



Stamps

by Larry McInnis

Artist Emily Carr's Work Featured on 1971 Stamp

During a recent visit to Vancouver, I was struck, as I looked down from my hotel window, by the beehive of activity around a beautiful old building in a quiet square. I soon found the building was an old court house that was now devoted to showing the work of British Columbia's famous artist, Emily Carr.

There were times in her life when she would have cherished a fraction of today's attention. Emily Carr was born Dec. 13, 1871, at Victoria, B.C., daughter of Richard and Emily Carr. She died March 2, 1945, almost an unrecognized artist, although she was one of Canada's greatest painters and an accomplished writer. One of her most famous paintings was reproduced in

color on a Canadian stamp. The stamp is a 6-cent, issued Feb. 12, 1971 (Scott 532) to mark the 100th anniversary of her birth. It shows the *Big Raven*, an oil on canvas done about 1928, which was a significant year for her. Carr received a good education, at home in Victoria, at the Mark Hopkins School of Art in San Francisco for six years and the Westminster School of Art in London for a further six years. In 1905, she returned to Vancouver to teach art, but by 1910 she was again in Europe, studying at the Académie Colarossi, where she learned about impressionism. An exhibition in 1912

showed Victorians were not impressed with impressionism. The exhibit bombed - to the extent that Carr couldn't find teaching employment anywhere. For the next 15 years, she didn't paint at all. To support herself, she made pottery, raised dogs and ran a boarding house. When she had been painting in B.C., Carr's love was Indian Villages. These were seen in the early 1920s by Marius Barbeau, an ethnologist who was on the staff of Canada's national museum. She had an important champion. In 1927, Eric Brown, director of the National Gallery, telephoned her to arrange for her to come east with 50 paintings to exhibit. No doubt the long distance phone call lent a sense of urgency. She was not only critically acclaimed in the east, she met the approval of other famous Canadian artists. One admirer of her work was Lawren Harris, who introduced her to the Group of Seven. Emily Carr the artist was rejuvenated. She returned to British Columbia determined to dedicate her life to painting her native province. It was in the year after her return that she did *Big Raven*. The 34 1/2 by 45 inch painting is on display at the Vancouver Art

Gallery - in the old court house, right next to my hotel. It's difficult to say if Carr influenced Harris or the other way around. He was already an accomplished artist, member of the Group of Seven, but some of his work was not unlike Carr's. In 1930 he did *Bylot Island*, an oil on canvas now at the National Gallery in Ottawa. This painting is shown on a 15-cent stamp (Scott 463) issued Feb. 8, 1967. Unlike Carr's stamp, Harris's was in monochrome. The Group of Seven had been formed in 1920. By 1933, it had ceased to exist, replaced by the Canadian Group of Painters. Emily Carr became a member in that same year. In 1941, Carr was felled by a heart attack. While hospitalized, she turned to writing. Her very first work, *Klee Wyck*, won the Governor-General Award for non-fiction in 1941. She wrote other books and her autobiography, *Growing Pains*, was published after her death. Just off Scenic Drive on the north side of Vancouver's Stanley Park, almost hidden in the greenery, is a small fountain dispensing cold fresh water. It's dedicated to Emily Carr, too. send enquiries to the writer at P.O. Box 40, Beauharnois, Quebec, J6N 3C1.

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I still find it difficult to believe, but the countdown is on. Christmas is nearly upon us, and there are a thousand things to do to prepare for the holidays. One of the nicest things to do in preparation for the season, is prettying up the house. It puts one in the spirit, and it seems to last much longer than, baking, presents and champagne! Fortunately, for those of you who have their homes on the market during this festive time, it is a wonderful opportunity to have your home looking its best for prospective buyers. Christmas wreaths on doors, sparkling lights, even spot lights on trees laden with snow and ice, make a very pretty first impression of your home. Inside, let your imagination run rampant with bows, lights, presents under trees, your fireplace burning softly and Christmas music softly playing in the background. All these things speak volumes of a home for the family - and that is what you are selling. Take advantage of this wonderful time to make things easier for your agent, for a pretty house is so much easier to sell. Although I haven't suggested it to any of my clients yet, I think a very nice touch would be to have a basket of Christmas cookies or goodies sitting on the table with a little note to prospective purchasers to try one and wish them a Merry Christmas. Who knows it could mean that your home will be remembered with warm thoughts, when others are long forgotten. Give it some thought as you decorate your home this season - and keep those purchasers in mind. It's a great time to show your home to its best advantage - and anyone who is looking for homes at this time of year, is a really serious buyer. Happy decorating!

Homes Sold Creatively

THIS WEEK'S MORTGAGE RATES
 AS OF NOVEMBER 19, 1987

	VARIABLE	1 YR. OPEN	2 YR. OPEN	3 YR. OPEN	4 YR. OPEN	5 YR. OPEN	6 YR. OPEN	7 YR. OPEN	8 YR. OPEN	9 YR. OPEN	10 YR. OPEN
Bank of Nova Scotia	9%	9%	10%	10%	10%	11%	11%	11 1/2%	-	-	-
Bank of Montreal	9%	9%	11%	10%	10%	11%	11%	11 1/2%	11 1/2%	-	-
Canada Trust	-	9%	-	10%	10%	11%	11%	11 1/2%	-	12%	-
C.I.B.C.	9%	9%	-	10%	10%	10%	11%	11%	11%	-	-
Halton Comm Cr. Union	10%	-	-	11%	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-
T.D. Bank	9%	-	9%	10%	10%	10%	11%	11%	-	-	-
Royal Bank	9%	9%	-	11%	10%	10%	11%	11%	-	-	-