

FOREWORD

Canada for the most part is still in a state of nature, — a land of deep forests, turbulent streams, rugged mountains and lonely bays. During the last fifty years, however, while cities have been hewn out of the wilderness, there has grown up a strong national consciousness finding expression in Canadian poets and painters. The "Group of Seven" is perhaps the most striking expression of this consciousness. Theirs is a sincere attempt to portray the beauty and vigour of a new and untrammelled country. The "Group of Seven" is so styled because these men working together in Toronto recognized that their ideas, painting and methods were similar. They are devoted lovers of the Canadian wilds and they conceive their subjects primarily as decorative patterns. Jackson, one of the group, voices their aim in saying: "We have tried to emphasize color, line and pattern even, if need be, at the sacrifice of atmospheric quality". It is only by knowing the ideal which an artist pursues that one can fully understand his work and judge to what extent he has succeeded in achieving it.

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