

A DICTIONARY OF
CANADIAN ARTISTS

VOLUME 2

G – Jackson

COMPILED
BY
COLIN S. MACDONALD

Canadian Paperbacks

3rd EDITION

ifixion for the cathedral at Besilen, Hoogstraten, Belgium, bombed during the
nd World War. He came to Canada in 1956 where he continues to work at his
rom his Montreal studio.

ences
ontreal *Star*, October 29, 1960 "Ex-Belgian Carver Sends Art Abroad" by Harold Poitras

MMOND, John

1843-1939

n in Montreal, Quebec, he started work in a marble mill when he was nine¹ and
n he was eleven had decided to become an artist.² He received his schooling in
treal and later at the age of 23 joined the army regiment nicknamed "Ladies'
" and was sent with this group to stop the Fenian rebels. After the Fenians
quelled, Hammond travelled with his brother to London, England, where
sailed for New Zealand in search of gold. They landed at Christchurch and
elled 120 miles by foot to the gold coast where they spent two and a half years
ing for the precious metal.³ Whether Hammond did any drawing during that
d it is difficult to determine but most likely it was when he returned to Canada
870 and joined the Transcontinental Survey party who were engaged for the
ose of making preliminary studies for the building of a railway. The party he
in reached its objective, Yellowhead Pass, but was the only one of three to do
n 1871 Hammond was employed by Wm. Notman Photographers in Montreal,
bec, probably through his work with the survey party.⁴ It was there that he
ced with artists J.A. Fraser, Henry Sandham, Otto Jacobi and W.P. Weston.⁵
was then twenty-eight and was working seriously towards becoming a full time
ter, a goal he achieved by 1873 when he was elected member of the newly
ed Ontario Society of Artists. In 1880 he was in Saint John where he painted
raits (travelling as well to eastern United States).⁶ He was listed in the Saint
Directory as artist, 1880-82, and artist with Wm. & J. Notman, 1882-84.⁷ He
d again for Europe in 1885 and painted at Dordrecht, Holland, with James
tler who had been occupied for a time with etching. Hammond probably
ed at that time much about the fine points of etching from Whistler. He
ted with Francois Millet at Barbizon and then travelled to Italy. A number of
drawings and lithographs indicate by title where he sketched; they are as
as: Dinant, Bruges, Belgium (1884); Florence, Verona, Rome, Nici and Pisa,
(1885); Dieppe, France (1887). Hammond won two painting awards in the
Salon in 1886.⁸ He exhibited at the National Gallery, New York, in 1887
e he received honours and at the Pan-American Exhibition in 1901; at Buffalo
e he won a silver medal; at St. Louis (Louisiana Purchase Exhibition) in 1904
e he received a bronze medal.⁹ Hammond had been elected Associate of the
il Canadian Academy in 1890 and full member in 1893 (his diploma picture
deposited with the Academy in 1894).¹⁰ He exhibited regularly in the R.C.A.
s between 1891 and 1935. Hammond was commissioned by Sir William Van
e (founder of the C.P.R.) to do a number of large murals and paintings
ting the scenery of Western Canada and the C.P.R.'s part in opening the West.
1920 he held a one man show at the Jenkins Gallery when *The Toronto Star*

HAMMOND, John (Cont'd)

*Weekly*¹¹ noted, "There are pictures of Holland in winter, of coast farms, and
three bordered roads, but one feels that Mr. Hammond is essentially a painter of the
sea and of the harbor, with its shipping, and that his greatest success are his
atmospheric effects, when he fixes on canvas the prismatic beauty that comes
from the sunlight struggling through the fog". A retrospective exhibition of
Hammond's work was held March 25 to April 24, 1967, at the Owens Art Gallery,
Mount Allison University when Luke Rombout, Curator, and organizer of the
exhibition, noted in the catalogue, "...he (Hammond) identified himself not with
the weaknesses of Canadian art of his day, but rather with the search for a new
aestheticism of late 19th century French painting and had he remained in France
as did the Canadian painter James Wilson Morrice, would most certainly have
been inspired to follow more closely the direction of the Impressionists. Instead,
he returned to Saint John and continued on his own to paint the hazes, mists and
fogs over and around Saint John Harbour. The stillness of the waters, the moment-
ary quietness in nature, appealed particularly to him . . . His meticulous drawings
reveal his excellent draughtsmanship and, at the same time, his attachment to
European influences . . . his drawings are so much like his etchings, that most of
them could have been executed with the printing process in mind. The precision in
these drawings, his methodical approach, may be traced to his earlier days, when
he was engaged in the art of miniature painting in Montreal, with Eaton and
Sandham." Mr. Rombout went on to note that his lithographs offered the most
unexpected surprise and were almost contemporary in feeling. Today his work is in
the following collections: Mrs. R.V. Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. J. William Black, Mr.
and Mrs. Robert S. Black, Dr. D.P. Crawford, Mrs. L.H. Estabrooks, Dr. and Mrs.
George D. Gass, Dr. and Mrs. W.S. Godfrey, Dr. and Mrs. E.R. Hart, Dr. and Mrs.
H.W. Read, (Hammond Estate), Mr. and Mrs. H. Lindsay Smith, Mr. and Mrs. H.M.
Smith, Dr. and Mrs. N.A. Weldon, all of Sackville, N.B.; British American Bank
Note Co. Ltd., Montreal; Mr. H. Dunham, Wayside Inn, Hampton, N.B.; Dr. and
Mrs. W.T. Ross Flemington, Port Elgin, N.B.; Dr. and Mrs. C.A. Krug, Waterloo,
Ont., The National Gallery of Canada (mentioned before); The Winnipeg Art
Gallery, Winnipeg, Man., and others. Hammond was Director of the School of Art
at Mount Allison from 1907 to 1919 when he retired. He was awarded an LL.D.
in 1930. He died at Sackville at the age of 96.

References

¹ (catalogue) *John Hammond, R.C.A. 1843-1939* by Luke Rombout, Curator, Owen's Art
Gallery (retrospective exhibition, March 25 to April 24, 1967 at the Owens Art Gallery,
Mount Allison University, Sackville, N.B.)
also see *Montreal Standard*, October 15, 1938.

² Ibid

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid

⁶ *The Montreal Standard*, October 15, 1938 "John Hammond, R.C.A. Canada's Oldest Living
Artist" by Richard H. Haviland

⁷ see 1

⁸ see 1

⁹ see 1

¹⁰ see 1

¹¹ *The Star Weekly*, Toronto, Nov. 6, 1920

¹⁰ *National Gallery of Canada Catalogue, Volume 3, Canadian School*, P. 386