

Telefunding Campaign

Online Dictionary of Canadian Artists

In an age where information is readily available at the click of a mouse, we rarely consider the tireless efforts of the researcher. Patrons of the National Gallery of Canada Foundation now have the opportunity to continue the efforts of one unique individual who has toiled nearly half a century to record the history of the arts in Canada.

In 1961 Colin S. MacDonald began documenting the biographies of Canadian artists, beginning with the letter 'A.' While planning the *Dictionary of Canadian Artists*, Mr. MacDonald consulted with the late John Russell Harper, former curator of Canadian art at the National Gallery of Canada. Originally conceived as a complement to Harper's published work, MacDonald's *Dictionary* remains the only substantial biographical work on thousands of Canadian painters, engravers, sculptors, carvers, and potters. Although incomplete, it now contains an impressive 5,000 entries.

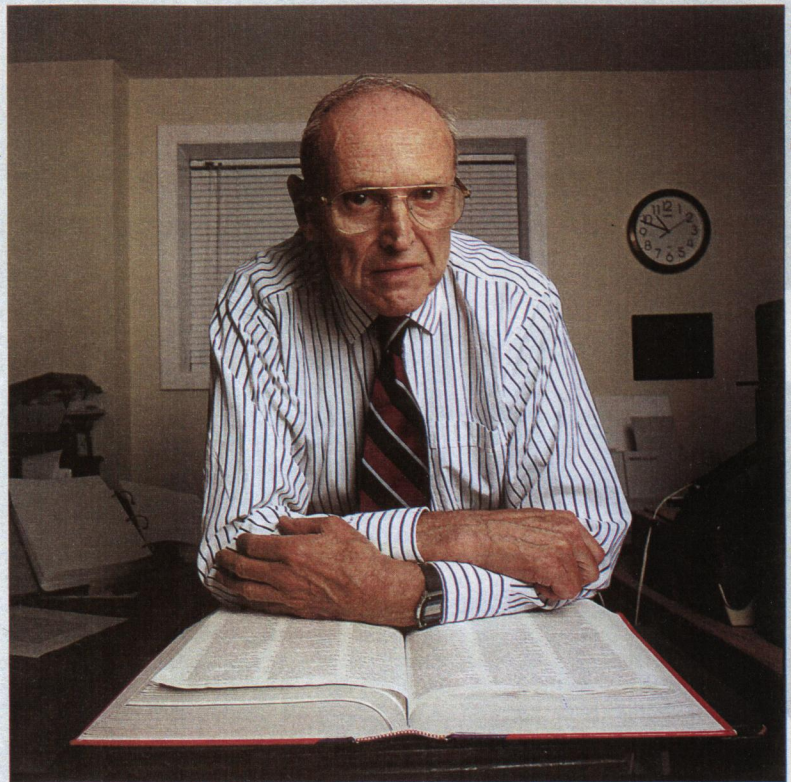
Volume 8 (2006) brought the masterpiece to "Smith," the halfway point in the letter 'S.' Mr. MacDonald carried out much of the research by himself using resources such as newspaper clippings, press releases, obituaries, exhibition notices, and artists' résumés held in files maintained by the NGC Library and Archives. His incredible labour of love has been profiled in *Maclean's* magazine and *The Ottawa Citizen*.

Largely self-supporting in this project, Mr. MacDonald has looked to the NGC to pick up the baton and guide it to completion. As these compilations constitute invaluable reference tools for curators, librarians, art dealers, collectors, teachers, students, and art lovers, the NGC Foundation has embarked on a telefunding campaign to appeal to its members for assistance with this ambitious project of building on Mr. MacDonald's remarkable work.

"The support that this project has received from our patrons is a testament to the historic value that Canadian artists and their works bring to the national and international visual arts community," says Marie Claire Morin, President and CEO, NGC Foundation.

The funds raised will assist the Gallery in completing the *Dictionary* from 'S' to 'Z,' updating and translating existing entries into French, and making the entire body of work accessible to all on the web.

In the meantime, watch for our forthcoming telefunding project that will support the restoration of a unique work of art that took an underwater journey while en route to its Canadian home more than 80 years ago!



Colin S. MacDonald (2003)

Photo: Tony Fouthse