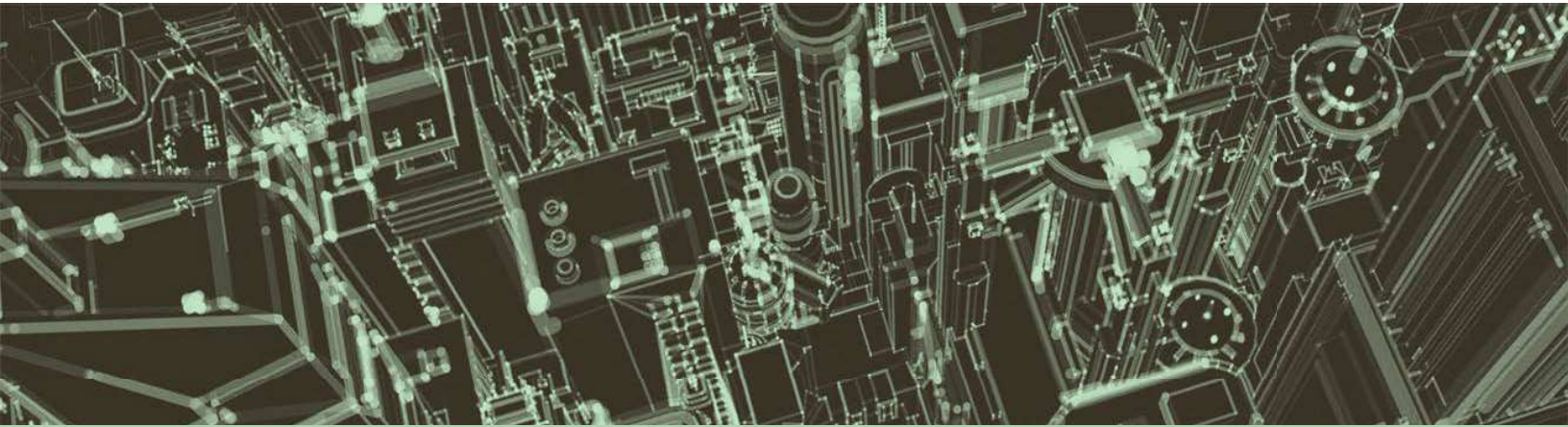


"They say that 'Art is long and time is fleeting,' but your great scenic grandeur seems sufficient to make artists of us all."
-- Gibson Catlett, 1910.



Gibson Catlett (1866-1935)

Painter of Topographical Bird's-Eye Views for Real Estate Advertisements



Part I

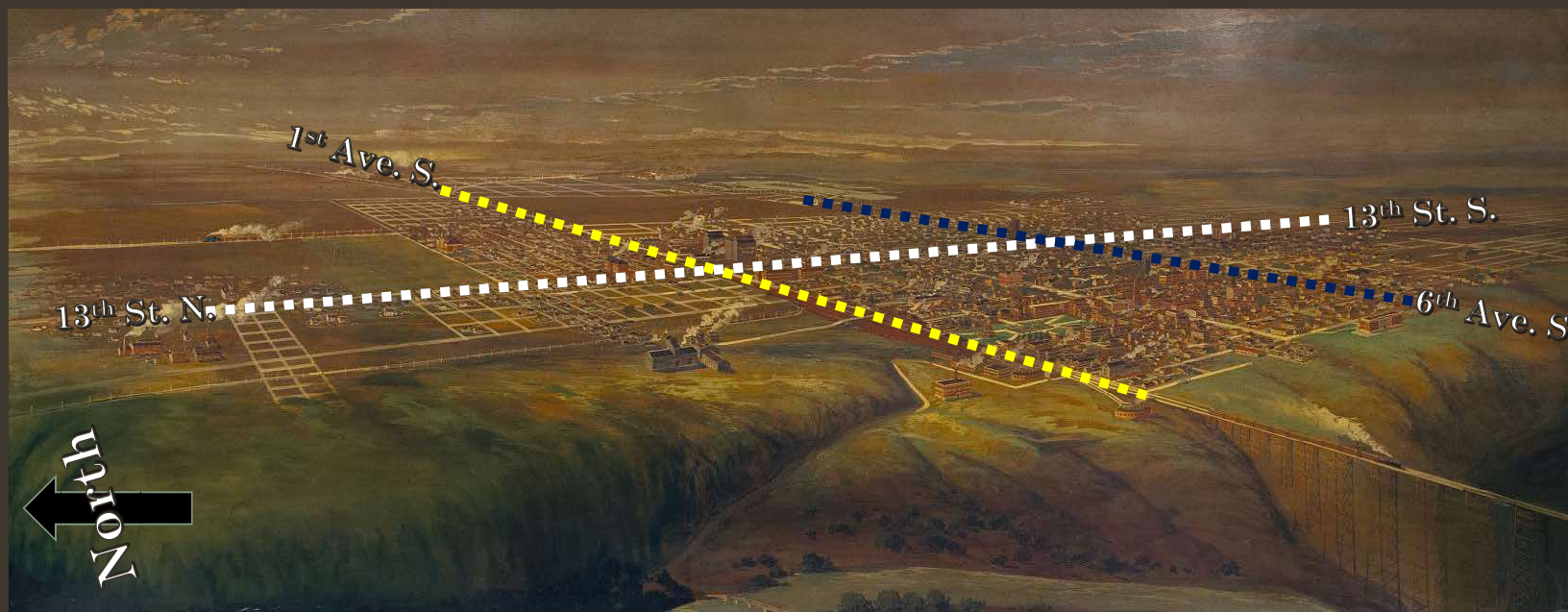
The Story of a Painting: Bird's-Eye View of City of Lethbridge, 1912

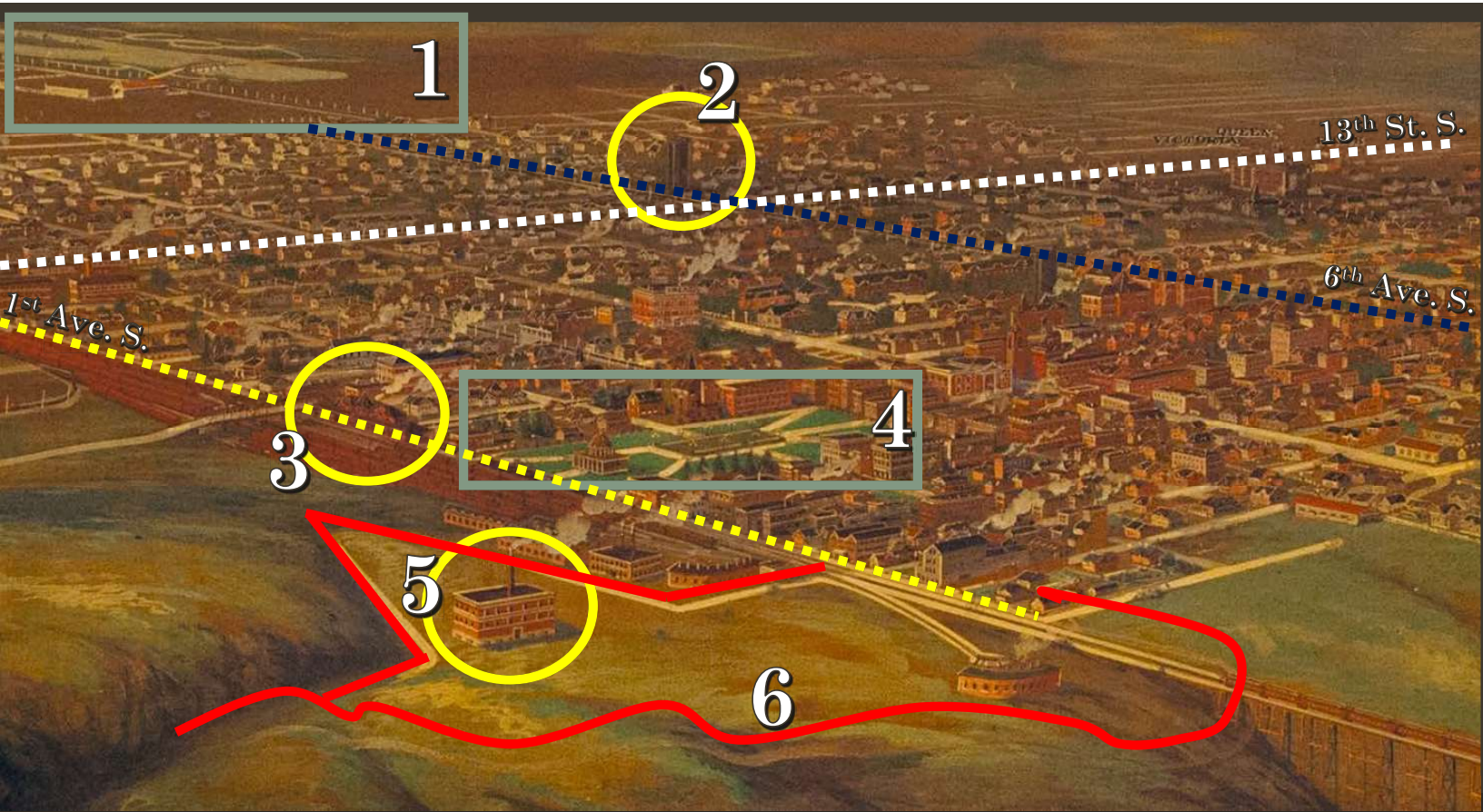


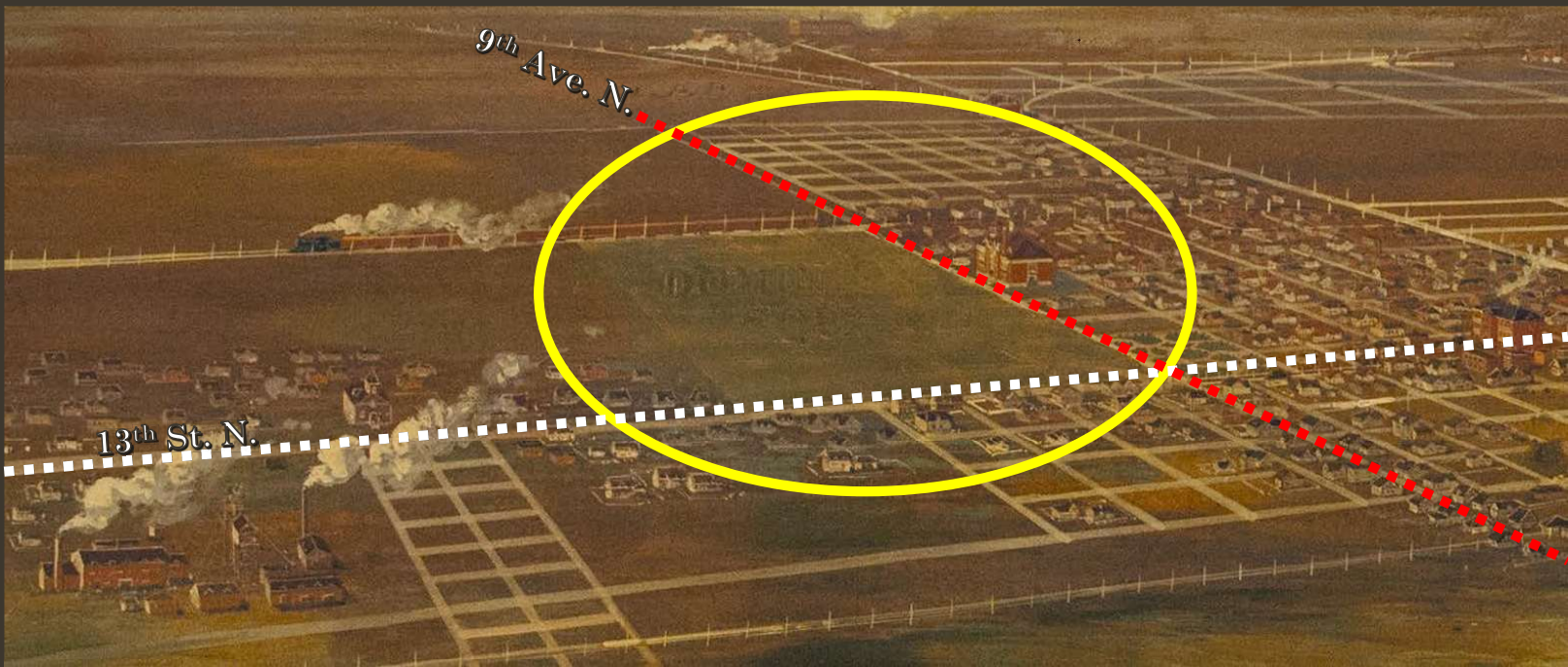
University of Lethbridge Archives (ca. 2001)



Bird's-Eye View of City of Lethbridge, 1912







Where is this painting now?

The University of Lethbridge Art Collection



City of Lethbridge

Artist: [Unknown](#)

Date: 1915

Dimensions: Overall: 42 x 108 in. (106.7 x 274.3 cm)

Medium: Oil

Credit Line: From the University of Lethbridge Art Collection; donated 1971 by the Ukrainian Canadian Association.

Object number: 1971.2

NOT ON VIEW

- Description

landscape, urban, aerial, hills, architecture, buildings, streets

In Collection(s)

Canadian

<https://artgallery.uleth.ca/u-of-l-art-collection/>

University of Lethbridge Art Vault (2018)

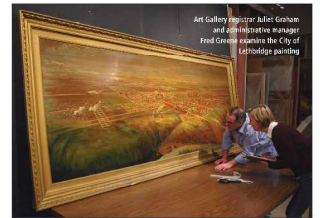


The Legend (2011, April)

Art Gallery registrar Juliet Graham and administrative manager Fred Greene examine the City of Lethbridge painting



An unknown local artist between 1913 and 1921 created this painting of an aerial view of the city of Lethbridge. The work spent most of its early life hanging in the Arlington Hotel, a downtown establishment that operated under a variety of owners and titles from 1910 to 2007, when it was demolished. In 1971, the hotel's proprietors, John and Walter Mysyk, presented the painting to the newly founded University of Lethbridge as a gift from the Ukrainian Canadian Association of Lethbridge.



The painting's current condition gives an idea of its age. The surface is cracked and the colors are faded. The painting has a large hole in the middle, which was covered for the book by a piece of white paper. The hole is filled with a white material, and the colors around it are faded. The painting is a large work, and it is a very good example of the work of an unknown local artist. The painting is a very good example of the work of an unknown local artist. The painting is a very good example of the work of an unknown local artist.

<https://issuu.com/ulethbridge/docs/thelegend> 1010 april 2011/7

LASTING
images

The painting's current condition gives us clues about its storied life. Sometimes the back of a painting has as much a tale to tell as its face. This painting has a large bulge at the left side which, when examined from the back, is explained by an extensive tide line indicating previous water damage. At the front, the blue sky has turned orange-brown from the discolouration of a layer of varnish, but likely also caused by the tobacco smoke

from the hotel bar. Large areas have been painted over at some point, likely to cover the water damage, and to disguise, but not obliterate, location arrows and names of neighbourhoods as they changed over time.

To prepare this artwork for display at the Galt Museum as part of The Greatest Years You Never Knew exhibit, it has been closely examined, cleaned of loose dust and repositioned in its frame to prevent slippage. The back of the painting received most of

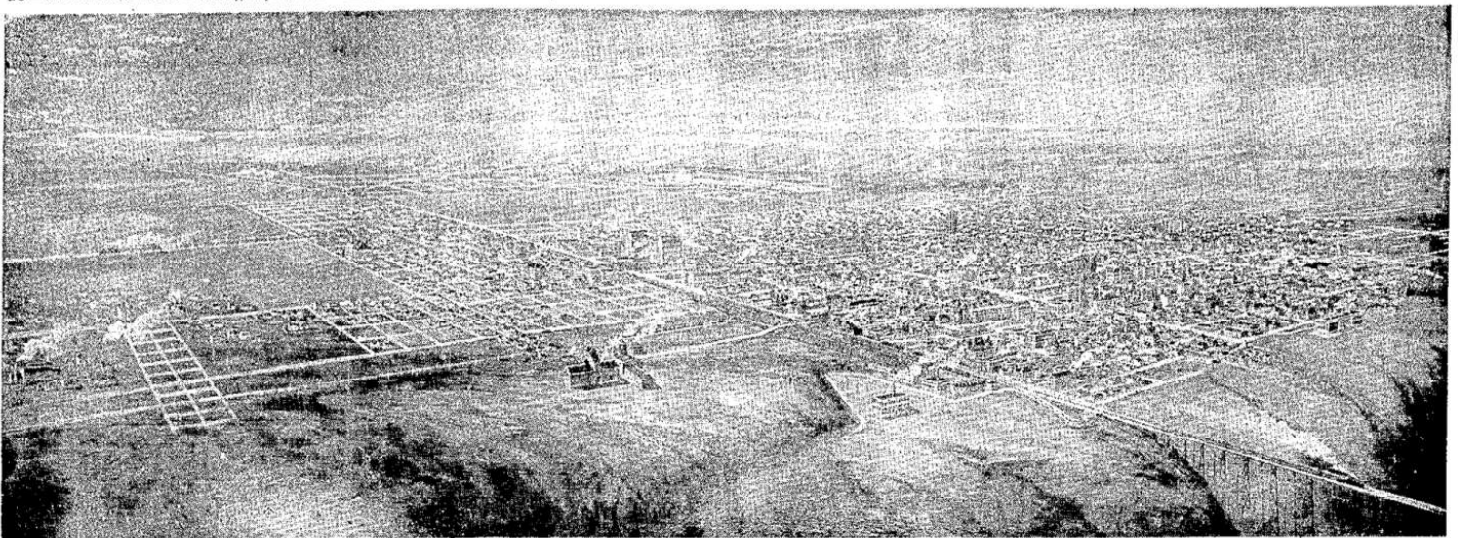
the attention, getting a soft liner to reduce abrasion in the frame, new framing hardware and a new protective backing board. These preventive conservation actions allow it to be exhibited safely, and further treatments can be addressed in the future.

The Greatest Years You Never Knew exhibit runs at the Galt Museum's Discovery Hall, Apr. 30 to Sept. 11, 2011.

How did this painting end up at the U. of Lethbridge?

Galt Museum Acquires Painting (1970)

10 — THE LETHBRIDGE HERALD — Tuesday, July 28, 1970



LETHBRIDGE 1912—The Sir Alexander Galt Museum has recently acquired an 8 by 3 foot painting of early Lethbridge done by an unknown painter. The colourful scene, portrayed from a point across the river, shows the train crossing the high level bridge, Galt hospital at right, the AR and I roundhouse, CPR shops, woollen mills, centre, and the train at upper left, heading for Royal View. Oldtimers will be

readily able to identify the flour mill, schools, churches and other buildings of the era. The painting, which for many years has been hanging in the beverage room of the Arlington Hotel, was donated to museum directors who had it cleaned and framed. It is now on display at the museum.

**\$14,000 For Trout Stocking
Given To Fishermen's Group**

Donation to U. of Lethbridge, Lethbridge Herald (1971)



U of L gets unique painting

The University of Lethbridge has been presented with a painting from the city's past.

It is an aerial view of the city, done sometime between 1913 and 1921 by an unknown artist. It has been hanging in the bar of what is now the Plainsman Hotel.

Co-owner of the hotel, Wally Mysyk, said he believes the artist was a relative of the original owners of the hotel when it was known as the Arlington.

The painting was presented to the university as a gift from the Ukrainian-Canadian Society.

The unusual aspect of the


painting is that it was done long before aerial photographs came into use.

It measures approximately eight feet by four feet and is expected to hang in the university library.

The university also received four books dealing with Ukrainian history and poetry, and a \$200 scholarship from the Plainsman Hotel to be given to a needy student in economics.


The gifts were presented by Mr. and Mrs. Wally Mysyk, John Mysyk and Andy Aurenko.

Donation to U. of Lethbridge, Bulletin (1971)




Published Weekly By The University Of Lethbridge Information Office

NUMBER 71/7



NOVEMBER 6, 1971



PRESENTATIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY – At ceremonies held in the Board Room last week the University received a number of generous gifts from members of the local Ukrainian community and from the owners of the Plainsman Hotel.

A scholarship of \$200 to be presented annually by the Plainsman Hotel was given to the University by **Mr. Wally Mysyk**, operator of the Hotel. The award has been designated for presentation to a student in Economics with successful academic achievement and who is considered a suitable candidate.

In addition a number of books were donated to the University Library including: *The Ukrainian Poets, Ukraine – A Concise Encyclopedia (Volumes I and II)*, *The Ukrainian Canadian* from the Ukrainian Canadian Association of Lethbridge and from **Mr. Andy Auramenko**, **Mr. John Mysyk**, owner of the Plainsman Hotel and father of **Wally Mysyk** presented **Dr. Sam Smith** with a large mural painting of the City of Lethbridge which was completed sometime in the period 1913 to 1920 by an unknown artist. The work is an excellent historical item and will be on display on campus for a few months, courtesy of the Plainsman.

Concluding the enjoyable meeting **Mr. Mysyk** indicated that preliminary arrangements have been made for the appearance of the Edmonton Ukrainian Choir in Lethbridge as part of next spring's International Day. He further stated that a large professional choir and dance group from Ontario may make the trip to Lethbridge to take part in next September's opening ceremonies.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT – The following is an excerpt from a recent press-release from **Mr. Doug Blair**, Chairman of the Department of Music and **Miss Louise Chapman**, Director of the University Concert Series:

"We regret to inform you that as a result of severe budget restrictions the Department of Music finds it necessary to cancel the Young Artists' auditions and concert for this year. We trust you will realize that, while we are fully aware of the importance of this particular event in our Concert Series, we have no alternative but to take this action. It must be accepted that the prime responsibility of the University and its Departments is to the curricular students. While the Department of Music has, it hopes, demonstrated its interest in supporting community musical activities, present financial circumstances now indicate that it may no longer be able to continue to do so to a similar extent without consequent cuts in its instructional programs."

The remainder of the University Series will take place as originally scheduled: January 19th – *Duke Krubert* (piano); February 9th – *Malcolm Fair* (cello); April 5th – The University of Lethbridge Choir.

INVITATION TO DR. MCKENZIE – **Dr. Lucy McKenzie**, Chairman of the Department of English, has been invited to be the guest speaker at the Alberta Teachers' Association Convention to be held in Edmonton, February 24 and 25, 1972. **Dr. McKenzie** will address the teachers on the topic "Literature and the Communication of Moral and Artistic Values". The occasion will mark the second time **Dr. McKenzie** has been invited to speak at a provincial Teachers' Association convention.

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<https://digitallibrary.uleth.ca/digital/collection/publications/id/1920/rec/1>

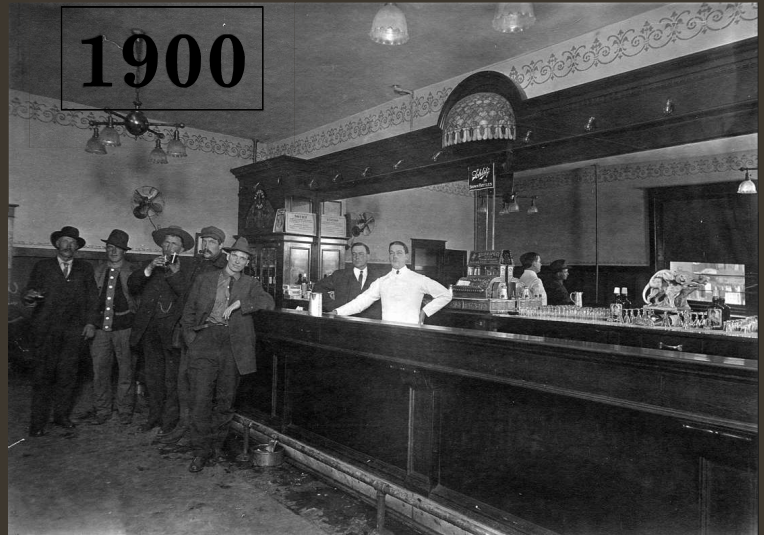
Arlington (renamed Plainsman) Hotel, 1st Ave. & 3rd St. South

c.1912



Galt Archives P19891049184

1900



Galt Archives P19760211018

Bridge Inn Hotel (Formerly Plainsman), 1st Ave. & 3rd St. South



<https://digitallibrary.uleth.ca/digital/collection/cityphotos/id/422/>



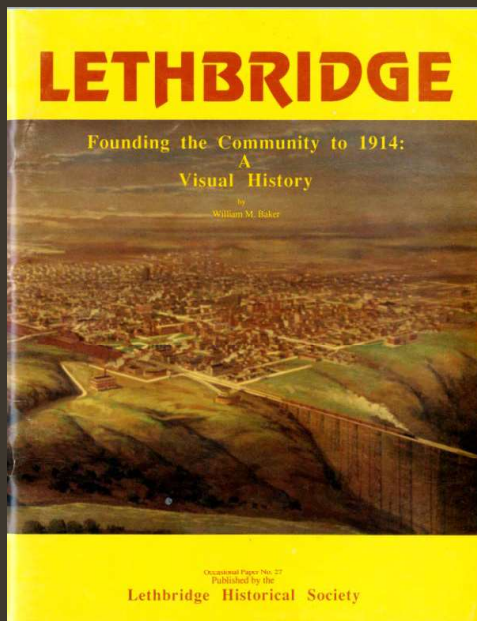
Galt Archives P20091023051

Who painted the Bird's-Eye View of Lethbridge? Why?

Lethbridge Historical Society (1992)



Bill Baker



COVER *Bird's-Eye View of Lethbridge, c. 1912*

from a photograph by Ed Keeling of the 3' x 9' painting housed in the University of Lethbridge Archives and reprinted by permission and with appreciation

Between 1865 and 1914 there were 'bird's-eye' views painted of many Canadian cities. As the name suggests, such pictures were intended to convey how the city would appear to a bird in flight. Most frequently they were prepared originally by travelling commercial artists who worked for specialized companies. But paintings could be touched up, modified, and transformed as the city changed and grew. It seems probable that most paintings were commissioned either by city councils, or by boards of trade, or by real estate developers. But once created, a painting could be used for many different commercial purposes with a few daubs of a brush to highlight certain features and hide others. Indeed, even in its original form a bird's-eye view was no substitute for an aerial photograph. The bird's-eye emphasized the positive attributes of the centre and downplayed or ignored its less desirable aspects. Spatial relationships in bird's-eyes were approximate at best, and the shape and location of buildings and natural features were frequently inaccurate. This artistic license, influenced by the boosterism of leading citizens who were likely paying for the picture, has left to posterity a visual image of how people wished to have the city projected rather than how it actually would have appeared to a magpie out for a spin.

The origin of this particular painting is obscure. For many years it was regularly viewed by the residents of Lethbridge as it hung on the walls of several commercial establishments in the city. Since 1971 the picture has been protected and preserved by the University of Lethbridge but few citizens now see it. One would hope that from time to time it would be put on public display in a convenient spot.

In the painting the smoke belching from factories and mines, and from the trains tearing off in all directions, suggests the industrial achievements and promise of the city. Urban amenities such as churches, schools, parks, and the hospital are also in prominent display. Detail that had played up the interests of a real estate company for a 1912 advertising brochure has been obscured by strategic retouching. The landscape is shown in greener shades than most residents would recognize except for a few weeks in the spring-time. But the artist has not distorted things so badly that the city is unrecognizable. For the student both of the physical reality of pre-1914 Lethbridge and of its imagery or sense of being, this bird's-eye is a treasure.

<http://digitallibrary.uleth.ca/cdm/ref/collection/lhs/id/2048>

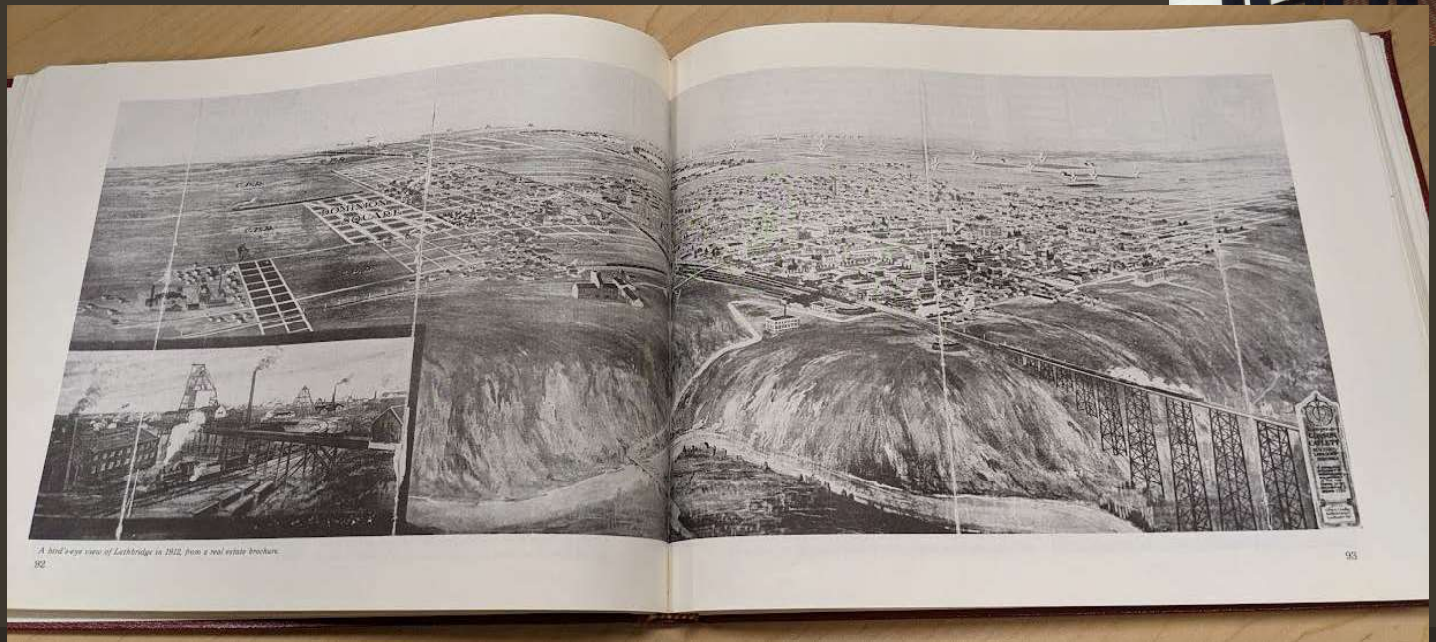
Lethbridge: A Centennial History (1985)

LETHBRIDGE



A CENTENNIAL HISTORY
Alex Johnston/Andy den Otter

Clut Museum & Archives P19891016186



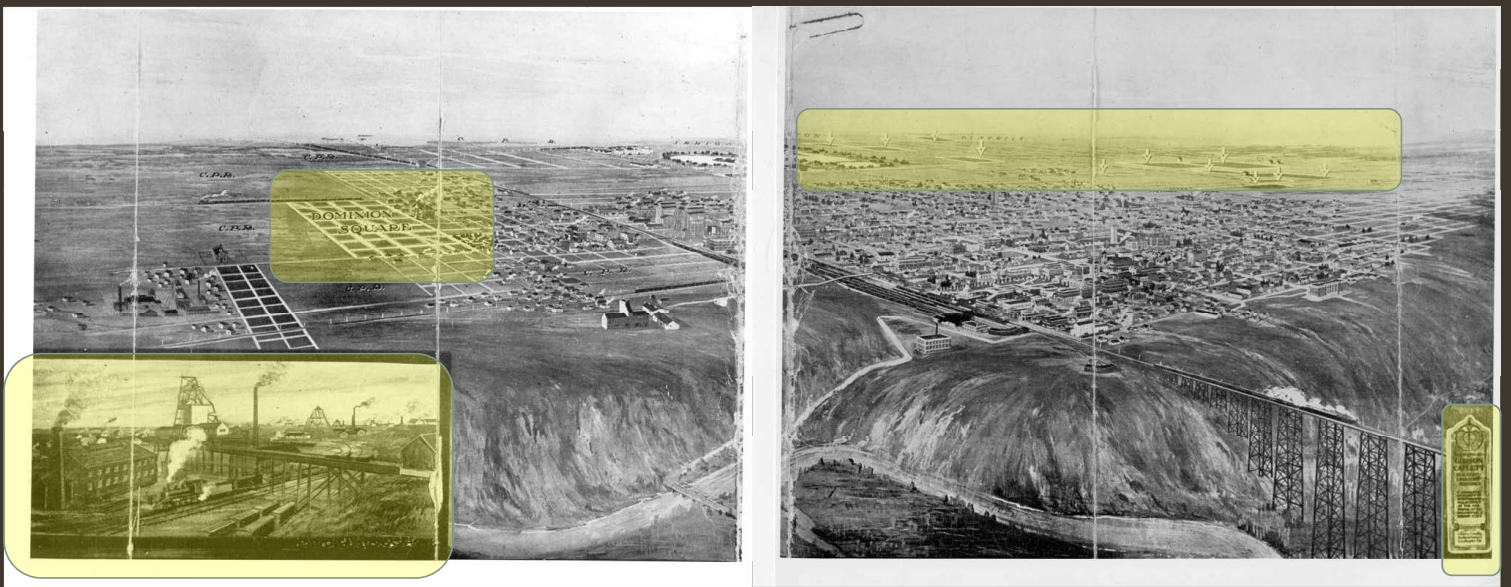
A bird's eye view of Lethbridge in 1912, from a real estate brochure.
92.

93

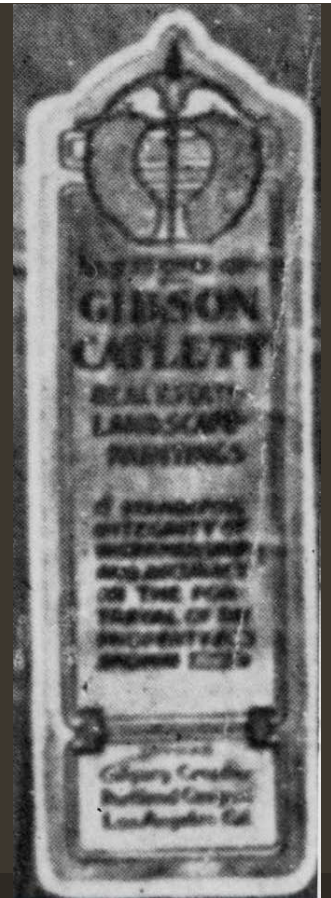
<https://go.exlibris.link/7Mdd3N1y>



Real Estate Brochure (Galt Archives)



Label on the Real Estate Brochure



Lethbridge Herald (1912, August 22)



Will Paint Subdivision

Mr. Gibson Catlett, landscape artist, of Calgary, official artist for the Harriman system of railways in Oregon and Washington, is in the city for a few days. Messrs. Milford & Co., at a cost of one thousand dollars, have secured his services to make paintings of their new property, Dominion Square. Mr. Catlett's work in real estate drawings have secured un-tilled praise from the many large firms for whom he has done work in all parts of Canada and the States. The local firm expect to have their painting on exhibition in about three weeks. A couple of them will also be exhibited in various parts of Ontario by the salesmen of the company.

Gibson Catlett Studios, Calgary, Alberta (ca. 1910-1912)



Who Painted the 1912 Bird's-Eye View of Lethbridge?

By Rhys Stevens



City of Lethbridge, Artist Unknown. Galt Archives (P19754374013).

The U. of Lethbridge Art Gallery includes *City of Lethbridge* (Object no. 1971.2) in its collections. This large (42 x 108 in.) oil painting of Lethbridge depicts the city as it would have appeared in 1912.¹ The southeast-facing scene is portrayed from an imaginary "bird's-eye view" several hundred metres above the ground at about where Crownsnest Trail (Hwy 3) descends into the Oldman River valley from the west. Identifiable structures include the Galt Hospital, AR & I Roundhouse, CPR shops, Woolen Mill, Galt Mines Nos. 3/6, Ellison Milling, CPR High Level Bridge, schools, churches, and hotels.

In April, 2001 I moved to Lethbridge to take up a position as a professional librarian at the University of Lethbridge Library. At that time, the Library was located in University Hall and there was a shortage of office space. As a result my desk was set up in a quiet corner in the University Archives. Although I was only in that spot for a few months, I remember my fascination with the extremely large, detailed oil painting hanging behind the reception desk. It was a depiction of Lethbridge, but this Lethbridge was one from a bygone era. It appeared that the outline of city streets was accurate but there were other oddities – unfamiliar buildings, entire city blocks of empty lots, and obviously re-touched to obscure partially-hidden details.² The only legible label was for "QUEEN VICTORIA PARK." That August the Library moved to the LINC Building and I soon forgot all about the painting. But early this year I stumbled upon it again in the form of a blurry photograph from the University Archives. Curiosity rekindled, I became intent on learning more about this unique bird's-eye view of Lethbridge.

Provenance of the Bird's-Eye View Painting

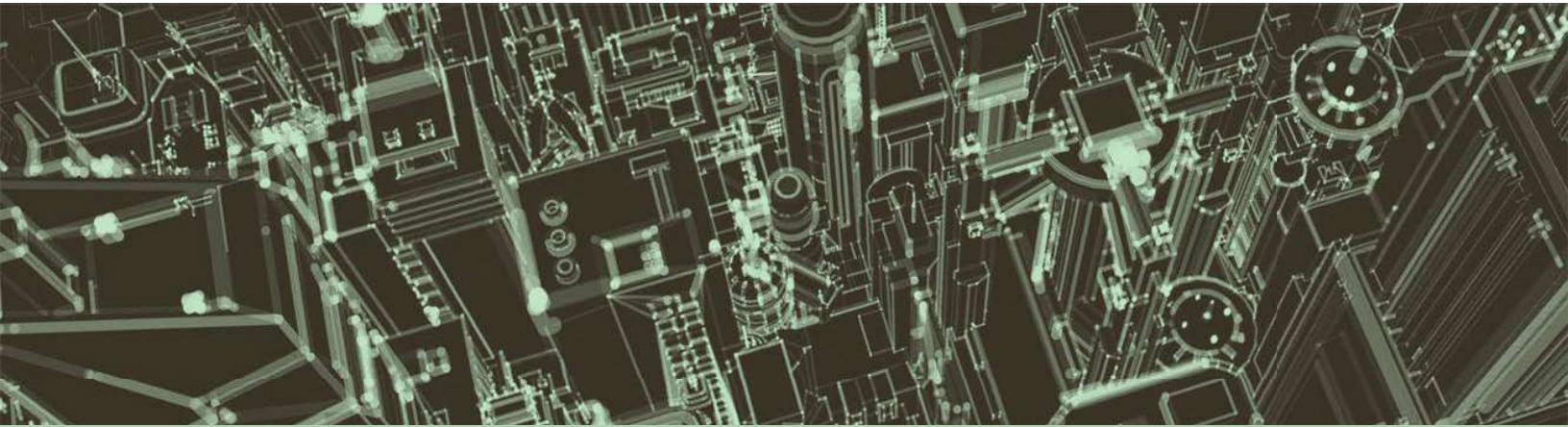
Information is scarce regarding the origins of the painting and its artist. What is known is that it came into the University's possession in October, 1971 as a gift from the Ukrainian-Canadian Society³ after a short exhibition at the Galt Museum.⁴ Before that it had been hanging in the bar of the Plainsman Hotel for as long as anyone could remember. At the official donation event in 1971, Mr. Wally Mysyk the co-owner of the Plainsman Hotel⁵ said he believed the artist was a relative of the original owners of the hotel when it was known as the Arlington. Since then, the painting has visited the Galt Museum several times, most recently in 2011 as part of *The Greatest Years You Never Knew* exhibit.

There have been several theories about its creation. In a weblog posting,⁶ Belinda Crowson suggested that it was likely done as a promotional painting for incorporation into brochure-style advertisements for Lethbridge. She also pointed out several inaccuracies (e.g., the Galt Hospital entrance faces west rather than east). Similarly, in

Lethbridge Historical Society Newsletter Article

2018

<https://opus.uleth.ca/handle/10133/5121>



Part II

Bird's-Eye Views of Alberta



What is the significance of a bird's-eye view?

Bird's-Eye Views – John W. Reps

City street patterns, significant buildings, and topographic features and are often readily identifiable in bird's-eye views. In some locales, these maps can be the only available option for obtaining such details. It is for these reasons that scholars have “...rediscovered these views as **sources for research in the history of architecture, city planning, transportation, urban geography, printing technology, and other fields**” (Reps, 1984, p. 16).



John Reps (1921–2020)
M.R.P. 1947
Professor Emeritus
Department
City and Regional Planning

Reps, J. W. (1984). *Views and viewmakers of urban America: Lithographs of towns and cities in the United States and Canada, notes on the artists and publishers, and a union catalog of their work, 1825-1925*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press.

<https://go.exlibris.link/1LcgnmtZ>

Bird's-Eye Views of Canadian Cities: An Exhibition of Panoramic Maps (1865-1905)

BIRD'S-EYE VIEWS OF CANADIAN CITIES:

A REVIEW

M. F. Fox

Public Archives of Canada. Bird's-Eye Views of Canadian Cities: An Exhibition of Panoramic Maps (1865-1905). July-November, 1976, Ottawa. Exhibition organized by Edward H. Dahl, National Map Collection.

45

cities? Presumably not, but what difficulties are involved in locating others and obtaining access to them? Why are the interior western provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan unrepresented? How accurate is the information portrayed on the maps? The layman may well ask what is the "wide range of researchers" served by these maps? One is warned of

Alberta's Real Estate Boom



**Line-up for land sales,
Calgary, Alberta. [ca. 1911-
1912]**

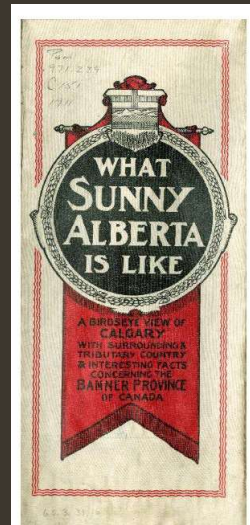
In front of offices of Toole, Peet
and company, 301 - 8th Avenue
SW. Real estate agents for
Canadian Pacific Railway
suburbs.

Digital Identifier [CU1107601](#)

Real Estate Landscape Paintings & Advertisements



“Men inside a real estate sales office, possibly Calgary, Alberta”, 1911. [PA-4096-2]. Courtesy of Glenbow Archives, Archives and Special Collections, University of Calgary. The partially obscured map behind the man standing is [Bird's-eye view of Calgary] (1910) by H. M. Burton. The map directly above the seated man is What Sunny Alberta is Like (1911), also by H. M. Burton.



Cover of What sunny Alberta is like: A bird's-eye view of Calgary (1911) by H. M. Burton. Courtesy of University of Calgary Archives and Special Collections. Image considered to be in the public domain.

1. Burton, H. M. (1910). *[Bird's-eye view of Calgary]* [map]. (scale indeterminable). Calgary: Calgary Engraving Co.



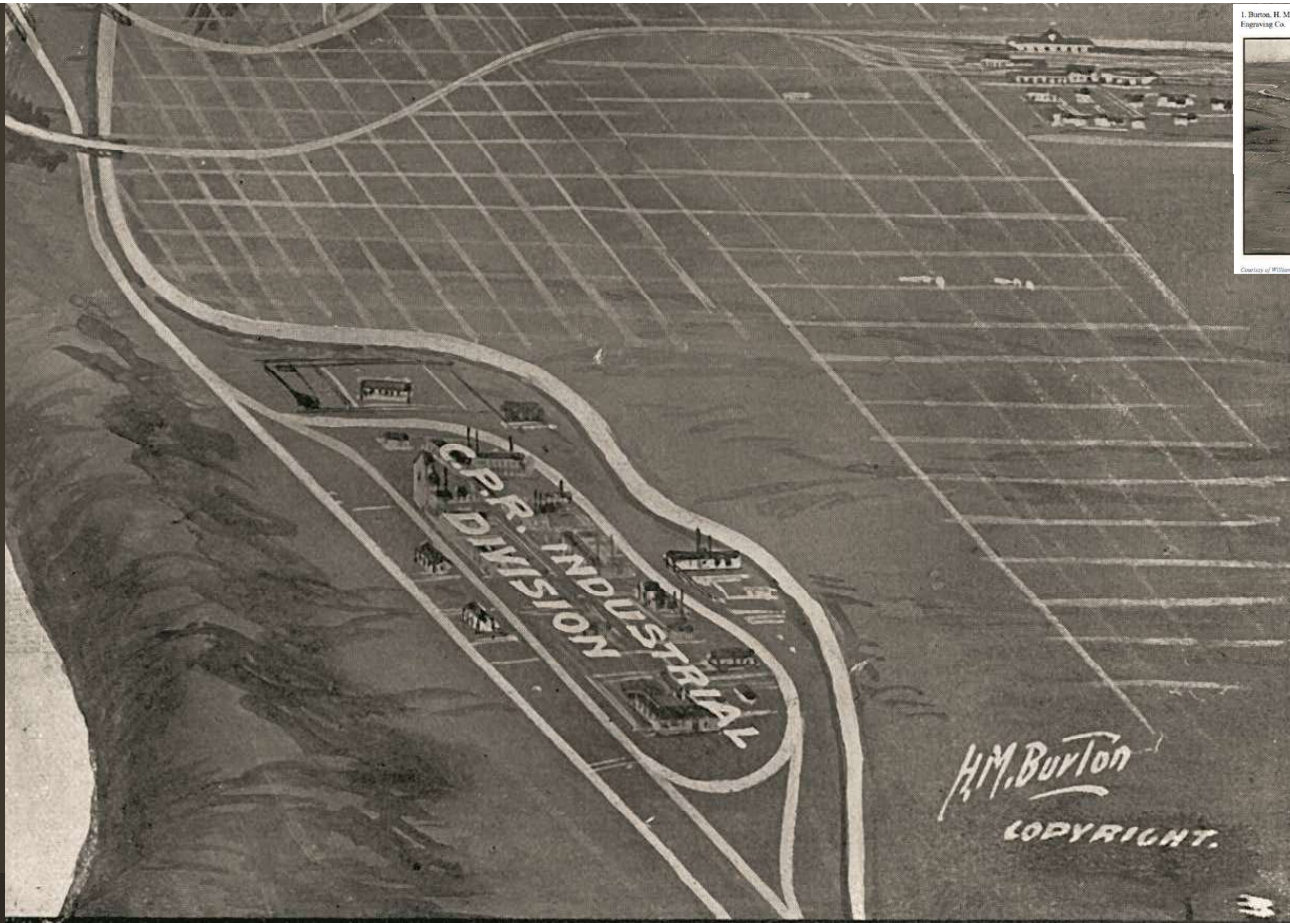
Courtesy of William C. Wonders Map Collection, University of Alberta (ID 29356). Image considered to be in the public domain.



1. Thorne, H.M. (1910). *[Bird's-eye view of Calgary]* [map]. (scale not measurable). Calgary: Calgary Engraving Co.



Source of *[H.M. Thorne's Map Collection]*, University of Alberta. ID: 2016. Accessed at <https://www.lib.ualberta.ca/>

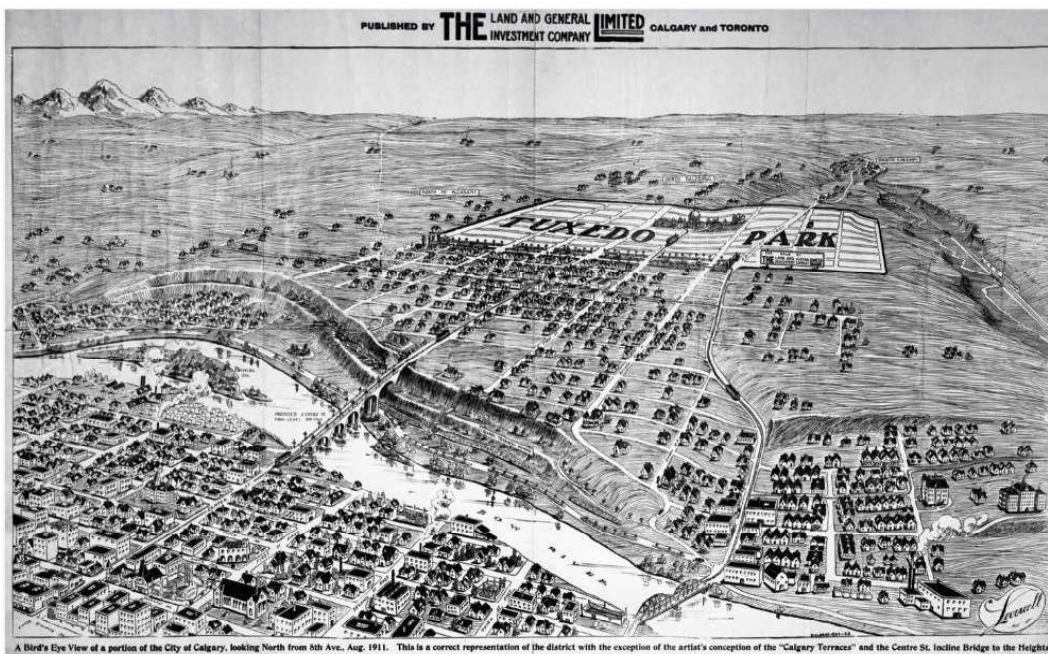


1. Burton, H.M. (1910). *[Bird's-eye view of Calgary] (map)*. (scale not measurable). Calgary: Calgary Engraving Co.

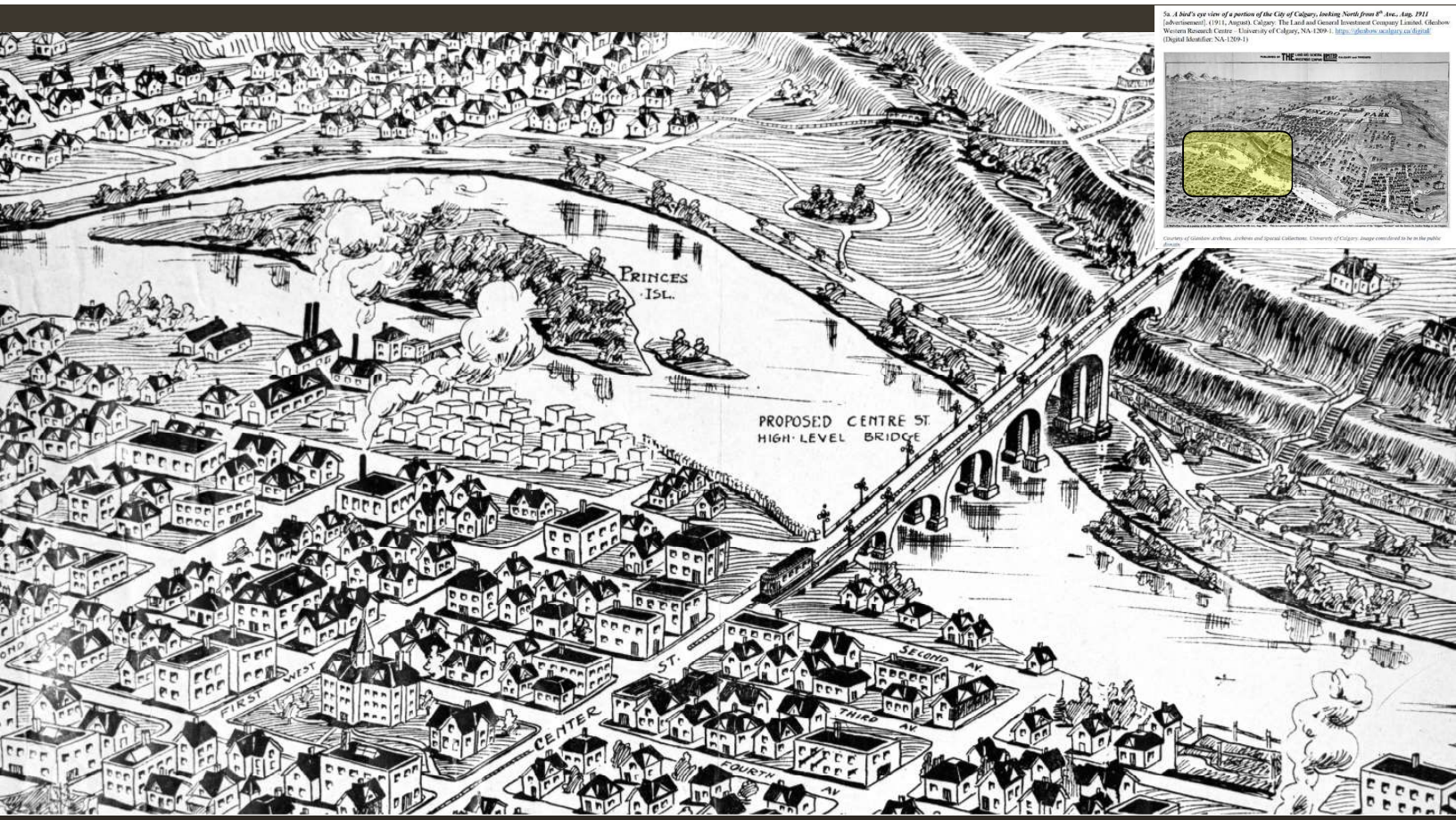


Source of *[Title]*: *[Title]* Map Collection, University of Alberta. ID: 2016. Accessed 2023-10-20.

5a. *A bird's eye view of a portion of the City of Calgary, looking North from 8th Ave., Aug. 1911* [advertisement]. (1911, August). Calgary: The Land and General Investment Company Limited. Glenbow Western Research Centre – University of Calgary, NA-1209-1. <https://glenbow.ucalgary.ca/digital/> (Digital Identifier: NA-1209-1)



Courtesy of Glenbow Archives, Archives and Special Collections, University of Calgary. Image considered to be in the public domain.



In A Bird's eye view of a portion of the City of Calgary, looking North from 8th Ave., Aug. 1911 (reproduction), (1911, Annapolis, Calgary: The Land and General Investment Company Limited, (Hudson-Weir Research Centre - University of Calgary, NA-1209-1. <https://lib.arts.ucalgary.ca/digital/na/na-1209-1>)



Courtesy of Canadian Archives, archives and Special Collections, University of Calgary; image considered to be in the public domain.

10. Catlett, G. (n.d.). *Topographic landscape, irrigation block of the Canadian Pacific Railway, Alberta, Canada*. [tempera painting]. Object 60.17, Glenbow Museum Art Collection, Calgary, AB.



Courtesy of Glenbow Museum, Calgary. Permission received from Glenbow Museum, Calgary to reproduce image.

INDIAN RESERVE

CANADIAN
PACIFIC
RAILWAY

**TOPOGRAPHIC LANDSCAPE
IRRIGATION BLOCK
OF THE
CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY
ALBERTA, CANADA.**

AREA OF LAND IN BLOCK

WESTERN SECTION		ACRES	MILEAGE OF CANALS AND DITCHES	
IRRIGABLE LAND	370,000.	1,039,621.	WESTERN SECTION	MILES
NON-IRRIGABLE "	669,621.		WESTERN SECTION	1,600
CENTRAL SECTION		901,737	CENTRAL SECTION	300
IRRIGABLE LAND	73,000.		EASTERN SECTION	2,500
NON-IRRIGABLE "	828,737.	1,136,224.	TOTAL MILEAGE	4,400.
EASTERN SECTION				
IRRIGABLE LAND	440,000.			
NON-IRRIGABLE "	716,224.			
TOTAL ACREAGE		3,097,582.		

GIBSON CATLETT
FORELAND, OREGON,
U. S. A.

TOPOGRAPHIC ARTIST.
CALGARY, ALBERTA,
CANADA.



10. Catlett, G. (n.d.). *Topographic landscape, irrigation block of the Canadian Pacific Railway, Alberta, Canada*. [tempera painting]. Object 60.17, Glenbow Museum Art Collection, Calgary, AB.



Courtesy of Glenbow Museum, Calgary. Permission received from Glenbow Museum, Calgary to reproduce image.

18. [Advertisement for Ashton Place sub-division, Medicine Hat, Alta. By F. C. Lowes & Company]. (1913, March 10). *Calgary Herald*, p. 15. <https://www.newspapers.com/image/480310061/>

ASHTON PLACE

All Our Cities Grow Westward

SUB-DIVISION, MEDICINE HAT, ALTA.
Offered For Sale For the First Time.
F. C. LOWES & COMPANY.

Image from historical newspaper content considered to be in the public domain.

13. Burton & Gove. (1912, April 9). [Advertisement for Chestermere Lake by The Chestermere-Calgary Townsite and Development Co., Limited]. *Calgary Herald*, p. 15.

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/481560970/> & <https://glenbow.ucalgary.ca/digital/> (Digital Identifier: NA-4421-1)

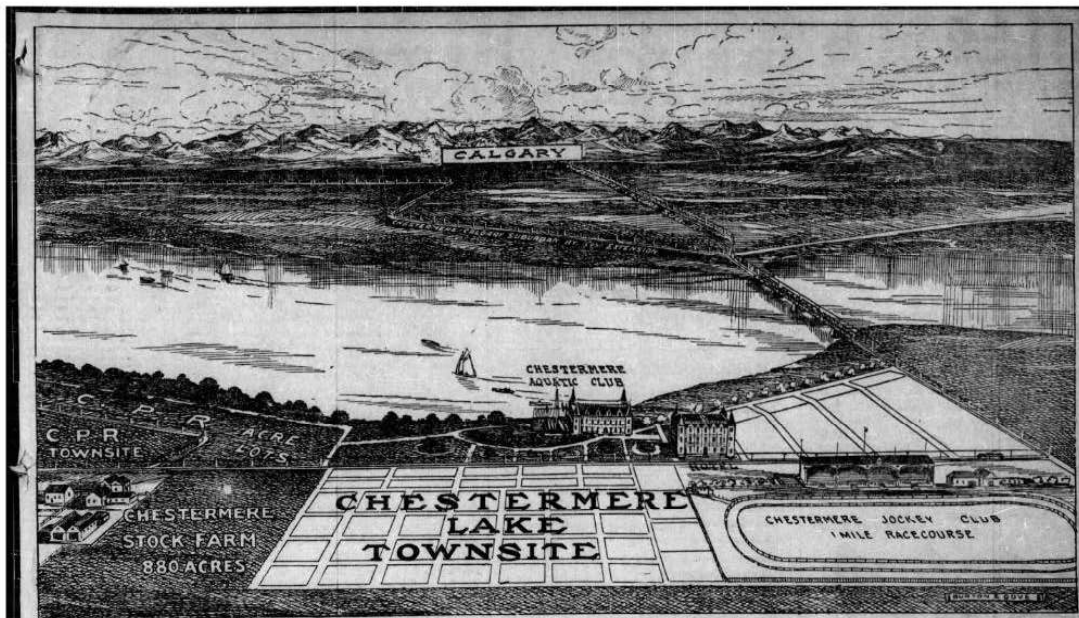


Image from historical newspaper content considered to be in the public domain.

20. Byron-May Co. Ltd. & Whitehorne, H. S. (1911, August 12). **Buy a home in "Parkdale"**
(Strathcona) the place of opportunities [advertisement]. *Edmonton Journal*, p. 5.
<https://www.newspapers.com/image/468763870/>

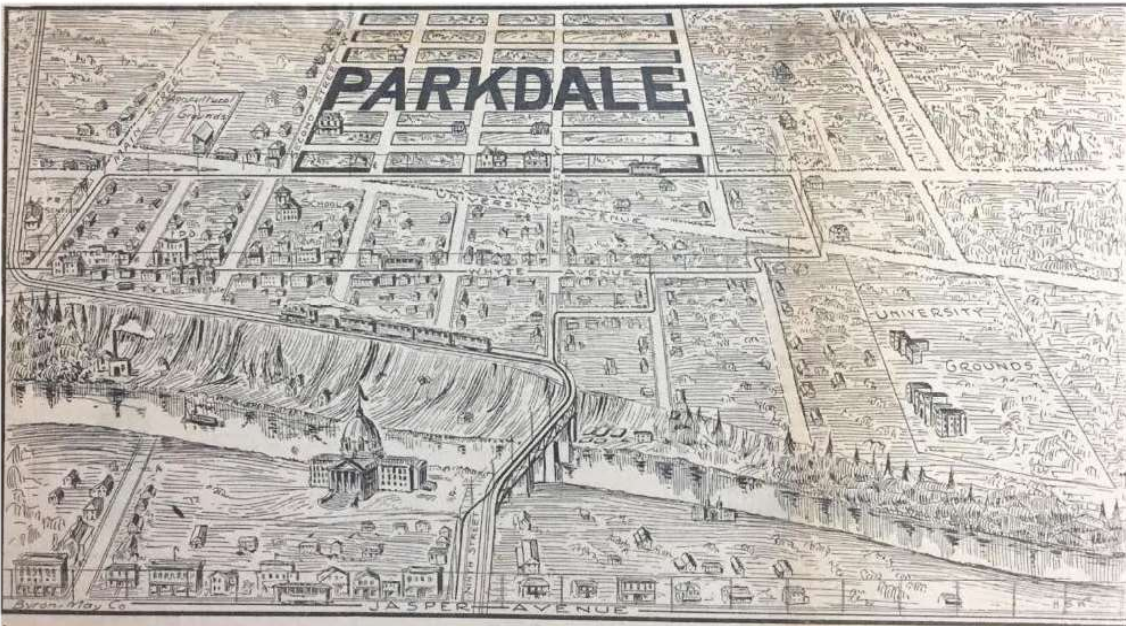


Image from historical newspaper content considered to be in the public domain.

ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN MAP LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

BULLETIN**Bird's-Eye Views of Alberta's Land Boom of the 1910s**

Rhys Stevens, University of Lethbridge Library

While researching a large bird's-eye view oil painting displaying the City of Lethbridge, Alberta as it would have appeared in 1912, I came across a brochure that provided clues as to the painting's origins. The brochure contained a reprint of slightly different version of the painting and a label indicating "This is one of the Gibson Catlett Real Estate Landscape Paintings." It soon became clear to me why the painting had been re-touched and why there were grids of unoccupied city blocks shown on the north side of Lethbridge. This painting hadn't been intended strictly as a piece of art but was, in fact, a prop for an advertising campaign designed to sell real estate in a Lethbridge development called Dominion Square owned by Mitford & Co.

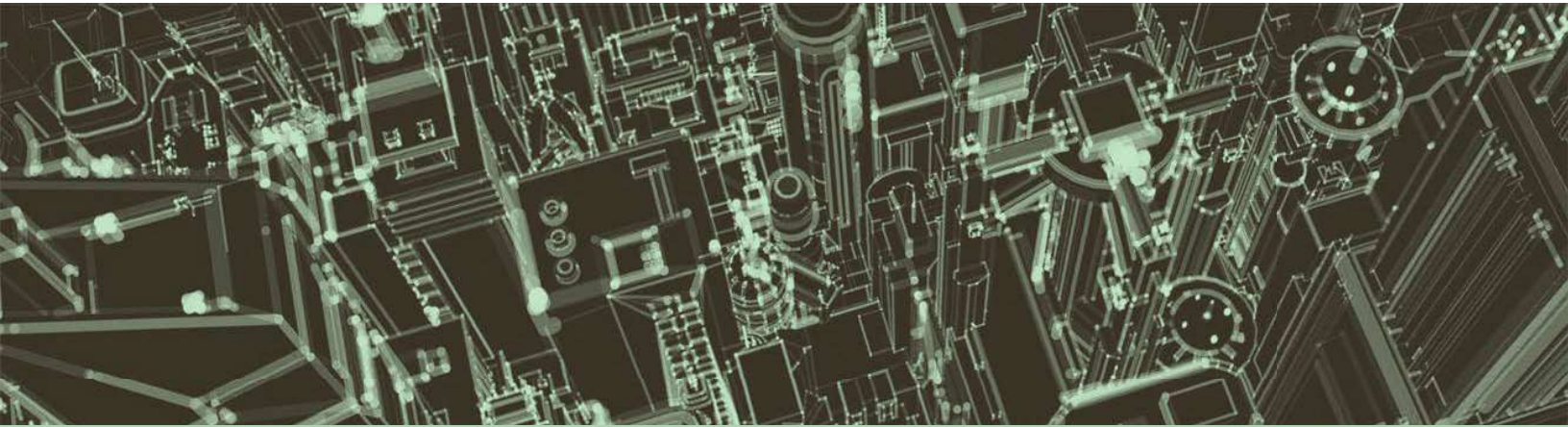


City of Lethbridge, 1912 by Gibson Catlett. Close-up of section of painting showing the Dominion Square development. The words "DOMINION SQUARE" are faint but visible in the upper-right of this image. Courtesy of University of Lethbridge Art Gallery (Object no. 1971.2).

ACMLA Bulletin Article

Number 164, Winter 2020

<https://opus.uleth.ca/handle/10133/5704>



Part III

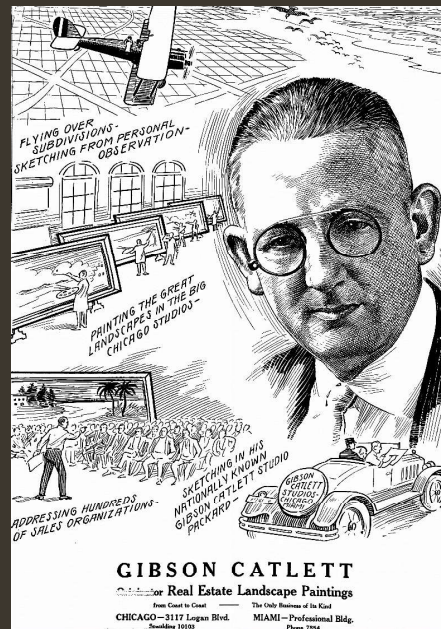
The Life & Works of Real Estate Landscape Artist Gibson Catlett



The Life & Work of Gibson Catlett (1866-1935)



Gibson Catlett. *Miami Herald Sun* (1925, March 8)



Gibson Catlett. *National Real Estate Journal* (1926, April 19)

Early Career as a Newspaper Publisher-Advertiser (ca. 1893-1905)

Thursday, February 1, 1900.

We have received the illustrated edition of the Spartanburg Herald, which gives a write-up of Spartanburg in an industrial way. It is rather a creditable edition, and was published, written and illustrated by Mr. Gibson Catlett.

Bamberg Herald (Bamberg, S.C.), (1900, February 1)

HANDSOME PUBLICATION.

**Industrial Carnival Edition Published
Under Auspices of the Board of
Trade Is Out.**

One of the neatest Carnival publications thus far issued is the Industrial Carnival Edition. The publication contains twenty-eight pages which are devoted to information concerning Kansas City, advertisements of business firms and points of interest to strangers. Handsomely illuminated covers bind the edition, which is issued by **Gibson Catlett**, under the direction of the board of trade. The railroad facilities of this city are set forth in admirable style, each line being given sufficient space to describe its mileage, terminals and connections. One full page is devoted to the municipal government, a fine picture of the

Kansas City Journal, (1897, October 1)

Real Estate Landscape Artist - Los Angeles, California (1906-1908)

The Very Best Buy

A SUBDIVIDER EVER MADE IS

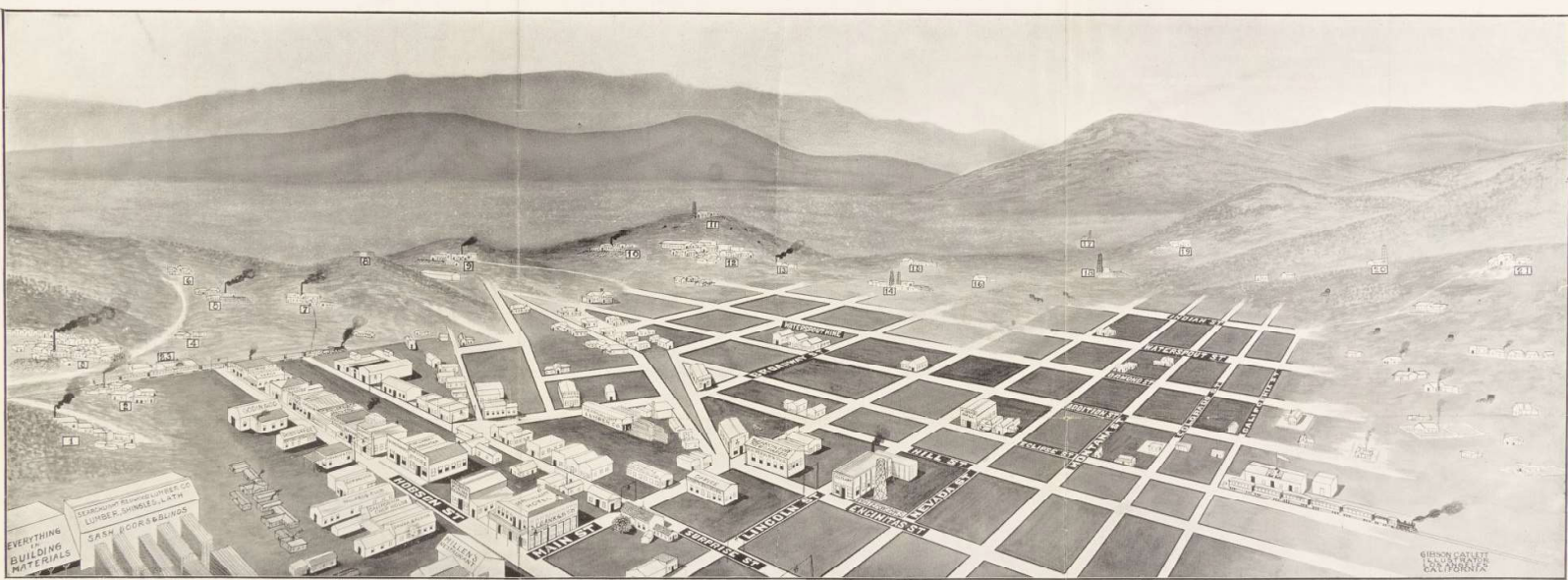
Catlett's Great Real Estate Landscape Map

of his property. They don't tell, they SHOW. Every desirable attribute and selling point demonstrated—absolutely the most profitable publicity at like cost ever devised. See them working all over Los Angeles. Every salesman is my customer. I might take on one more order this week but not more than one.

GIBSON CATLETT
THE REAL ESTATE LANDSCAPE ARTIST.

307 Tajo Building A7125

Los Angeles Herald advertisement (1908, July 12)

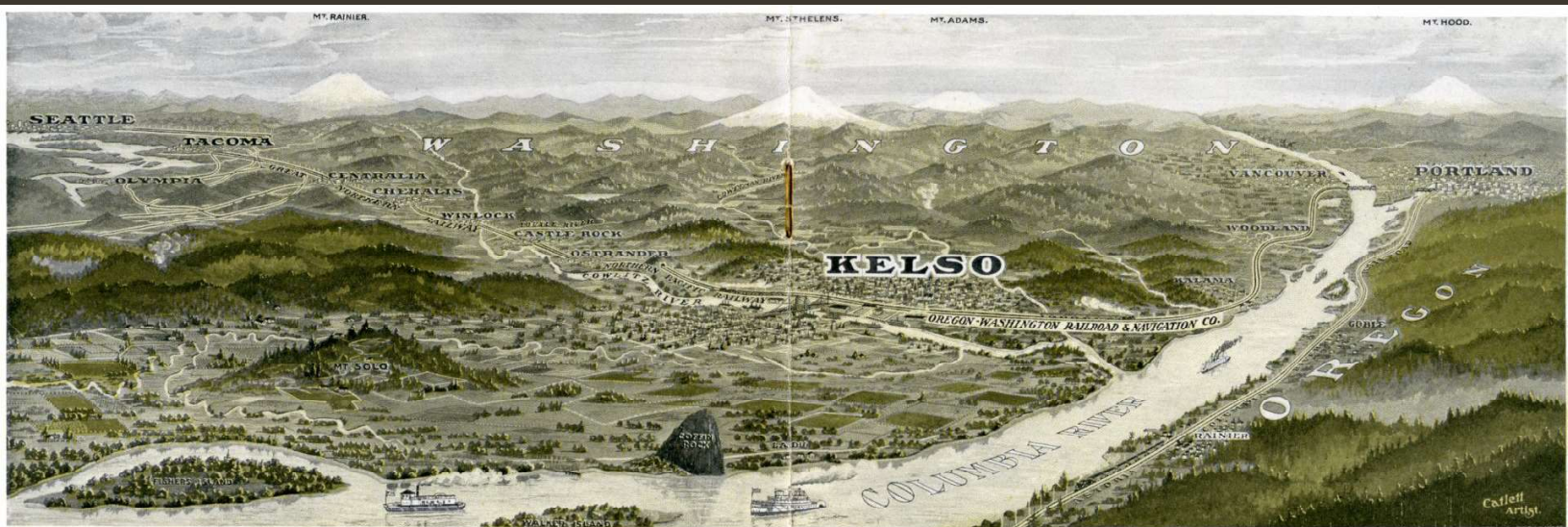


Panoramic View of Searchlight, Nevada, "The Camp Without a Failure," Showing H. H. McCord Co.'s Properties.

Searchlight, Nevada (1906), Gibson Catlett, Illustrator

<https://www.pbagalleries.com/view-auctions/catalog/id/575/lot/188261/>

Map Artist For The Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation Co. - Portland, Oregon (1909-1910)



Kelso, Washington (1911), Gibson Catlett, Artist.

Image: Courtesy of Cowlitz County Historical Museum

Hood River, Oregon (1910)



Image: Courtesy of Jacob Ybarra, Bisnett Insurance, Hood River, OR



Image: Courtesy of Jacob Ybarra, Bisnett Insurance, Hood River, OR



Image: Courtesy of Jacob Ybarra, Bisnett Insurance, Hood River, OR

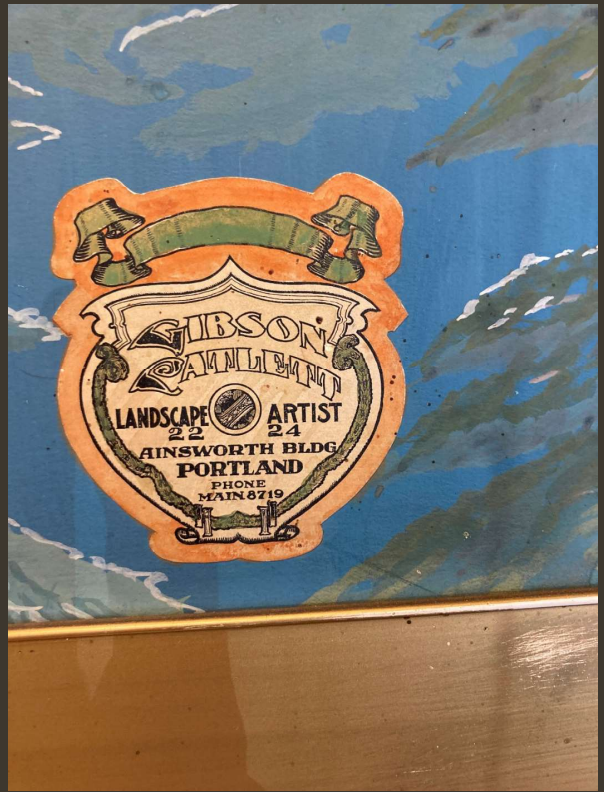
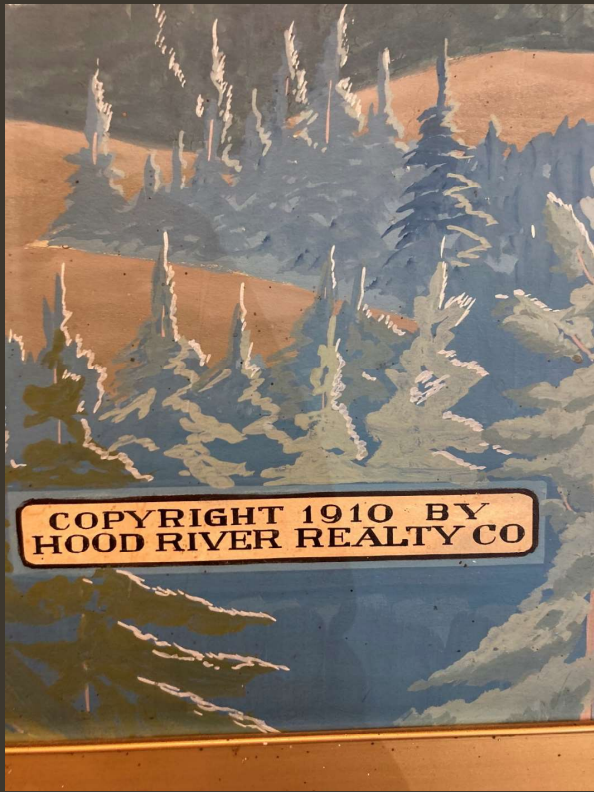


Image: Courtesy of Jacob Ybarra, Bisnett Insurance, Hood River, OR

Painter of Cities for Railroads and Large Real Estate Operators – Canada (1910-1914)



WE EXTEND A CORDIAL INVITATION TO THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LONDON
to view their City, as painted by GIBSON CATLETT, of Los Angeles, Cal. This picture is the only painting ever made of the City of London, and is five feet by twelve in dimensions.

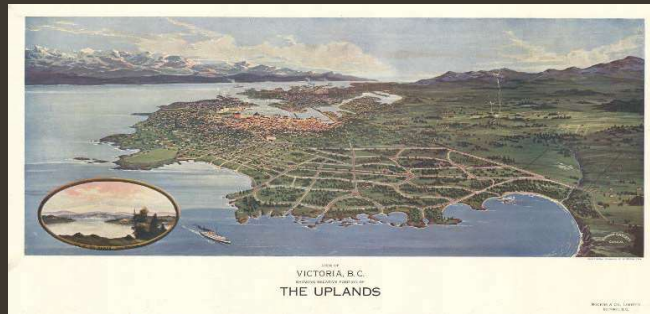
A SPECIAL INVITATION IS EXTENDED TO THE LADIES.

THE PAINTING WILL BE ON **FREE EXHIBITION**
for a short time only, at the Real Estate Offices of
MAHAFFY BROS., LIMITED
170 DUNDAS STREET - - - LONDON, ONT.

As it will then be forwarded to our Toronto Office for exhibition there

A reproduction of the painting in colors, will be sent free of charge to all visitors.


London Advertiser (1914, March 7)
[Link](#)



The Uplands, Victoria, British Columbia (1911) [Link](#)



Halifax, Nova Scotia (1913) [Link](#)



GIBSON CATLETT

PHOTOGRAPH BY
75 VICTORIA STREET
TORONTO, CANADA

ORIGINATOR AND MANUFACTURER OF COMPLETE PICTORIAL SELLING CAMPAIGN MATERIAL
PAINTER OF ENTIRE CITIES AND LARGE AREAS FOR GOVERNMENTS, RAILWAYS,
MUNICIPALITIES, COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATIONS AND REAL ESTATE OPERATORS
OFFICES: LOS ANGELES, CAL.; PORTLAND, ORE.; CALGARY, ALTA.; MONTREAL, QUE.

Gibson Catlett Letterhead (n.d.)
[Link](#)

San Francisco, California & the Panama-Pacific Exhibition (1915-1917)

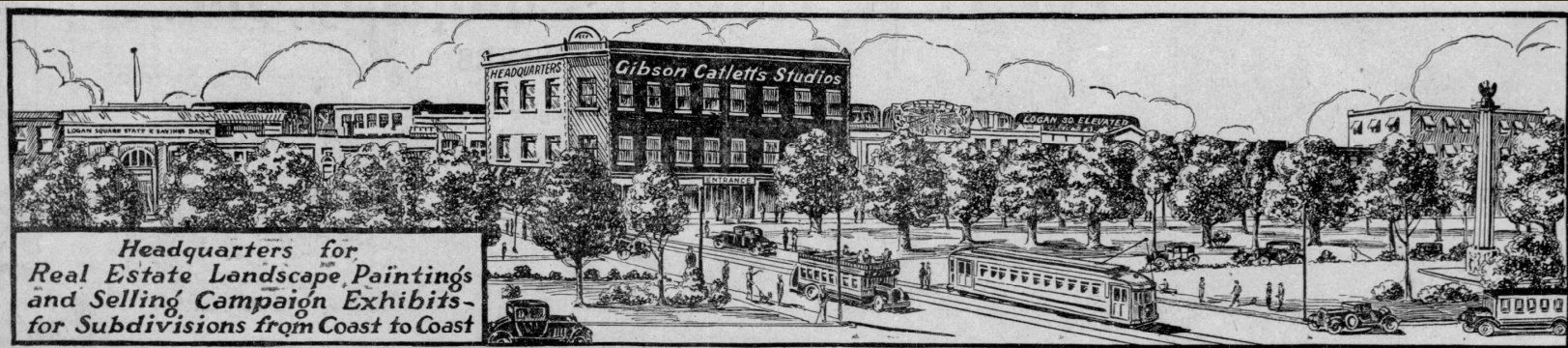


<https://archive.org/details/souvenircanadian00pana>



Gibson Catlett, exhibit rooms, Flood Building, California Digital Library

Establishment of Gibson Catlett Studios, Chicago (ca. 1919)



From advertisement in *Miami Herald* (1925, March 8)

Miami & the Florida Real Estate Boom (1920-1926)



Inside the real estate offices of Buchanan & Burton - Miami, Florida (March 18, 1926).
Source: [State Library & Archives of Florida, RC03586](#).



Illustration of large Gibson Catlett Studios cycloramic real estate landscape painting, possibly the planned Florida Riviera development, St. Petersburg, Florida. From advertisement in *Miami Herald* (1925, March 8).



Gibson Catlett's Studiogram [Advertisement]. *National Real Estate Journal* (1926, April 19)



Gibson Catlett's 16-foot painting of the Sequoyah Hills development in Knoxville, Tennessee on display in Sequoyah Hills office (ca. 1925). [Sequoyah Hills office, Image Number N-1036](#), Thompson Photograph Collection, C.M. McClung Historical Collection, Knox County, Tennessee Public Library.



Thompson Brothers, photographer. 1926. *Sequoyah Hills*. Thompson Photograph Collection, C.M. McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library. Image Number N-2034.

Texas and the Gulf Coast (1926-1927)

WIN \$100 IN GOLD

Name **EAST-AMARILLO** Community
The **Center!**



The above beautiful painting from the brush of Gibson Catlett, the famous scenic artist, illustrates how it is proposed to develop the East-Amarillo community center, the site for which has been donated by the development company. The painting is a portion of the massive Greater Amarillo Panorama Exhibit now on free display.

See This Exquisite Painting and Register Free At Our Beautiful New Exhibit offices:

409½ POLK

409½ \$100.00 In Gold Free!
Regular Tuesday

409½ \$100.00 In Gold Free!
Regular Tuesday

Amarillo Daily News (1927, March 15)

winter in the frozen Middle West recruiting prospects for citrus orchards among wealthy merchants, many of whom had dreams of retiring to a "citrus oasis," and among successful farmers who had the bug for more land. With Gibson Catlett's paintings vividly portraying the oasis in their minds, with glib salesmen daubing even more lavish visions, with avaricious and unscrupulous bankers taking a cut for nudging them the right way, whole trainloads of buyers were rushed to the Winter Garden and to the Valley. They were guarded as carefully as political prisoners, and their special trains were equipped with the best in accommodation, food, drink—and entertainment: some, to divert the dubious, were even provided with black-eyed señoritas and other equally alluring bundles of forgetfulness. Things were carefully timed so that the prospects went through the dreary chaparral wilderness at night; they were shown, as one salesman put it, "all that they were supposed to see."

Day, Donald. *Big Country: Texas*. New York: Duell, Sloan & Pearce, 1947.



Oakwood Memorial Park (High Point, NC) painting by Gibson Catlett Studios (ca. 1926) which indicated studios located in Chicago and San Antonio, Texas. Courtesy of High Point Museum, High Point, NC.

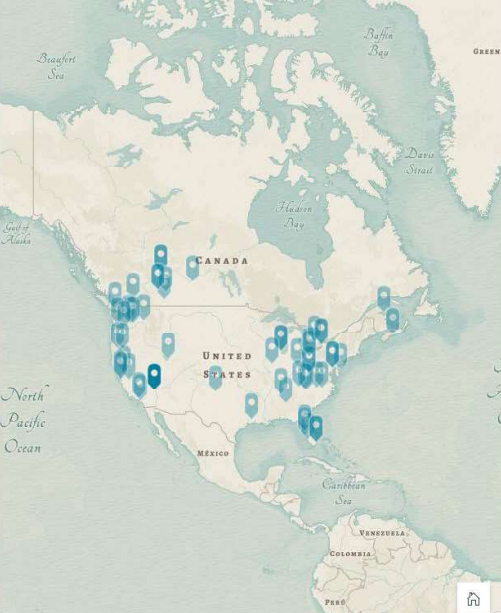
The Last of Catlett's Real Estate Landscape Paintings (1928-1930)



Catlett, G. (1928). *City of Chicago, showing proposed development of 1933 World's fair ground and buildings* [photograph of painting]. UIC Special Collection (Century of Progress International Exposition [1933-1934 : Chicago, Ill.]). Series 1 -- Catlett, Gibson, ca. 1933-1934 Box 92 Folder 1-2781.

Images of Selected Works by Topographic Artist and Businessman Gibson Catlett

ArcGIS StoryMaps



Searchlight, NV (1906)
This map by Gibson Catlett, illustrator, Los Angeles, California, was produced as a real estate advertisement for the Ormonds Addition...

Los Angeles, CA (1906)
An early Gibson Catlett view that appeared in a Los Angeles Times (1906, Dec. 30) newspaper advertisement for the Poole & Jones Trac...

Newport Beach, CA (1907)
An early Gibson Catlett painting appears as a reproduction in a newspaper article about the Port Orange Harbor. The image captio...

DERAL HEIGHTS
Salt Lake City, UT (1907)
This picture, produced by Gibson Catlett and his landscape artists, appeared as a reproduction in a newspaper advertisement. It...

Springfield, IL (1908)
A reproduction of a Gibson Catlett painting appeared in an advertisement for the Capital Park real estate development being...

Klamath Falls, OR (1910)
A reproduction of Gibson Catlett's "famous" painting of the Klamath country appears in a Spokane Press newspaper advertisement take...

Gibson Catlett's Real Estate Landscape Paintings

ArcGIS “Story Maps”

- [Gibson Catlett \(1866-1935\)](#)
 - Gibson Catlett was a prolific American artist who specialized in real estate landscape paintings used as advertisements.
- [Gibson Catlett's Real Estate Landscape Paintings](#)
 - Images of selected works by topographic artist and businessman Gibson Catlett (1866-1935).
- [H. M. \(Harry Marriott\) Burton](#)
 - H. M. Burton was one of Calgary, Alberta's most prolific real estate artists during the city's real estate boom of the 1910s.



ArcGIS StoryMaps

Storytelling that resonates

Transform your digital storytelling with custom maps.

The End

