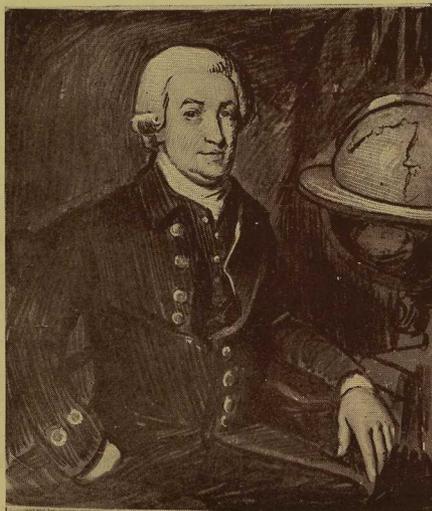


Howay



Vancouver City Museum  
Golden Jubilee  
1894-1944



CAPT. GEORGE VANCOUVER, 1757-1798

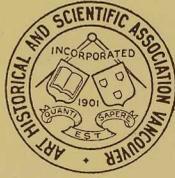
The Art, Historical and Scientific Association  
of Vancouver, B. C.

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(For binding)



CHARLES HILL-TOUT, F.R.S.C., F.R.A.I., ETC.  
*Charter Member and President from 1934-1944.*



# History of the Art, Historical and Scientific Association

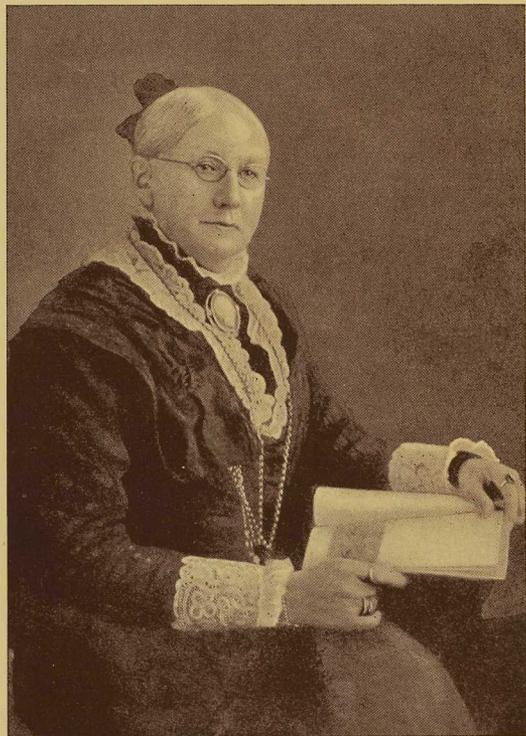
VANCOUVER'S FIRST CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

by

NOEL ROBINSON



HYDE CLARKE, F.I.J.



MRS. S. G. MELLON

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## THE YEARS BETWEEN



THE student of any major war is aware that one of its <sup>collateral</sup> ~~collarics~~ is the psychological change it brings with it in the attitude of the average man towards the sort of books he chooses to read. This has been very noticeable in the present World War.

There has, for instance, been a great increase in the number of patrons of the Vancouver Public Library whose taste for non-fiction books in preference to fiction has led to an unprecedented demand for the former. And Vancouver is only one of innumerable cities on this Continent, and in the Old Country, where this has been found to be the case.

Similarly, the war has led to a marked increase in the number of visitors to the Vancouver Museum—an increase altogether out of proportion to the increase of population. In the course of the four years of hostilities our City Museum has experienced an almost phenomenal increase in the number of its visitors—and this despite the fact that it can only be reached through the ascent of a lengthy marble stairway which, however imposing and picture-lined it may be, is a weariness to the flesh of the more elderly among the visitors.

For some years past the number of those visitors has exceeded the 100,000 mark annually—exclusive of children, who, either in school groups or individually, have been in excess of that number. Of those visitors men in uniform of many nationalities have constituted a very considerable proportion during the war years. Those of us in the last war who found ourselves on leave in London, Paris or Brussels, or in smaller centres of population, recall the attraction that museums had for us.

Various reasons have been given for this increased interest in the past at a time when present interests would seem to be paramount. The most cogent of these reasons would appear to be the desire of the average man to forget for the moment the current catastrophic happenings by delving into the literature of the past in our libraries and observing, through the medium of our museums, the artefacts and other mementoes of preceding generations. There has been a great stimulus to thinking.

By a happy circumstance this very noticeable mental stimulus induced by war coincides, locally, with the Jubilee of the Vancouver Art, Historical and Scientific Association, the organization which in the pioneer period of the city, and for many years thereafter, was the basis of nearly all the cultural life in Vancouver and which is still the governing body of the museum. For this reason it has been felt that, coincident with the commemoration during the anniversary week—April 24 to 30—there should appear this little brochure presenting some of the highlights,—and the pioneers connected with them,—in the history of the Association, which was founded in 1894.

We have, however, to go back a few years earlier than 1894 in order to give credit where credit is due in this matter—i.e., to the inspiration which was the genesis of the movement. This is contained in a letter written in London,

England, by a remarkable man named Hyde Clarke, D.C.L., to the *Vancouver News-Advertiser* and published on September 22, 1887, the year after the city's incorporation. This letter begins: "Now that the future of British Columbia and its great destiny is recognized on all hands it would be well if its citizens remember that they have a history." After pointing out that it was then 100 years since Captain Meares, in June, 1788, under the auspices of the East India Company, built a fort in Nootka Sound and established trade with China, and stressing subsequent dramatic happenings ("I have seen Cook's ship in which he explored your coast and remember as a boy his sailors still remained in Greenwich Hospital"), Mr. Clarke forecasts the possible erection in Vancouver of statues of Captains Cook and Vancouver and urges the provision of books of reference bearing upon the history of the city and province as well as Indian and other relics in a future museum.

Immediately following the publication of this letter the late Mr. F. L. Carter-Cotton (proprietor and editor of the *News-Advertiser*) wrote an admirably worded editorial calling attention to it. He concluded this editorial with the following paragraph:

"Whilst we do not know whether a centennial, as proposed by Mr. Clarke, could be successfully staged and celebrated here, we think it an opportune occasion to suggest that, in connection with, or under the auspices of, the Board of Trade to be established here, it would be both interesting and beneficial to found an Historic Society which should gather and preserve records and information connected with the history of British Columbia. And it is possible that Mr. Clarke and other friends of the Colony in England would willingly assist such a movement by securing for us any materials obtainable there which would aid the object which the Society would have in view."

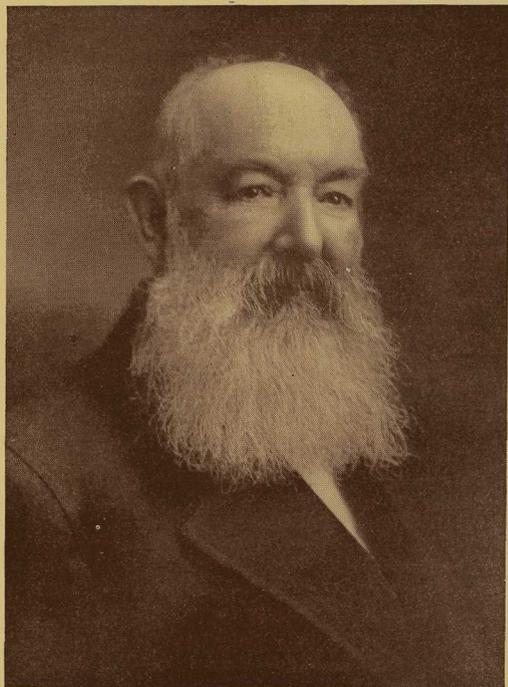
Mr. Clarke, who was one of the best known members of the Council of Journalists and Newspaper Proprietors, and also editor of *The Economist*, wrote in French, Spanish and other languages, established a newspaper in Turkey, compiled the first 'Index to the Times,' and in 'Men of the Time' is referred to as an outstanding European linguist and well-known writer on literary, historical and economic subjects, and author of a number of scientific discoveries.

Internal evidence in the old minute books of the Art, Historical and Scientific Association points to the fact that it was this letter and editorial that provided the stimulus that led to the establishment of that body, which was, however, preceded by the founding of an Art Association upon a date, and at a place in the city, to which there is no exact reference.

In this connection it should be mentioned, parenthetically, that Mr. Will Ferris, who became the first curator of the Museum, stated that, as far back as 1889, Captain and Mrs. Mellon, Mrs. W. Webster and himself met in a small store on Hastings Street and started in a very small way an Art Association. Years later the late Mr. R. E. Gosnell, well-known journalist and one to whom the province is much indebted as founder of our Provincial Archives and collector of historical data in connection with B. C., writing to "Diogenes" (the late Bernard McEvoy of the *Vancouver Province*) commenting upon Mr. Ferris's statement, observed: "It is not a matter of any importance, but somehow or other I got it into my head that the first meeting was held in my house on Howe Street and I have a distinct recollection of Captain Mellon and Mrs. Mellon being present and I think also Mrs. J. McGillivray. I certainly was a charter

member and personally solicited subscriptions to purchase some Indian curios from the late Mr. James Deans of Victoria and these formed the nucleus of the present collection in the Carnegie Library building and I remember the late Mr. R. J. Skinner, forestry inspector, subscribed \$25 towards the fund."

On a Sunday in February, 1892, a scheme for the enlargement of the scope of the Art Association was put forward on the motion of Mr. Gosnell, seconded by Mr. A. G. Hamersley, when for the first time the present name, Art, Historical and Scientific Association, was suggested. The members of the committee elected to draw up this scheme were Captain and Mrs. Mellon and Messrs. J. C. Keith, Charles Hill-Tout, J. B. Kerr and R. E. Gosnell. At subsequent



CAPTAIN HENRY AUGUSTUS MELLON

meetings—at one of which Mayor Cope presided and the speakers were the Revs. J. W. Pedley and E. D. McLaren, and Messrs. J. Balfour Ker and Mr. Kitto, Japanese consul, with Ald. E. Odium as secretary—it was pointed out that many old relics identified with the bygone periods of the province were rapidly disappearing and, if a museum were to be established to contain these, immediate action in the matter was necessary as curio seekers from all parts of Canada and the United States were gradually carrying them away.

Other meetings were held in the Lefevre Block, but it was not until April 17, 1894, when a public meeting was held in the O'Brien Hall, the Rev. Norman Tucker, rector of Christ Church, in the chair, that the Vancouver Art, Historical and Scientific Association came into being. In the meantime, the first Art Exhibition had been held in the Lefevre Block (corner of Seymour and Hastings Streets) in 1890.

#### VANCOUVER AS IT WAS

Now, in order that the reader of today may get a balanced picture of the implications of this effort to establish the basis of a cultural life in the Vancouver of that far away day he must dismiss from his mind the picture he has of the city of today with its population of more than 300,000 and try to visualize a township—though it had already been incorporated—in the bush, magnificently situated but clinging to the south shore of Burrard Inlet and with a population of little over 15,000; a city, moreover, almost entirely dependent for its existence upon the logging industry, of which the old Hastings Mill was the nerve centre.

The business life of this little community was concentrated into two blocks on Cordova Street—the main street, near its junction with Carrall Street, from whence it eventually spread to Hastings Street, where there were then a few scattered buildings. East of Carrall Street to the Hastings Mill was a sort of rancherie which at certain seasons of the year was sprinkled with the tents of the Indians. There were hardly any buildings on the embryonic Granville and Georgia Streets, though the first wooden Hotel Vancouver had been built where now its successor is utilised as a barracks for the troops in the present war. There was a wooden building standing obliquely from it on the site of the present Hudson's Bay Company's emporium and the first Christ Church, upon the site of the present church, at the corner of Georgia and Burrard. South of Pender Street, two blocks east of Main, and right from Burrard to English Bay, all was bush.

The most striking and most picturesque feature of those years was the congregation of windjammers—sometimes as many as seven or eight—at Hastings Mill. Usually once every year the more adventurous master of one of these sailing ships would "take a chance" and navigate the broad Inlet under sail to Hastings Mill without requisitioning the service of a tug—an unforgettable sight.

Many years after the inauguration of the A. H. & S. Association Mrs. S. Gertrude Mellon, its founder, had this to say for a publication with reference to those years: "This Association had its inception when Vancouver was in a state of transition from the primeval forest, when the frogs in the marshes about and within it kept their nightly vigil, relieved by the buzzing of the nighthawk and the noiseless passage of the bat; while the denizens of the forest were slowly but surely yielding the rights they had maintained for centuries past until the day arrived when the forunner of civilization, the iron horse, came screeching into the city, sweeping away traditions of 'Gastown,' 'Happy Jack' and the last relic, the 'Princess Louise Tree,' and with it the usual concomitants of all the nationalities, all bent towards one goal, the participation in the wealth and natural advantages of a glorious heritage not yet encroached upon by the hand of man. It was because certain people in that early

community saw that, if no restraining hand was put forth, eventually a harvest of corruption and unhealthy surroundings would result, that this Association was formed."

Those were the years when the ladies of the community wore picture hats, tight bodices, with mutton-chop sleeves and long skirts—quite unknown to their descendants except in photographs.

When it is remembered that three-fourths of the population were loggers or employed in the Hastings Mill or otherwise engaged in the lumbering industry some idea may be gathered of the enterprise and vision of the other fourth which sought to give an intellectual foundation to that pioneer settlement, a foundation upon which future generations would be able to build. For that reason I propose to deal in the following pages chiefly with the genesis of the A. H. & S. A. and only touch lightly upon later years, and for that reason, also, there is now appended a complete list of the first members of the Association:

Captain and Mrs. Mellon, S. Peters, Mrs. Tucker, Rev. L. Norman Tucker, H. J. de Forest, A. Postill, T. H. Hardiman, A. Lee Rogers, Mrs. McLachlan, Mrs. J. C. McLagan, C. S. Bailey, Mrs. K. Apenes, R. E. Gosnell, G. T. Legg, Mrs. M. P. Macaulay, Mrs. J. H. Rogers, Miss K. Walker, A. F. Corbin, Rev. Mr. Outerbridge, Miss Hirschberg, W. Ferris, Rev. R. Duff, F. J. Panton, Mrs. Panton, Miss Dafoe, Miss M. L. Harding, Mrs. M. Tracey, Mrs. H. Abbott, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Beecher, Miss Richards, Mrs. Bauer, Mrs. Cambie, Mrs. Hamersley, Miss Skene, Carlyle Ellis, Miss J. Skene, Miss M. Fraser, Mrs. Major, Mrs. Tilley, Mrs. F. Cope, Mrs. McGillivray, Mrs. McConnell, George Bartley, Rev. E. P. Flewelling, G. F. Monckton, J. M. Browning, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Cargill, Rev. Macmillan, Mrs. Buntzen, A. K. Stuart, Mrs. Tunstall, Mrs. Sweet, Rev. C. Watson, A. M. Bullock, Miss J. Macfie, Miss Marstrand, R. J. Skinner, Mr. McLachlan, Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Cochburn, Mrs. Duval, Kitt Ledger, Mrs. Kitt Ledger, R. V. Ellis, Victor Dafoe, Miss Diamond, Miss J. Fraser, A. Williams, Mrs. A. Williams, L. H. Wright, T. H. Wilgress, Mrs. Wilgress, F. W. Rounsefell, S. Someya, Voupele, Mrs. J. W. Champion, Mrs. J. A. Lee, Mrs. Ponsford, Mrs. D. Oppenheimer, Mrs. R. Boyd, Mrs. G. Alexander, Mrs. J. Fowles, Mrs. I. Oppenheimer, Mrs. C. Smith, P. U. Smith, Mrs. P. Neville Smith, Dr. Robertson, Miss F. J. Thomson, Mrs. J. Dickinson, Miss B. Newman, Mrs. H. D. Averill, Mrs. R. C. Ferguson, Mrs. W. L. Nicholl, Mrs. F. Young, Mrs. E. Cook, Mrs. J. J. Banfield, R. Hamilton, Mrs. R. Hamilton, R. W. Clarke, Mrs. R. W. Clarke, Miss F. E. Robb, Miss R. Shaw, Miss Fitzgerald, Mrs. M. R. Thompson, E. Cook, Mrs. J. R. Seymour, Mrs. Montserrat, A. M. Beattie, Mrs. A. M. Beattie, Mrs. J. Omond, Miss K. Barker, Judge McCreight, G. H. Cowan, Mrs. J. A. Russell, Mrs. J. A. Fullerton, Mr. McQueen, Miss Newman, Miss Sommers, Mr. Ralph, Mrs. H. Thomas, Mrs. W. T. Oliver, Miss Suckling, Mrs. Suckling, Mrs. Thornbury, Miss Tracy, Mrs. Lett, Mr. H. Darling, Mrs. Darling, Mrs. W. Webster, Miss Andrews, Mrs. McLean, Mrs. M. Hodgson, Miss E. Logan, Mrs. Collins and Miss E. Collins, Mrs. Knowler and Mr. Knowler, Mrs. Orr, Miss Ferguson, Miss Fagan, Mrs. E. B. Deane, E. B. Deane, Rev. E. D. McLaren, Mrs. G. Drysdale and G. Drysdale, Mrs. T. Dunn and T. Dunn, Col. Tracy, Mrs. G. Marshall, Miss V. Froude, Mrs. R. Marshall, Mrs. C. A. Schooley, C. A. Schooley, Mrs. D. Ferguson, H. C. Godden, W. Garden, W. Taylor, Miss E. O. Taylor, R. Martin, Mrs. R. Martin, Mrs. R. Casement, G. H. Dawson, W. P. Peterson, W. H. Allen, C. Hill-Tout, Mrs. Hill-Tout, Mrs. Thicke, Miss Campbell, Mrs. C. W. Robson, S. Williams, J. C. Shaw, H. C. Shaw, Mrs. H. C. Shaw, Miss E. Hodgson, Mrs. J. Wilson.

An accompanying list of local residents giving small sums of money to set the ball rolling, and headed by \$26 collected by Captain Mellon, includes a number of those in the foregoing list, with the addition of Miss M. G. Elphinstone Maitland, Mrs. Schofield, A. E. Stevens, B. Springer, D. McPhaiden, W. Murray, Fane Sewell, W. Godfrey, C. F. Yates, J. J. Banfield, A. A. Boak, Capt. Fullerton, McClintock, E. S. Martin, J. Fagan, C. W. Robson, J. W. Sinclair, P. F. Emerson, W. Innes, A. St. G. Hamersley, W. Sully, W. Downie, Campbell Sweeny, G. McL. Brown, H. Abbott, R. A. Anderson, F. W. Boultsbee, T. F. McGuigan, Dr. Carroll, S. Oppenheimer, D. A. Ross, W. J. Bowser, B. P. Bathscute, Percy Evans, Townley, McPhillips, H. T. Ceperley, A. H. Cotton.

While there are a percentage of names of people in these foundation lists which do not appear in the subsequent proceedings of the Association there are quite a number who later played a prominent part in the civic and political life of this city and province and several whose public careers took them into wider fields, including England.

The writer of these notes got Mr. Roy Brown, editor-in-chief "Vancouver Sun," for many years managing editor of the "Vancouver Province," and at the time of the inauguration of the A. H. & S. A. a youth on the staff of the first morning newspaper, The News-Advertiser, and responsible for many of the reports of its proceedings in that newspaper, to run his eye over these names. Mr. Brown (who was present at the first annual meeting in 1895) found that there are only three men and three women represented in these lists alive today, 50 years later.

These are Mrs. W. Webster (now Mrs. A. E. Richards of Honolulu), Mrs. A. M. Beattie (mother-in-law of Mr. Frank Burd, president of the "Vancouver Province") and Mrs. J. J. Banfield, Charles Hill-Tout ((in his 86th year and president for ten successive years of the A. H. & S. A.), Mr. A. K. Stuart (assistant city engineer in the early years and now living at Hope, B.C., in his 87th year) and Mr. T. H. Wilgress (father of Canada's present Ambassador to Russia), resident in Vancouver.

Of these survivors—all more than four-score years of age—one, Mrs. Banfield, has rendered invaluable service as chairman of one of the committees that has organized the present Jubilee commemoration. Another, Mrs. Richards, whose first husband was Captain Webster, first manager of the Union Steamship Company here, played an active part in the earliest deliberations of the Association and, prior to that, herself established a pioneer art school and organized monthly discussions in an unused part of her husband's office in a room on Hastings Street near Cambie. From a letter received from her recently by Major Matthews, city archivist, it is apparent that she is still keenly interested in the progress of the Association and Museum.

The first meeting of the general committee of the A. H. & S. A. was held in the anteroom of Christ Church on April 24, 1894, those present under the chairmanship of the Rev. Norman Tucker, first Rector of Christ Church, being Captain and Mrs. Mellon, Mrs. J. C. McLagan (later proprietor and publisher of the "Vancouver World" newspaper, which was founded and edited by her husband, J. C. McLagan), Mrs. Tunstall, Mrs. W. McLachlan, Mr. Lee Rogers, Mr. T. Hardiman and Mr. McAdam. It was announced that Lt.-Governor Edgar Dewdney (a native of Devon, England, a survivor of the Cariboo Gold Rush and one time Governor of the North-West Territories and a member of

Sir John A. Macdonald's cabinet) had accepted the honorary presidency, with Mrs. Dewdney, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Sillitoe and Mr. and Mrs. H. Abbott as vice-presidents.

Immediately afterwards H. J. de Forest, who was to play a very important part in the evolution of the Association, appears for the first time actively in the picture. Mr. de Forest, an Englishman, tall, slight and handsome, with Vandyke beard and moustache, was the most prominent local artist of his day and a number of the pictures that he painted still hang upon the walls of homes in the city and in the Museum, while his contributions to the collection of exhibits in the Museum were numerous as the years passed.



MRS. J. C. MCLAGAN

Among the first addresses delivered before the members of the Association were talks by Mr. Will Ferris on "Art," Mr. G. F. Monckton, M.E., well-known geologist and for a brief period secretary of the Association, on "The Geology of Burrard Inlet," and Mr. Hill-Tout on "A Unique Skull" (he had excavated this skull from a grave in an old burial mound at Hatzic up the Fraser Valley and estimated it at from 1000 to 1500 years of age).

## THE FIRST HIGH-LIGHT

November 1, 1894, was the first high-light in the then brief history of the Association, when an ambitious exhibition was staged in the Dunn Hall (this hall, built by Thomas Dunn, was upstairs on the right-hand side of the Fairfield Building and next the lane dividing it from the Williams Building on the west side of Granville Street near its junction with Hastings Street) and was formally opened by the then Governor-General of Canada, Lord Aberdeen, who was accompanied by Lady Aberdeen, founder of the Victorian Order of Nurses in Canada, of which Order Mrs. Mellon was then the moving spirit in Vancouver. Music upon this occasion was contributed by the pioneer orchestra of the brothers Fred and George Dyke and Mrs. J. Buntzen (after whose husband, head of the B. C. Electric Company, Buntzen up the North Arm is named) sang, the first of many occasions when she similarly entertained the members and other gatherings in the city. Tribute was paid to Dr. Alfred R. C. Selwyn, C.M.G., F.R.S., a local resident whose long life had been devoted to museums and museum work in Britain, Australia and Canada and who had declined the honorary presidency of the Association on account of his advanced age.

Some idea has been given of the firm foundation upon which this first cultural association had been laid. In what follows space will only permit of a sketchy outline with a few details of the outstanding achievements of the middle and more recent years. It would be a pity, however, to omit a reference to a stormy petrel of the Association of those first few years who, while rendering valuable service, must have proved a bad headache to the governing body judging by the worried references to her activities in the minutes of those days, these references being alternately complimentary and condemnatory.

This lady, Miss M. Fraser, must have possessed a dynamic personality. Once we find her organizing a most successful entertainment in behalf of the funds of the Association and contributing exhibits (particularly a notable stuffed parrot) to its collection, and a few weeks later she is appearing before the City Council—which had offered the Association an annual grant of \$100—declining this offer, on her own responsibility, because she said it was not necessary—only to have her action indignantly repudiated by her fellow members of the committee. Next we find her—she was treasurer of the Association—refusing “on a matter of principle” to give up the funds in her hands because, she said, it was proposed to use them along lines of which she did not approve. Ultimately, after the Association had “persuaded” her, through the medium of its lawyers, to write out a cheque for this \$103, she fades out of the picture—strangely enough without any hard feelings on either side. The committee evidently felt that, despite her enthusiasm for fostering art, history and science, she was an expensive luxury.

About this time we find the following curious entry in the minute book: “A bill for \$5.50 was presented by the secretary on account of a steamer trip, this being the boat hire for himself and Mr. Pugh in connection with a mountain sheep hunt. Also a bill for \$2.50 from Mr. Pugh for one day of his time in the same undertaking.”

The absence of any reference to whether the hunters “brought home the bacon” is illuminating. There is no trophy of this nature in the Museum!

The foregoing, however, is incidental, and the Association, even after the first enthusiasm had cooled down and obstacles, financial and otherwise, crowded upon it, continued to make progress, the one great difficulty continually facing

the committee being the housing of its rapidly increasing collection of exhibits, until they were ultimately housed at the top of the Carnegie Library following lengthy discussions with the City Council and the final drawing up of an agreement, Captain Mellon always carrying on the business end of the negotiations. In 1898 Mr. Hill-Tout's proposition that the property of the Association should be vested in the City Council, provided that the latter secured a suitable room, was carried, and the agreement, drawn up by Mr. Edgar Bloomfield and Captain Mellon, to the effect that "the city retains possession of the Association's collections as long as suitable accommodation is provided, with the Association as custodians and guardians of same," was signed.

Though in the early stages the City Council and the A. H. & S. A. sometimes came very near a deadlock, from this stage on and right down the years the relationship has been happy and the annual money grant from the former, which is the life-blood of the latter, has steadily increased, though never approaching a figure adequate to the needs of a museum worthy of a city of Vancouver's size and population.

In 1904, when the Library Building was completed and opened, the accommodation for the Museum was also ready, but another year had to elapse before the A. H. & S. A. was able to move in, as, owing to difficulties with contractors, the last portion of the staircase had not been completed. The occasion of the "moving in" on April 19, 1905, was a gala affair. In the absence of the president (Professor Edward Odlum), Acting-Mayor Bethune presided and His Honour Judge Henderson delivered the address, in the course of which he referred to the fact that the Association had had the honour of entertaining those two great scientists in different fields, Lord Kelvin and Lord Lister.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL

In the meantime—and later for many years—the secretary-curatorship alternated between Mr. Ferris and Mr. De Forest, the former, after the latter's death, continuing the office until the appointment in 1924 of Mr. T. P. O. Menzies, the present secretary-curator. In passing it may be stated that some of the annual reports of Mr. de Forest preserved in the minutes are marked by almost lyrical passages and it is clear that no obstacle was capable of putting a damper upon his enthusiasm.

Though neither of them ever accepted the presidency, Captain Henry Augustus Mellon and his wife, Mrs. Gertrude Mellon (the latter a cousin of Mr. Hyde Clarke to whom reference has been made) may be regarded not only as the parents of the A. H. & S. A. but as the two outstanding figures of its history in what the late Trader Horn would have called "The Earlies" and—in the case of Mrs. Mellon—following her husband's death, until the time of her own passing in 1926.

Captain Mellon, born in Nottingham, England, in 1840, went to sea at the age of 14 and was present in the Indian Mutiny, in which operation he was wounded and was thus compelled to leave the service. Thereafter he entered the service of the Allan Line Steamships and then the Dominion Line, eventually attaining command. Upon his retirement he came to Canada in 1880. He married Miss Gertrude Clarke (who was born in Goswell Street, London, England, and was brought to Ontario when six years old) in Winnipeg in 1885 and the couple came to Vancouver in 1886, a few months after the fire that

swept away the infant city. Mrs. Mellon was a woman of impressive personality, both physically and mentally, and almost lived to foster the interests of the Association she had helped to found.

The first president of the A. H. & S. A. was the Rev. Norman Tucker, Rector of Christ Church, who took an active part in all educational work in the city, and it was due to him that much of the "spade" work was accomplished. He was president for the first crucial three years and again in 1901 and 1902. Upon leaving the city to return to eastern Canada he was accorded a public farewell and a handsome presentation. A man of austere type and the antithesis of the humorous and popular Rev. Father Clinton, Rector of St. James, the other pioneer Anglican parson of the earliest years in Vancouver, Canon Tucker, as he afterwards became, gave valuable leadership to the Association during his five years as president.

During its earlier years, Professor Edward Odium (father of General Victor Odium, now Canadian Ambassador to China), who occupied the presidential chair for five years, with an interregnum, had been a continual source of inspiration, had contributed a lot of hard work in the interests of the Association, and had often lectured before its members. The son of an eastern Canadian farmer, he had been a teacher in Canada and Japan for twenty years before coming to Vancouver in 1889.

Another outstanding president of those years was Mrs. J. C. McLagan, one of the two women presidents of the Association, the other being Mrs. J. W. Weart—another woman of stimulating personality—in more recent years. Mrs. McLagan was of real pioneer stock, the daughter of Sergt. Maclure, who came out to British Columbia on the "Thames City" round the Horn with the "Sappers and Miners" who founded New Westminster and built part of the Cariboo Road in the early sixties. Mr. Maclure later became a pioneer in the Fraser Valley and, as a girl, his daughter and her mother played a gallant part in the fiercest forest fire that ever devastated that valley in modern times. Later she became a telegraphist and, after acting as publisher of the "Vancouver World" following the death of her husband, and with the advent of the first World War, learned typewriting and went overseas to do her "bit," subsequently returning to Vancouver where she managed the Old People's Home until the time of her death, which took place in her seventieth year.

The outstanding president of the A. H. & S. A. during its middle years was the late Judge F. W. Howay of New Westminster, who occupied that position in 1910 and for six successive years afterwards. His achievements as historian of British Columbia and the Fur Traders of the North-West, as Chairman of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, and as first Western president of the Royal Society of Canada are so well known that it is only necessary to say that he brought to the service of the A. H. & S. A. all the qualities that distinguished him in those other capacities and that his advice and leadership were invaluable.

Another long-term president was Mr. R. P. S. Twizell, A.R.I.B.A.—from 1918 to 1922—a notable Vancouver architect who hailed from Newcastle-on-Tyne. He led the Association through some very trying years of its existence and was followed in that capacity by one of the only two mariners to play a prominent part in its history. Captain Henry Pybus, who was president for four years, was a South African who had had a very varied career in command over the Seven Seas. He had a strong penchant for art and had collected many

beautiful pictures at his home in the West End. He was followed by Dr. George Kidd, a Lieutenant-Colonel in the last war, who presented to the Museum its only Egyptian mummy, a young princess, which he had brought from Egypt.

One president in later years who left a very definite mark upon the Association and the work of the Museum, not only during his presidential year but before and after that date, was the late Mr. F. C. Wade (1908-9). He was later Agent-General for British Columbia in London, England. Like Judge Howay, Mr. Wade devoted a lot of time to developing the historical aspect of the Museum.

The outstanding president of the A. H. & S. A., both in the number of his presidential years—the last ten years and until a few months ago when he resigned on account of ill-health—as well as in the length and multiplicity of his activities in its behalf, a period extending from the first meeting until the present time fifty years later, is Charles Hill-Tout. Like Judge Howay, but in another field—that of anthropology—he is the author of several books and many pamphlets, and his reputation extends far beyond Vancouver—indeed beyond this Continent. To quote from a greeting sent to him by Judge Howay and written upon a copy of the Great Fraser Midden pamphlet immediately after the unveiling of the Cairn upon that spot: "To my friend Professor Hill-Tout—the one man in British Columbia who can speak with authority upon the value of the Great Fraser Midden and did so on May 7, 1938." He is the only surviving active member of the Association from its beginning until the present day. Throughout the fifty years of its history his name is to be found continually in the minutes of its deliberations and he has been responsible, more than any other man, for whatever achievements stand to its credit. At the age of 85 he is the G.O.M. of the Association. As a result of his paper upon the Great Fraser Midden, written for the Royal Society of Canada, he was made a Fellow of that Society.

#### OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

The object of this brochure has been to help commemorate the Jubilee of the A. H. & S. A., to get at what Judge Howay was fond of calling its tap-roots, and only to touch briefly upon its later years and those connected then with its later activities. But it would not have served its object if reference were not made to some of its major achievements, such as the discovery and excavations on the site of the Great Fraser Midden, the erection of the Indian Totem Poles and Lodge Posts in Stanley Park and the publication for some years of "Museum Notes." These have high-lighted the steady regular service which it has afforded the people of this city.

First in importance comes the Fraser Midden at Eburne. The situation of this ancient native camp-site—it is the largest known midden in the world, being over four <sup>acres</sup> miles in extent—and the discoveries made there, are now common knowledge to archaeologists and anthropologists all over the world. As a pamphlet was published by the Association at the time (May, 1938) when the Memorial Cairn erected by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board was unveiled at Marpole, the present reference need only be brief.

Comparing the lesser with the greater, this discovery may be likened, so far as Western Canada is concerned, to the discovery of Tutankamen's tomb at Luxor in Egypt. It marked the most interesting archaeological discovery ever

made in Western Canada and (in the opinion of Charles Till-Tout and other authorities) afforded the first evidence that this region was once inhabited by a primitive people antedating the present Indians and of whom hitherto we had no knowledge.

In the opinion of Mr. Hill-Tout, the discoverer of the midden, these people were of Eskimo stock. This is not the place to give his reasons for arriving at that conclusion—these were included in the address he delivered at the unveiling, as well as in a profusely illustrated article that he wrote in the "London Illustrated News" of England. But it is interesting to recall that—at a time when there was little or no interest out here in such matters—forty-five years ago, to be exact—Mr. Hill-Tout's anthropological leanings prompted him to delve into this aspect of the unknown. A road (now part of Marine Drive) was being cut through this spot at Eburne and workmen had unearthed there a number of skeletons and many bone and stone artifacts, and this intrigued him to initiate further excavations on the spot and to urge, year after year, that further excavations should be made. But it was not until recent years that the council of the Association was in a position to devote a considerable proportion of its limited income to the work. The result is that in a number of large glass cases in the Museum there is an assortment of relics from this midden that are the Museum's most priceless possession and that have attracted widespread interest.

This huge midden, Mr. Hill-Tout states, was actually in existence before the adjacent Lulu and Sea Islands had appeared.

Appropos of this collection it will be of interest to recall that within the last year or two the Museum was visited by the Viscomte de Poncens (author of a comparatively recent best-seller "Kabloona," dealing with a remote tribe of Eskimo with whom he had lived as one of themselves for the preceding 16 months), who, comparing some of the Eskimo artifacts he had brought out with him from the Arctic, with these prehistoric artifacts, found that they were identical.

Apart from its natural beauties, nothing that Stanley Park has to show has attracted so much interest—among tourists particularly—as the Totem Poles and Lodge Posts which have been erected by the Association at Lumberman's Arch near the site of a former village of the Squamish. For years the Association planned for and discussed the establishment of a model Indian village on this site. It was first mooted by the late Ronald Campbell-Johnston as far back as 1915. Many pages of the minute books are filled with accounts of the discussions on this project, and a determined attempt was made to raise funds for the purpose, one lady, Mrs. F. T. Schooley, raising by her own efforts as much as \$774. The late Mr. H. E. Carry was very active in this movement. Eventually, owing partly to opposition by the Native Sons of B. C. and the Squamish Indians and partly to lack of sufficient funds, the project was abandoned.

This campaign, however, had one very satisfactory issue—the erection of the Totem Poles and Lodge Posts and the preservation near at hand of an Indian war canoe that was brought down from Harrison Lake. One of these totem poles was presented to the Association by Mr. W. C. Shelly (then an alderman and chairman of the Parks Board), and the lodge posts and the other totem poles were procured for the Association by Mrs. Amy Campbell-Johnston and Mr. Campbell-Johnston (whose exhibit of Indian relics is a feature of the Museum) as a result of their investigations up the coast. A very interesting

brochure on the stories indicated by these totem poles was written by the Rev. John Goodfellow, at that time one of the directors of the A. H. & S. A., and one to whom the A. H. & S. A., as well as the Oregon Historical Association, is indebted for his investigations in various directions. There is another huge totem pole, carved of recent years by Chief Mathias Capilano, at Prospect Point. This was unveiled a few years ago at a picturesque ceremony in which the Parks Board and the A. H. & S. A. participated.

#### A PIONEER HISTORIAN

The idea of the publication of "Museum Notes" originated with the late Mr. Denys Nelson, who first became associated with the A. H. & S. A. as a director upon his return from the first World War. Mr. Nelson rendered great service to the Association during the few brief years that elapsed before his death. He was a man of striking appearance, was possessed of a most dynamic personality, and had all the instincts of a born historian, particularly a passion for accuracy, and his death at Fort Langley, where he had finally made his home, deprived the Association of the services of one who, had he lived, would have made far more valuable contributions to B. C. historical lore than he was able to do in the brief time allowed him. At it was, he left behind him a brief history in pamphlet form dealing with the history of the A. H. & S. A. and a brochure upon Fort Langley.

Mr. Nelson first commenced "Museum Notes" by mimeographing them and issuing them at intervals, and the "Notes" ultimately developed, under the editorship of the late Stephen Golder and Mr. Menzies, the curator, into an admirably produced and illustrated publication in booklet form that was printed at cost price by a pioneer firm of printers, Messrs. Evans & Hastings, and which did more to make the Association and its work known to the museums and other similar cultural bodies of the world than any other department of its activities and elicited many encomiums both on this Continent and abroad. It was as a result of this publication (to which such internationally known anthropological and botanical authorities as Mr. Hill-Tout and Mr. G. H. Wailes frequently contributed) that the interest of such men as the famous anthropologist Sir Arthur Keith—who accepted an honorary membership of the Association—was enlisted. "Museum Notes" was published from 1926 to 1932 and then had to be discontinued owing to lack of funds. The publication should certainly be resumed after the war has been won.

The limitation of space has led to the omission of much of interest that might have been included in these pages and the omission, too, of many names of others than those mentioned who have played a part in the evolution of the A. H. & S. A. down the years, but there is one name that should not be omitted, that of the late J. Francis Bursill ("Felix Penne," to give him the pen-name by which he became widely known in British Columbia during the many years of his residence in Vancouver), a man who, from the year of his arrival (1908), when he wrote a "Guide and Handbook to the Museum," until the year of his death was one of its most zealous supporters as writer and lecturer. He possessed a picturesque personality and was instinct with wit and energy. Though saturated in the traditions of the past he adapted himself astonishingly in middle age to the utterly different environment of a new country. It was he who wrote very truly of his friend Judge Howay: "A thorough Canadian and one who has never seen London, Judge Howay has caught the spirit of the Old World like a Washington Irving."

## SPRINGBOARD FOR THE FUTURE

The purpose of this skeletonised story outlining fifty years in the history of the Vancouver Art, Historical and Scientific Association would be lost if emphasis were not laid in closing upon the future as well as the past. The commemoration in these pages of the names and activities of some of those who laid the foundation of our Museum and of others who built upon that foundation in "the years between" is only one aspect of that commemoration which this writer, as a member of the Council of the Association, had in mind. In the words of our recently elected president, Dr. Raley (himself an authority upon the Indians and their relics, and, like Mrs. Lipsett, the possessor of one of the finest Indian collections in the province): "This Jubilee is as much a springboard for the future as a commemoration of the past."

In a small but ever-growing community the present Museum at the top of the Vancouver Public Library was established to serve its purpose in pioneer years, but, with the growth of Vancouver and Greater Vancouver into metropolitan proportions, it has only been able to continue to do so with the greatest difficulty on account of severe limitations of space. At the same time the lengthy, sweeping staircase by which it is reached continues to be an almost insurmountable obstacle to many visitors who are far past their prime and entirely precludes still older would-be visitors from visiting it.

Fuly one-half of the valuable exhibits possessed by the Association (the exhibits are insured for \$250,000) are, for lack of space, hidden away in the vaults below the Library Building. While the very best use is made of the space available, this is a deplorable state of affairs in a city of Vancouver's importance and population.

Provision has been made, in the rather grandiose post-war plans which the City Council has in mind, for a new Museum Building. There is only a pious hope that those plans will be implemented in full but it behooves every member of this Association, and indeed of all who have any appreciation of the educational value of the history that is crystallised in the valuable exhibits handed down to us by those who have preceded us, to urge upon the authorities the importance of providing a home more worthy of those exhibits than the present utterly inadequate building. In this way only can we hope to present, visually, to the youth of our city, as well as to visiting tourists, some idea not only of the past but of the present. We owe this service, too, to the men who are spared to return from the war and who will, by way of contrast with the experiences through which they have been passing, have developed an interest in the things that pertain to peace rather than to those that pertain to war.

The writer of these notes has known, more or less intimately, during the past 35 years many of the people mentioned in these pages—most of the pioneers who have passed on were middle-aged in his early years in Vancouver—but none more intimately than Mr. Menzies, the present secretary-curator, and, despite the latter's very definite opposition, insists upon paying tribute to the splendid service he has rendered to the Museum during the twenty years that he has occupied that post under the handicap of very limited accommodation and finances.

Mr. Menzies is a man of varied experiences in many countries, including India, Australia and South Africa. He was a sailor in his early years and a soldier in the last war. It was typical of him that, when he first presented himself before the A. H. & S. A. as an applicant for the post, he informed

the committee that he had no particular qualifications for the job except that he was an enthusiastic entomologist. Perhaps it was because of his original way of describing his lack of qualifications that he was appointed from among many other applicants. He has a keen sense of humour peculiarly his own (upon one occasion he brought back with him from the Cariboo a foot-long specimen of the boaconstrictor, which he exhibited alive in a glass case in the museum) and his keen interest in the Indians and their lore prompts him annually to send his Christmas wishes to his friends upon cards which he illustrates with pen-and-ink sketches of a totem pole, a thunder-bird or some other relic associated with the Indians. For a good many years now he has been ably assisted in the work of the Museum by Mrs. Ruth Corbett and Mr. H. L. Nelson.

If these pages come into the hands of one who does not know our Museum and who would like to become acquainted with it I would suggest that he phone up the Curator and choose for his visit some morning when a group of children from one of the city schools is being personally conducted through it. No occasion could give him a better idea of the appeal which these supposed "dry-as-dust" exhibits have for the young. Their questions are a constant source of interest and entertainment to the teachers who have them in charge. Upon these occasions the Curator usually acts as guide and entertainer and gets as great a kick out of his office as the children themselves, who find that there are sermons in stones and romance where, probably, they least expect to find it. These visits are a revelation of what visual education can do for the young, and that is an important function of our Museum.

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