

Alaskan historical art on display

An historical survey of Alaskan art from the permanent collection of the Anchorage Museum of History and Art will open June 15, 1985 and be on view throughout the summer. The paintings depict Alaska as it appeared to visitors and residents beginning in 1838 continuing into the 1940's and ending with a

group of artists who worked in Alaska during World War II. Among the nineteenth century artists represented are Frederick Whymper (1866) and Henry W. Elliot (1874) who came to Alaska even before it was purchased from Russia by the United States in 1867, and Vincent Colyer, an artist who arrived as the first

United States Indian Agent immediately afterward. William Keith (1866) and Thomas Hill (1898) were part of the early tourist influx that came up the coast beginning in the 1880s.

Early twentieth century artists include temporary residents like

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Historical art

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Rockwell Kent and those artists who remained and became identified with Alaska such as Sydney Laurence and Eustace Zeigler. Also featured in the exhibit is the 6 x 12 foot painting of Mount McKinley painted by Sydney Laurence in 1929, a major work on long term loan to the museum by Alaska Airlines, and another painting of Mount McKinley,

"Arctic King" on loan to the museum from the Anchorage School District.

A number of artists came to Alaska during World War II and painted what they saw. Included in this group are Ogden Pleissner, Henry Varnum Poor, and Joe Jones, well known American artists attached to the military here.

Ilya Bolotowski, better known as a hard-edge color abstractionist, was stationed in Nome where he painted the local Eskimos.