During the month of December, the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts held its fiftieth exhibition in the Toronto Art Gallery. There were many exhibitors, and paintings various enough to please the most modern or the most conservative of tastes. The contributors sent their work from all parts of the Dominion, but the bulk of it came from Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto. There are Canadian art groups which represent particular phases of art in our country to-day, but the Royal Canadian Academy stands for art in Canada, good and not so good, old and new.

There were some fine portraits shown this year. Charles Macgregor's painting of "Miss Marion Wood" was excellent. Charles Comfort, who can use color so lavishly, achieved his "Portrait of a Young Man" in almost neutral tones. Both artists live in Toronto. From Montreal we had Robin Watt's arresting profile of "The Artist's Wife," and two interesting near-portraits, "Chinese Lanterns," by Charles Simpson, and the charming "Marie et Minou," by Mabel Lockerby. Arthur Lismer conveyed a sense of majesty in his "Cathedral Mountain," with clouds drifting about its summit. Color prints of flowers from Walter Phillips of Winnipeg, clever chalk drawings by F. Horsman Varley of Vancouver, interesting canvases by Mabel May of Westmount, Que., and Prudence Heyward of Montreal helped make the exhibition worth while. There was not a large showing of sculpture. The cream of this year's work was seen at the recent exhibition of Canadian sculpture. The head of "Caesar George," by Elizabeth Wood, was very fine. In any such established society there is bound to be work which lacks vitality. For real interest I preferred the exhibition of little pictures held the month before.

Supplementing the exhibition of the R.C.A. was an exhibition of sculpture in wood by Carl Hallstrøm, who came to America from Sweden three years ago. Though comic, some of his figures were nevertheless very real. The Print Room held a large and various exhibition by John Taylor Arms, an architect who became so interested in etching that eventually he gave his whole time to it. He excels in representing architecture, quaint houses with steep gables, churches and streets.