementary and High Schools*". This was an authorized text for the Department of Education in British Columbia. At this time Scott was still Supervisor of Art for the Vancouver School Board.

Scott exhibited at the Vancouver Exhibition in 1926, and with the Island Arts and Crafts Society in 1927 and 1928.

Scott's most substantial and long-lasting contribution to art in Vancouver was his tenure as Director of the Vancouver School of Decorative and Applied Arts. Scott took up the position shortly after the school opened in 1925, and then led the school through thick and thin for many years - through the depression, the Second World War, the return of the veterans, and the start of the baby boom. He kept the doors open, the students painting, and the graduates going out into the world to start their careers, until he himself retired in 1952.

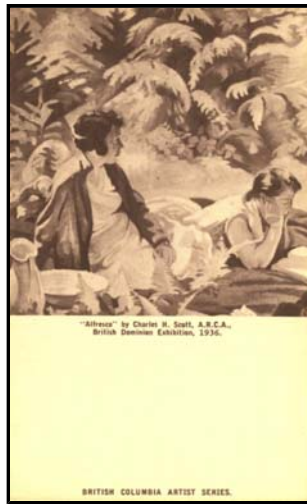
Scott exhibited with the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts beginning in 1926, continuing until 1952.

In 1927 Scott wrote an article titled Things As They Are, published in the second annual edition of *The Paint Box*, the art school's student annual, published by the Student's Club.

In 1928 Scott gave a lecture, sponsored by the Vancouver Institute, titled *Modern Movements in Art*. He gave another lecture for them titled *Etchers and Etchings* in 1939.

Throughout this period Scott also kept up his artistic output, completing many oil paintings, watercolours, drawings in pencil and pen and ink, and a number of etchings, including a series of classical architecture scenes taken from his travels in Europe. In 1932 a folio of eight of his pen and ink drawings was published as *Drawings of the B.C. Coast*, receiving high praise from Walter J. Phillips who reviewed the publication for a periodical in Winnipeg.

Scott exhibited for many years in the annual *B.C. Artists* exhibitions at the Vancouver Art Gallery, beginning with the inaugural exhibition in 1932, and continuing in 1933-34, 1936, 1938, 1940-41, 1943-44, 1946-47, 1950, 1954, 1956-57, and 1960-61.



Scott also had solo exhibitions, including "The Spirit of Savary" in 1935, a collection of watercolours painted on Savary Island during his many visits there.

Scott exhibited internationally as well, and *Who's Who in Northwest Art*, 1941, noted that he had exhibited at the Canadian Wembley Exhibition, the Dominion Overseas Exhibition, and the Canadian Coronation Exhibition, London.

In 1935 Arthur Lismer, one of the members of the Group of Seven, was traveling through Western Canada on a lecture tour with more than one purpose, and he noted in a confidential report to the National Gallery his comments about Scott teaching at the Vancouver Art Gallery:

"In Vancouver the Art Gallery classes under the direction of Mr. Charles H. Scott, principal of the Vancouver School of Art and Design, are a lively and stimulating expression of child art study. They are well organized with a competent and interested staff."

Lismer further noted in that report:

"Mr. Scott is making excellent use of the grant given to the Art Gallery in Vancouver by the Canadian Committee of the Carnegie fund."

The Spring 1936 edition of *The Smock Pocket*, the Vancouver School of Art Graduates' Association newsletter noted that Scott was the Honorary President of that group. It also noted that Scott was one of three jurors for the association's Fourth Annual Exhibition.

In 1936 Scott donated his "large framed picture" titled "Summer Day" to the Art, Historical and Scientific Association of Vancouver. Scott 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.

In 1946 - 1947 he had work in a Federation of Canadian Artists travelling exhibition, and wrote a short statement to explain his work in the show.

A 1947 artists' biography for Scott on file at the Vancouver Art Gallery Library includes the following statement by Scott about his work:

"That the works shown should vary in structure and subject matter, in media and technique, is only what might be expected of any artist to whom each impression demands its own form of expression. At that the variation is perhaps less intense than one has become accustomed to seeing during the past forty years of art."

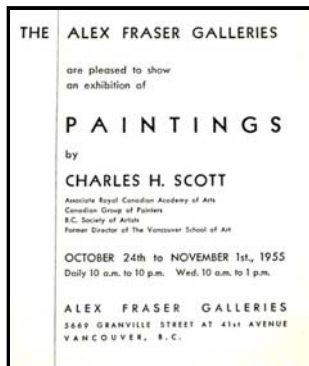
I have great admiration for many artists whose outlooks and styles are entirely different from my own works, and I am not without a measure of debt to them. Nevertheless, in my own work I have always placed my own conceptions first, as I believe other artists have also. Only so can one's artistic integrity be cherished.

I harbour the feeling that however apparently we change with the years, we remain essentially the same sentient beings. I am as susceptible to-day to the magic of light and atmosphere as I was in the yesterdays, and I gladly and naturally yield myself to it. In consequence I must paint in such a manner, and use such subject-matter as will best express the degree of magic I have experienced."

Scott also wrote A Short Art History of British Columbia in 1947, published in the art school's annual *Behind The Palette*, in which he discussed major artists and art groups and institutions in B.C.'s history.

Scott exhibited with the B.C. Society of Fine Arts in many of their annual exhibitions, including April 1915, September 1920, 1921, and 1922, May 1923, 1924 and 1926, June 1927, May and November 1929, from 1937 to 1947 including 1942 and 1943, 1949, 1950, from 1953 to 1963, and in the Society's final exhibition in 1967. Scott had by then retired to live at Ford's Cove, Hornby Island,

The Vancouver Art Gallery held additional solo exhibitions of his work in 1947, 1959, and 1989.



In 1958 Scott wrote an introduction to one of the exhibition sections in *100 Years of B.C. Art*, and also had two paintings in the exhibition.

Scott was a Protestant, and played golf for recreation. He died in Vancouver in 1964 at the age of seventy-seven. For many years Scott's family left his study as it was when he died. Eventually the estate began to be dispersed in a number of ways. The Heffel Gallery auctioned a number of his drawings, paintings, etchings, and related ephemera. At least one antiquarian book dealer acquired material for re-sale. Additionally, material was donated to Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design, and to U.B.C. It is a pity that the entire collection could not have remained intact for future research and public enjoyment.

Exhibitions

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

DATE	EXHIBITION	LOCATION
1935 Nov. 9 - 24	<u>The Spirit of Savary</u>	<u>Vancouver Art Gallery</u>

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

DATE	EXHIBITION	ARTWORK
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1915 April	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>Works by Members</u>	Portrait Portrait Portrait Sketch Portrait The Old Mill, Bruges Neutral Old Doorway, Rothenburg The Courtyard, Rothenburg The City Gate, Rothenburg Summer Night, Hildesheim
1920 September 18 - 25	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>Annual Exhibition</u>	Portrait The Laughing Girl Portrait of <u>Bernard McEvoy, Esq.</u> Beating the H.C. of L. "Molly" The Reader The Hockey Player Footlight Study Summer Idyll Reverie
1921 Sept. 19 - 24	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>13th Annual Exhibition</u>	The Pergola "A Garden is a Lovesome Thing" <u>W.P. Weston, Esq.</u> Twilight in the Bow Valley Summer Afternoon
1922 Sept. 16 - 23	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>14th Annual Exhibition</u>	Winter Summer Moon The House in the Woods Goodnight to Vernon Southland Kiku San Springtime February Flats Portrait
1923 May 12 - 19	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>15th Annual Exhibition</u>	November Winter in the Country Winter in the City The Shack
1924 May 3 - 17	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>16th Annual Exhibition</u>	Study of a Head
1926 May 8 - 15	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>18th Annual Exhibition</u>	Via Giovanni Dupre, Siena

		Rue de l'A'no Aveugio, Bruges Ponte Vecchio, Florence Porte d'Ostende L'Eglise, Damme Snow Caps, Howe Sound White Mountain Cloud Form, Howe Sound Summer Light "Linkie" Entrance to Fraser Canyon, Yale B.C.
1927 June 10 - 25	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>19th Annual Exhibition</u>	
1929 May 18 - June 8	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>21st Annual Exhibition</u>	Reflections Sketch Sketch Sketch Sketch Sketch Sketch
1929 Nov. 16 - 30	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>Winter Exhibition</u>	Bridge River Country Rolling Land Romance Colour Harmony Grizzly Bear Country Old Charlie Rain
1932 May - July	<u>VAG</u> <u>All Canadian Exhibition</u>	The New Bridge The City School Siena Old Cannongate, Tolbooth, Edinburgh
1932 Oct. 5 - 30	<u>VAG</u> <u>1st Annual B.C. Artists</u>	Alfresco Spring Song Evening in the Cabin Smuggler's Cove
1933 May 20 - 31	<u>VAG</u> <u>Palette & Chisel Club Exhibition</u>	Evening in the Cabin Smuggler's Cove
1933 Sept. 22 - Oct. 15	<u>VAG</u> <u>2nd Annual B.C. Artists</u>	Ships of Yule Contentment
1934 Sept. 21 - Oct. 14	<u>VAG</u> <u>3rd Annual B.C. Artists</u>	Anno Domini 1934 Joyce at Savary Maligne Lake, Jasper
1938 April 29 - May 15	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>28th Annual Exhibition</u>	Riggs Island, Buccaneer Bay

1942 May 15 - 31	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>32nd Annual</u>	Island Marge The Benchlands, Kootenays Landscape Fishing Lodge, Cariboo Drawing (no information available)
1942 Nov. 3 - 15	<u>FCA</u> Red Cross Benefit	Quiet Glory
1943 May 15 - June 6	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>33rd Annual</u>	Peto Glacier Summer Moon, Mt. Edith Cavell Church in the Cariboo The Sun Bathers Michael Fell Alfresco
1946 July 2 - 28	<u>VAG</u> <u>Jubilee Exhibition</u>	The Accordionist
1946 Sept. 21 - Oct. 13	<u>VAG</u> <u>15th Annual B.C. Artists</u>	Cloudburst Mountains
1946 - 47	<u>Federation of Canadian Artists</u> <u>Travelling Exhibition #2</u>	Red Mountains, Garibaldi Area Vancouver Skyline Mist, Snow and Ice Mt. Garibaldi, Southern Slope Musqueam Reserve Kootenay Glacier Pyramid Mountain, Garibaldi Park
1947 July 8 - 27	<u>B.C. Artists</u> <u>Summer Exhibition</u>	Timberlands
1949 May 3 - 22	<u>BCSFA</u> <u>39th Annual</u>	The Merry Jetty Pacific Coast Sunshot Snows January Snow Portrait 1920 June Morning
1950 April 25 - May 14	<u>BCSA</u> <u>40th Annual Exhibition</u>	

References - SOLO EXHIBITION CATALOGUES

Refer to BIBLIO.

References - GROUP EXHIBITION CATALOGUES

SOUVENIR CATALOGUE OF EXHIBITIONS

OPENING THE NEW VANCOUVER ART GALLERY (refer to VAG51)

3rd BC GRAPHIC & CANADIAN SOCIETY OF GRAPHIC ART (refer to BCG57)

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

Includes introduction to *Early B.C. Painting and Sculpture* by Scott
Two works by Scott in the exhibition

B.C. PAINTINGS BURNABY 58 (refer to BAG58)

SPRING EXHIBITION - FCA - BC REGION (refer to FCA64)

4th BURNABY NATIONAL PRINT SHOW (refer to BAG67)

THE ETCHING REVIVAL (1852 - 1936)

Collections of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria Number 8
Not dated, no ISBN; 24 pages; includes Introduction (author not listed)
Brief biographical information on artists including **Charles H. Scott** and E.J. Hughes
C.P.R. Hotel, Vancouver 1927 in exhibition, not illustrated in catalogue

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

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

OUR CHANGING LANDSCAPE (2008) (refer to BAG08)

References - GENERAL

VANCOUVER CITY SCHOOLS - TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 1914

12th Annual Report; Published by the Board of School Trustees, City of Vancouver
100 pages illustrated; soft cover illustrated with 1915 drawing by Scott
Includes Report on Drawing by Scott
Possibly the earliest published writing by Scott in Vancouver (after 4 months in the city).

VANCOUVER CITY SCHOOLS - TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 1915

13th Annual Report; Published by the Board of School Trustees, City of Vancouver
108 pages illustrated; soft cover illustrated with 1915 drawing by Scott
Includes Report on Drawing by Scott, page 44, written just before his departure to Europe with the C.E.F.
and VSF Honor Roll by the Editor, re Scott painting for Canadian Expeditionary Force (illustrated full page).
Also complete statistics on students, attendance, buildings, teachers, courses, etc.

VANCOUVER CITY SCHOOLS - TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT 1919

17th Annual Report; Published by the Board of School Trustees, City of Vancouver
106 pages illustrated; soft cover illustrated with 1915 drawing by Scott
Includes Report on Drawing by Scott
First report by Scott after his return from World War One.

THINGS AS THEY ARE by Charles H. Scott

The Paint Box, Vol 1 Number 2, June 1927; VSDAA

THE PICTURE AND THE POINT OF VIEW by Charles H. Scott

B.C. Teacher magazine, September 1927

A BRITISH COLUMBIA SCHOOL OF ART by Charles H. Scott

B.C. Teacher magazine, June 1932

ART TEACHING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA by Charles H. Scott

The School magazine, March 1940, pp. 613-616

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.

A SHORT ART HISTORY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA by Charles H. Scott

Behind The Palette, 1947; VSA

ROYAL CANADIAN ACADEMY OF ARTS - REPORT FOR 1964-65

1965; no ISBN; 14 page pamphlet

List of officers, members, academicians deceased, President's Report, balance sheet

Includes obituary for **Scott**

CREATIVE CANADA - VOLUME ONE, by University of Toronto Press

1971; ISBN 0-8020-3262-1

"A biographical dictionary of twentieth-century creative and performing artists."

Includes one full column of abbreviated information about Scott

THE MOUNTAINS AND THE SKY by Lorne E. Render

1974, Glenbow-Alberta Institute; published by McClelland and Stewart West

ISBN 0-7712-1001-2; 224 pages, illustrated throughout in colour and b&w

Includes biographical information on Scott and 4 of his paintings illustrated

ISLAND ARTS AND CRAFTS ASSOCIATION - List of Exhibitors

THE DICTIONARY OF BRITISH ARTISTS 1880 - 1940

An Antique Collectors Club Research Project listing 41,000 artists

1976; ISBN 0-902028-36-7; 568 pages; Compiled by J. Johnson and A. Greutzner

A compilation of artists exhibiting in 47 galleries during the period

Includes early references to artists who moved to Canada, including Scott.

SCOTT, CHARLES HEPBURN

Royal Canadian Academy of Arts - Exhibitions and Members 1880 - 1979

Evelyn de R. McMann, University of Toronto Press 1981, ISBN 0-8020-2366-5

DEAR NAN - Letters of Emily Carr, Nan Cheney and Humphrey Toms

1990, edited by Doreen Walker; 436 pages

University of British Columbia Press; ISBN 0-7748-0348-7

250 letters transcribed, includes extensive biographical notes, excellent index

Numerous references to Scott, apparently disliked by both artists.

VANCOUVER ARTIST: Charles Hepburn Scott

1996 September; by Michael Clark, Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design.

Visions newsletter, Volume 3 Issue 1, page 2.

One page biography with 1 illustration of his work.

ART BC: MASTERWORKS FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA (refer to [ARTBC00](#))

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

13 references listed for Scott.

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

Clippings

"The Art Classes were placed under the immediate direction of Mr. Scott, and the students had reference to him before taking any particular class. They were allotted to the classes best suited to their needs and abilities, and **the Art Classes now form the nucleus of a successful Art School**, with graded courses covering the principal branches of Art Work."

from [Prevocational and Night Classes](#) by Graham A. Laing

Vancouver City Schools Trustees Annual Report 1915

"Charles H. Scott in his crayon drawing of "Sarah" presents us with an Indian face depicted with much solidity and (resemblance?); it also display considerable character."

From "[With The B.C. Artists](#)", by "A Visitor"

Vancouver Daily Province, September 27, 1916

"Though but a small organization, numerically considered, the B.C. Society of Fine Arts has had the honor of contributing its quota of members to engage in the determined and now successful fight for freedom and civilization. It may be said that all those belonging to this artistic fraternity have helped in various ways, but those marked out for special recognition are:

C.H. SCOTT - A student of [South Kensington](#), and afterwards in France and Belgium, he was employed when he came to Vancouver, as supervisor of drawing by the School Board, a position he filled with much credit. Enlisting in the Canadian Expeditionary Force, he left B.C. in the early days of the war, and was wounded on the Western Front, where he bravely distinguished himself."

From [Honor Roll - B.C. Society of Fine Arts](#)

The Gold Stripe, Volume One, Christmas 1918

"There is a pastel head of a girl by C.H. Scott which has been much admired. Though a small picture it is full of life and expression."

From "[Local Work is on View](#)" by [Bernard McEvoy](#)

Vancouver Daily Province, October 2 1919

"The committees which will be recommended to the League were named as follows: ... C.H. Scott ..."

From "[B.C. Art League Committees Are Active](#)" by (unknown)

Western Woman's Weekly, October 9, 1920

"The trend towards modernism is perhaps most emphatic in the five striking paintings by **Charles H. Scott**. It shows that he has entirely forsaken the old paths and now prefers that which is symbolic to that which is

anything approaching to an actual portrayal of nature. There is no mistaking the fact that these five pictures give initiated observers certain sensations of grandeur and sublimity. Moreover, it can not be doubted that they are resplendent in gorgeous color. They may also be considered decorative in effect, but the opinion of the unbiased Philistine observer will probably be that they go a little too far in the direction of a wilful obscurity."

From "B.C. Society of Fine Arts" by Bernard McEvoy
Vancouver Daily Province, April 28 1928

"Charles H. Scott, head of the Vancouver School of Decorative and Applied Arts, is a Scotch artist of sound and thorough training. He is building up a live and vigorous school of art, with a large enrolment of students, that will result in a group of interesting and competent painters on the West Coast."

From *Canadian Landscape Painters*, Albert H. Robson; page 190
The Ryerson Press, Toronto, 1932

"This year **Charles H. Scott**, director of the Vancouver Art School, has chosen Savary Island for the third annual summer session, and pupils will leave June 9, returning to Vancouver on June 20."

From "In The Domain of Art"
Vancouver Province, May 5 1934

"Spirit of Savary at Art Gallery"

From "*Daily Province*", November 9, 1935

"Charles H. Scott, A.R.C.A., presents in a richly painted landscape a new and most successful innovation in treatment."

From "B.C. Society of Fine Arts Display Sets New High Mark," by Palette
Vancouver Daily Province, May 16, 1942

" ... Among those contributing paintings and drawings are: ... Chas. H. Scott, ARCA ... "

From "Noted Artists Offer Paintings For Red Cross"
Vancouver Daily Province (presumed), November 1942

"As a result of a ballot taken in respect of nominations previously secured by public announcement, three artist members, Mr. Lawren Harris, **Mr. C.H. Scott**, A.R.C.A., and J.W.G. Macdonald, headed the poll by large majorities."

From "Re: 13th Annual B.C. Artists' Exhibition" by A.S. Grigsby.