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| The Arts and Letters Club |
| The Arts and Letters Club of Toronto |
| The Arts and Letters Club is a Canadian private club for artists and their patrons. For more than a century, the Club has played an important role in Canadian culture, providing a meeting space for and fostering a community of visual and literary artists, actors, musicians, designers, and architects. It is housed at St. George’s Hall in downtown Toronto, Ontario, Canada, a building of National Historic Significance.  The Arts and Letters Club was founded in 1908 by Augustus Bridle, an arts journalist, to promote the arts in Canada. The Club is best known for its connection with the Group of Seven. The original Group of Seven, established in 1920, included Frank Johnston, Lawren Harris, Arthur Lismer, J. E. H. MacDonald, Frederic Varley, Franklin Carmichael, and A. Y. Jackson. Members to join after the Group’s founding included Edwin Holgate, A. J. Casson, and LeMoine FitzGerald. The Group of Seven is known for their paintings of the Canadian landscape. These artists met frequently at the Club to socialize and share ideas. |
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The original Group of Seven, established in 1920, included Frank Johnston, Lawren Harris, Arthur Lismer, J. E. H. MacDonald, Frederic Varley, Franklin Carmichael, and A. Y. Jackson. Members to join after the Group’s founding included Edwin Holgate, A. J. Casson, and LeMoine FitzGerald. The Group of Seven is known for their paintings of the Canadian landscape. These artists met frequently at the Club to socialize and share ideas.  The Arts and Letters Club is closely associated with St. George’s Hall, which was built in 1891. The Club leased the building for its headquarters in 1920 and purchased it in 1986. One of the building’s main features is The Great Hall, a dining room and bar decorated with banners depicting the Club’s earliest members, drawn by J. E. H. MacDonald. It also features a smaller dining room and a studio, where the Club’s visual artists hold painting sessions. The building was designated a National Historic Site of Canada in 2007.  The club has about 600 members and continues to offer social events such as lunches and dinners, as well as exhibitions and performances. Traditions include an annual Boar’s Head procession and Spring Revue. It has published two anthologies of writing called *The Longship Review* and maintains archives of the Club’s activities.  Club Presidents  (adapted from the [Gallery of Club Presidents](http://www.artsandlettersclub.ca/index.cfm?pagepath=About_Us/Gallery_of_Club_Presidents&id=13692))  William A. Langton (1908–1909)  Sir Edmund Wyly Grier (1909–1910), portrait painter  George H. Locke (1910–1912)  J.W. Beatty (1912–1913), landscape painter  Augustus Bridle (1913–1914), journalist  Alan Sullivan (1914–1915), poet  Alfred De Lury (1915–1916), Yeats scholar and Dean at the University of Toronto  Dr. James MacCallum (1916–1918), medical doctor and patron of the Group of Seven  Robert Gagen (1918–1920), painter  Vincent Massey (1920–1922), Governor General of Canada  Healey Willan (1922–1923), organist and composer  Charles William Jeffreys (1923–1924), historical illustrator, author, painter, and teacher  Monro Grier (1924–1926)  J.E. Middleton (1926–1928)  J.E.H. MacDonald (1928–1930), painter and member of the Group of Seven  Ernest MacMillan (1930–1932), conductor and composer  C.B. Cleveland (1932–1934)  H. Napier Moore (1934–1936), journalist  Ivor Lewis (1936–1938), graphic artist, painter, business manager  J.E. Sampson (1938–1940), painter  Alfred Chapman (1940–1942), architect  George Pepall (1942–1945),  Ettore Mazzoleni (1945–1947), conductor, writer, educator  Fred Haines (1947–1949), painter  Walter N. Moorhouse (1949–1951), architect  Gilbert Jackson (1951–1953), economist  L.A.C. Panton (1953–1954), painter  Cleeve Horne (1954–1957), painter and sculptor  James Wardropper (1957–1959)  David Ouchterlony (1959–1961), educator, organist  Ian Cameron (1961–1963)  Ned Corbett (1963–1964)  Oswald Stacey (1964–1966), painter  Robin Strachan (1966–1967)  Jack Yocom (1967–1969)  Bill Swinton (1969–1970)  John F. Irwin (1970–1972)  Robert Christie (1972–1974), actor  Elmer Phillips (1974–1976), educator, singer  Pat Hume (1976–1978), computer scientist, scholar, educator  John Morrow (1978–1980)  Norman McMurrich (1980–1982), architect  Jim Parr (1982–1984), engineer, broadcaster, scholar, poet, composer  Ken Jarvis (1984–1986)  David Franco (1986–1988)  Michael Spence (1988–1990)  Ernest Sirluck (1990–1992), scholar  Lyman Henderson (1992-1994), graphic artist  John McKellar (1994–1996), patron of performing arts  Ezra Schabas (1996–1998), writer, musician, educator  Margaret McBurney (1998–2000), writer, historian  Donald Pounsett (2000–2002), musician  Julian Mulock (2002–2004), illustrator, painter  Peter Hart (2004–2006)  Lorna Kelly (2006–2008)  Peter G. S. Large (2008–2010), painter  Diane Kruger (2010–2012), lawyer  Richard Moorhouse (2012–2014), architect, heritage conservationist  Marianne Fedunkiw (2014–2015), scholar, writer  John Goddard (2015), actor, director Online Resources [The Arts and Letters Club](http://www.artsandlettersclub.ca) website  [Commemoration of the National Historical Significance of St. George’s Hall (Arts and Letters Club)](http://www.artsandlettersclub.ca/site/ywd_artsandlettersclub/assets/pdf/St_Georges_Hall.pdf)  [St. George’s Hall (Arts and Letters Club): National Historic Site of Canada, Parks Canada](http://www.pc.gc.ca/rech-srch/clic-click.aspx?/cgi-bin/MsmGo.exe?grab_id=0&page_id=27621&query=arts%20and%20letters%20club&hiword=ARTSBASED%20CLUBS%20LETTER%20LETTERED%20LETTERING%20and%20arts%20club%20letters) |
| Further reading:  (McBurney)  (James)  (Badir) |