

December 7, 2009

We have now completed nearly all the photography for paintings in private collections. Seventy-five privately-owned painting images have been taken. Participation in this portion of the pre-publishing has been most appreciated. We have also completed the sessions from Glanmore National Historic Site and the J. M. Parrott Gallery, both in Belleville. Images have been received from the National Gallery, Ottawa, the National War Museum, Ottawa, The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Halifax, The Agnes Etherington Art Gallery, Kingston, The McLaughlin Art Gallery, Oshawa, The Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, The Ontario Government Archives, Toronto The MacDonald Art Centre at the University of Guelph, The Art Gallery of Hamilton, and the Art Gallery of Windsor.

We have also been given permission by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II to photograph Toronto Waterfront, a painting given to her by the city of Toronto on her visit in 1959. Timing of the publication will determine whether this image can be included. This painting is important for more than just the royal consent, for it was this Manly MacDonald painting that caused such a controversy. Traditional painting was under fire by modernists in the 1950s, and MacDonald was caught up in the painting storm that blew across in Canada.

Loyalist College Collection choices will be photographed in early January, 2010.

In total, we will have photographed and/or scanned over one hundred and seventy-five pieces. The final decision on those to be included in the book will be made shortly after the Loyalist photography session. Of the 175 pieces, approximately 125 will be chosen, therefore it will be necessary to leave some of the worthy paintings out in the process. A final note will be sent to collectors regarding this selection.

We are now entering an exciting stage. Plumley Press has been established to publish the book. Friesen Press of Altona, Manitoba has been chosen to print the book, possibly as early as March, 2010. The print run will be 1,500 copies in English, with distribution primarily in Canada. An international bar code (ISBN) has been registered with the Government of Canada.

There is much to do yet, but your kind support and interest over this past year have helped sustain my enthusiasm. As Christmas nears, my wife and I would like to wish you all the happiest of the Christmas season and a very positive New Year.

Regards,  
Charles & Paula Beale