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Emily Carr fonds  
Dilworth: news clippings and envelope

*E.C.*

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SOCIÉTÉ RADIO-CANADA

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THE LACHUTE WATCHMAN  
PQ. JUNE 2/55

**Plaque Commemorates  
B.C. Artist, Emily Carr**

At the invitation of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board Ira Dilworth, CBC's Director for Ontario, last month unveiled a plaque to the memory of British Columbia's distinguished artist, the late Emily Carr. The plaque was placed in the boulevard in front of Miss Carr's house, at the corner of Government and Simcoe Streets in Victoria.

Mr. Dilworth counted Miss Carr as one of his personal friends and followed her career with great interest. After her death 10 years ago he and Lawren Harris of Vancouver were named trustees of her estate. The ceremony took place on May 11. Mr. Dilworth recalled memories of Miss Carr as a person, a writer and a painter, and concluded with this tribute:

"Very simply, although we did not know it in those far-away years, Emily Carr was a genius, a genius in painting and writing. She had the simplicity and the direct drive which is characteristic of genius. She was never lured away from the one course which her task in life laid out in front of her. She could be difficult and often was, but she was tender, affectionate, loyal and above everything else, honest as the sun. She had a very hard life filled with work and not a little worry, but we are all glad to know that before its end she achieved a kind of recognition of which she was very proud and which thrilled her deeply. This woman will be remembered as long as our history. She has an unassailable place in the story of our culture. She has added an extraordinary lustre to this beautiful City of Victoria. It is, therefore, with a deep sense of humility but with pride and profound satisfaction that I discharge my duty of unveiling this memorial plaque to Emily Carr."

TO: *Mr. I. Dilworth*

FROM: Information Bureau  
( T o r o n t o )

For your information.

# The Gazette

FOUNDED JUNE 2, 1778

MONTREAL, THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1955

## Tribute Paid To Emily Carr

(Victoria Daily Times)

With the establishment of a plaque in memory of the late Emily Carr, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada has given formal national recognition to the artist and writer who was born and lived and died in this community.

As is so often the case with native genius, Victoria was slow to appreciate the wealth of talent lavished on it by Miss Carr. At her death ten years ago she was only beginning to receive the tribute due a truly great artist. The recent ceremony, which unveiled a memorial on the boulevard before the Government Street home where she spent her girlhood, brings a further belated honor to Miss Carr.

Very few individuals have received the recognition implied by this action on the part of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board. It provides Victorians with a concrete reminder of the fact that artistic history was made here; that in the midst of our community

life, unnoticed and largely unrewarded, a figure of national proportions was quietly at work.

It was fitting that Dr. Ira Dilworth should have been invited to officiate at the unveiling. Few persons knew Miss Carr more intimately than he in the closing years of her life. It was through his recognition of her greatness, his encouragement, and his own widely known scholastic abilities that Emily Carr's valuable reminiscences were saved for us in the form of several notable volumes.

As Dr. Dilworth so aptly commented: "She had the simplicity and the direct drive which is characteristic of genius . . . She has an unassailable place in the story of our culture . . . She has added an extraordinary lustre to this beautiful city of Victoria."

Now to the acclaim of the artistic world has been added the accolade of the historians, and Canada has a new cultural shrine.

May 12th, 1955

## Plaque Honoring Emily Carr Unveiled at Birthplace

Emily Carr yesterday was officially ranked with those few whom the Government of Canada calls eminent Canadians.

A plaque to her memory, making her a national figure, erected by Ottawa's Historic Sites and Monuments Board was unveiled on the boulevard in front of the home at Simcoe and Government where she was born in December, 1871.

Emily Carr is the fifth British Columbian so classified by the senior government. The others: James Douglas, founder and father of British Columbia; Amor de Cosmos, founder of The Daily Colonist, and leader

in the fight to have the Crown Colony of British Columbia become a province of Canada; Dr. J. S. Plaskett, internationally-known astronomer, and Judge F. W. Howay, historian. All but Judge Howay were Victorians. The plaque to Judge Howay is in the courthouse at New Westminster; those to Douglas and de Cosmos in the legislative buildings; that to Dr. Plaskett at the Saanich observatory, which he so long headed.

### HIGH HONOR

The naming of a person as an "eminent Canadian" is not done lightly. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board, with

members from all parts of Canada, considers each case for years, studying the lives and works of people suggested. Acceptance is a rare honor.

The tribute to Emily Carr came 10 years after her death. The bronze plaque, set in rough stone, calls her "artist and writer—portrayer of the British Columbia scene."

Miss Margaret Clay, chairman of the local committee in charge of arrangements, presided at the brief outdoor ceremony, and called Miss Carr "one of the great creative artists of Canada."

Dr. Ira Dilworth, former Victoria High School principal, who edited many of Emily Carr's books, unveiled the plaque.

He said: "Emily Carr spent practically the whole of her life within a stone's throw of this spot where we stand today. It was along these streets—we used to see her pass—her sheepdogs bouncing along behind her . . . She was a woman touched with gaiety—often depressed—dauntless. Though we did not then know it, Emily Carr was a genius . . . She added an extraordinary lustre to this beautiful city of Victoria."

Dr. Walter Sage, of Vancouver, B.C. representative on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, gave the plaque to Mayor Claude Harrison for safekeeping by the city of Victoria.

"Today we are honoring an immortal of Canada—our own Emily Carr," said Dr. Sage, after reading a tribute to Miss Carr from Lawren Harris of the Group of Seven.

W. N. Chant, minister of public works, and Mrs. Chant represented Premier and Mrs. Bennett.

Following the ceremony, Miss Clay gave a small reception at her Linden avenue home.

VICTORIA DAILY TIMES

VICTORIA, B.C.

May 12th, 1955



## Reverence Marks Plaque Unveiling

Sombre moment follows unveiling of Emily Carr remembrance plaque outside artist's old James Bay home Wednesday. Here in studied thought are principals in ceremony. Left to right, Dr. Ira Dilworth of CBC; Mayor Claude

Harrison, Miss Margaret Clay, chairman of committee which headed arrangements, and Dr. Walter Sage, Vancouver, B.C. representative on government's Historic Sites and Monuments Board. (See Page 17.) (Times photo.)