NATIONAL ATMOSPHERE PRODUCED IN THE PAINTINGS AT THE ACADEMY; OPENING NIGHT BRILLIANT OCCASION

Ottawa Well Represented at Formal Opening of the 46th Exhibition of the Royal Canadian Academy in Victoria Museum.

The formal opening of the 46th exhibition of the Royal Canadian Academy of Art at the Victoria Museum last night fully demonstrated that Ottawa is not only taking an increasingly important place in the art life of the country but that Ottawa people are keenly interested in the aesthetic side of life. The two floors of the museum on which the exhibition is being held were crowded from 8.30 to the close of the exhibition with an eager audience representative of the intellectual, artistic and social elite of the Capital.

What was particularly pleasing to the artist whose work was on exhibition was that the big crowd showed by their actions that they came to see the pictures and not merely to a social function. Little knots of beauty-lovers gathered about various outstanding creations and discussed with animation the canvases which particularly took their fancy and generally there was an atmosphere of genuine appreciation.

The guests were received by the president of the Academy, Mr. Horne Russell and Mrs. Russell, of Montreal, and after a pleasant greeting passed quickly into the different exhibition rooms.

Much credit is due the hanging committee for the excellent work accomplished and to Mr. Eric Brown, director of the National Gallery, and his assistants for their active cooperation. The plan of a general assimilation of all art schools seemed to meet with favor and it undoubtedly gave the exhibition a colorful variety which was particularly pleasing.

National Atmosphere,

Limited space forbids any detailed reference to the many wonderful paintings representing various schools of art, but one thing which impressed the observer was the essentially national atmosphere produced. Few foreign scenes were depicted, and whether it was a glowing visualization of the habitat of Jean Baptiste; the crimson tenderness of a sunset in the Laurentians; a speaking likeness of a lovely Canadian jeune fille or windswept waves of the Atlantic foreshore; all bespoke the power to portray the varied wonders of the homeland.

Efforts in portraiture which attracted special attention on the opening night were Wyly Grier’s “Prospero”, whose striking color and vividness of technique were particularly arresting; Horne Russell’s “Portrait of Mrs. Norman Wilson, of Ottawa, and her daughter,” and a vivid study of Dean Adams, of Montreal, in his scarlet Doctor’s robes; Ernest Fosbery’s picturization of little Miss Dougherty; Dorothy Vicaj’s sumptuous study of a beautiful type of female loveliness, and Alphonse Jonger’s likeness of Dr. A. F. Shepherd. Other portrait painters whose efforts were arresting were Marion Long, Chas. W. Simpson, and C. Williamson, the last named with a fine picture of the eminent Dr. Banting.

In landscape work of the conser-vative school special mention should be made of the distinctive beauty of this year’s presentations of Clarence Gagnon, Homer Watson, Maurice Cullen, J. W. Beatty, McGillivray Knowles, Robert Gagen, J. L. Lang, Albert Robinson, and Suzor Cote.

Amongst what are termed the modernists whose work has been the subject of considerable controversy the vigor and color of efforts by A. Y. Jackson, F. N. Loveroff, Frank Hennessey and Fred Haines attracted close attention.

From Ottawa,

Ottawa was represented by 38 exhibits and the general expression of opinion of discerning critics was that these exhibits indicated a distinct advance on any work yet accomplished by local painters. Outstanding in the Ottawa list was the work of Graham Norwell. Paul Alfred, Ernest Fosberry, L. Cameron Courtenay, Henri Fabian, Hamilton McCarthy, Harold Beamant. Among Ottawa ladies special mention must be made of the lovely creations of Catheline Morris, Isabelle Louden, Florence McGillivray, Faith Fyles, Georgina Altichen, Elvina Crabtree and Eleanor Curry.

Members of the Council of the Royal Canadian Academy who were present at the opening in addition to the president, Mr. G. Horne Russell, were Messrs. Archibald Brown, (Montreal), Morris Cullen (Montreal), E. Dyonnet, Clarence Gagnon, Baie St. Paul, E. Wyly Grier, (Toronto), William Hope, (Montreal), McGillivray Knowles, (New York), George A. Reid, (Toronto), Homer Watson, (Doon), Ernest Fosbery, (Ottawa), and J. L. Graham, (Montreal).