R.C.A. EXHIBITION SCORCHED
MANY PICTURES DESTROYED

SharpBlaze Threatened Whole
Art Collection in Princess
Theatre Block

CAUSE OF FIRE A MYSTERY

Paintings in Front Room at Head of
Stairs Completely Consumed—List
of Exhibits Lost or Damaged.

Place: Ontario Art Society's
building, where Royal Cana-
dian Academy are holding exhi-
bit. 

Loss: To pictures, $8,000; to
building, $2,000.

Insurance: On paintings,
$15,000; on building, $27,500.

Cause: Unknown.

Eight thousand dollars damage to
the pictures and two thousand dollars
damage to the building was caused by
fire in the Ontario Society of Artists' 
building about 8.30 this morning.

Fire also threatened for a time the
Princess Theatre adjoining the picture
galleries, but the quick action of the
firemen soon dispelled all fears of that.

The blaze started in the first floor of
the building in the front, and in a few
minutes the flames had spread from the
front room to the larger gallery be-
hind.

Nor did the flames stop there. In
a short time they spread to the school
upstairs, where there were several
pieces of sculptured work, which
were damaged by smoke. When the
firemen arrived the flames were going
pretty strong, but the men under the
direction of Deputy Chief Noble had
two streams playing immediately on
the heart of the flames. Soon Chief
Thompson arrived on the scene with
other sections, but their help was not
needed.

"When I got there the flames were
all out," said the chief. "It wasn't a
bad blaze, and the men got at the
heart of it right away. The damage
will not amount to very much."

The fire was confined to the art
rooms, and the theatre suffered no
damage whatever. "The Red Mill"
will continue to grind uninterrupted
this afternoon.

The Royal Canadian Academy is
holding their exhibition in the build-
ing. This is held once in every three
years.

$15,000 ON PICTURES

The pictures on exhibition were
insured for $15,000 although their ow-
er valued them at about $150,000. The
value of a picture in this instance is
the price the painter asks for it.

The president, G. A. Reid; the vice-
president, William Brymer and the sec-
tary-treasurer, James Smith, will
award the losses in proportion to
the prices placed in the curators' cata-
logue.

The risk was divided as follows:

Queen's, $5,000; Rochester and Ger-
many, $4,000; Royal, $4,000 and Man-
itoba, $3,500.

NO MORE THAN $500 EACH.

Messrs. Munitz & Beatty, who
placed the insurance, declined to
assume more than $500 for any one picture.

Mr. Art: "It is his 'Deal' that all the
pictures exhibited had been insured 25 per cent of
their value.

"The smoke darkens the paintings,
makes them clammy," he said. "The heat
burns the canvases and rot. The frames
will all have to be replaced.

There are over 150 frames and
they average about $7 each, although
some of them cost $60 and $100 each.

A meeting of the Toronto members
of the society will be held this after-
noon to determine whether or not the
exhibition will continue.

It was opened last week and was
to have continued through this week.

Every painting in the outer room
at the head of the stairway was
destroyed. Those hung on the stairs
and landings and which were not
destroyed were damaged and spoliated.

Mr. F. McGillivray Knowles and
Mr. Robert H. Holmes were the first
members of the society on the scene.
Mr. Holmes' painting, "Gentiliani,
was destroyed. The same fate was
shared by J. W. L. Forster's portrait
of John R. Booth, a portrait by Caro-
line Farncomb, the panelled produc-
tion "A Japanese Fan" by Clarence
A. Gagnon, of Montreal; Clara S.
Humphry's "Reflections," two decora-
tive panels by Gustav Hahn, "The Sea
Comes" by C. M. Manly, "Early
Spring in Scotland" by G. Home Rus-
sell of Montreal. Leslie Victor Smith's
two canvases, "The Window Seat"
and portrait of Miss Edith Ellis, and
"The Snowstorm" by W. Smith of St.
Thomas.

PAINTING GONE, PAINTER DEAD.

The painting "The Chinese Lan-
tern" is among the missing. It is the
production of the late D. Park Mac-
milan of Montreal, who died the day
it was shipped to Toronto for exhibi-
tion, which was damaged to the extent of $2,000, is insured fully.

The insurance is: North British and
Mercantile, $2,500; Sun, $3,500; Home,
$2,000; Union, $2,000; Scottish Union
and National, $4,000; Western, $10,000;
British, $10,000; a total of $25,000.

The building, valued at $40,000
was burned out, and the frames,
building and $7,500 on the contents
on the theatrical schedule.

Still stands intact beside the charred
frame was Mr. G. A. Reid's large
decorative panel. A life-sized bust of
the Venus de Milo, owned by the To-
ronto Art School, and which stood
near the head of the stairs, toward
above the litter, with the head smash-
ed.

T. Mower Martin's "Winter in Brit-
ish Columbia" is among the damaged
hangings in the hallway.

THESE ALL GONE.

All the architectural drawings are
destroyed. They were also on exhibi-
tion in the outer room at the head of
the stairs. The exhibitors were: E.
Maxwell, of Montreal; Rickenbaker,
of Montreal; Percy E. Nobbs, of
McGill University; Joseph W. Power,
of Kingston; Andrew Rolfe, of Tor-
onto; Andrew L. Taylor, of London,
England; Edmund Burk, of Toronto;
William Fraser and Mitchell & Raine.
A. H. Howard's four designs also met
the same fate.

CANVASES MAY BE BAKED.

The paintings on the north wall in
the large main gallery may be irre-
parably damaged. Muriel Bolton's
"Chess Problem," Harry Britton's
"Eve," W. H. Clay's "Morning in
Spain," E. Dyott's "Guitar Player,"
F. McGillivray Knowles' "The Way-
side Cross," Henrietta Shore's "Girl
in Blue," are plainly injured. Just in
what condition the canvases are
problematical.