

## CARTER, Alexander Scott (1879 – 1968)

**A**lexander Carter's contribution to architecture in Ontario was his knowledge of heraldry and medieval art, which when combined with his artistic abilities, enabled him to apply sculpture and color to the decoration of buildings.

Carter was born in Harrow, Middlesex County, England in 1879 and received his training at the Royal Academy School of Architecture in London under such famous architects as Sir Aston Webb, Sir T.G. Jackson, Sir Reginald Blomfield, and G.R. Bodley. He learned color decoration from Sir William Richmond, painting from George Clausen, sculpture from Sir George Frampton, and modelling from John Goscombe. His measured drawings of the great Hall of The Charthouse won the silver medal of the Royal Academy in 1905. After completing his studies in the Royal Academy Schools, having been awarded two silver medals, he practiced architecture in London for some time before coming to Canada and settling in Toronto.

He exhibited at the Royal Academy, London as well as the Royal Canadian Academy, Art Gallery of Toronto and other galleries in Canada and the United States. His work was represented in many private collections including: H.M. King George VI, The Duke of Devonshire, Lord Leverhulme, Earl of Bessborough, Sir Edmund Walker, Lady

Eaton, Sir Joseph Flavelle, J.P. Bickell, E.R. Wood, Gerald Larkin, and the Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, as well as in universities, churches and banks throughout North America.

Some of his most notable works include: heraldic plaques for the new wing and Queen Victoria Arms for Straughan Hall at Trinity College, Hoskin Avenue, Toronto; a series of coats-of-arms of universities throughout the world and a decorative frieze of the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam in the Great Hall, Hart House, University of Toronto; decorative panel in the entrance hall representing the incident of Jacques Cartier arriving at Hochelaga, University Club, Montreal, (1927); the reredos of St. Thomas Church, Huron Street, Toronto (1944). Other patrons included: Wycliffe College, University of Toronto; Royal Canadian Yacht Club; T. Eaton Company; Imperial Oil Company, New York; Bank of Nova Scotia; Bank of Montreal; Imperial Bank; Canadian Bank of Commerce and the National Club, Toronto. The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada is indebted to him for the design of its seal and the original certificate of Registration. Carter also designed the menu for the Henry Sproatt memorial dinner at Hart House on December 16, 1926 which was one of the significant architectural gatherings of the period.