

HBCA Information Sheet: *Historical Paintings of the Hudson's Bay Company*

The portfolio, ***Historical Paintings of the Hudson's Bay Company***, is a boxed set of 14 reproductions of calendar paintings depicting events and persons associated with the history of the Hudson's Bay Company. It was printed for the HBC's tercentenary in 1970. The original paintings were specially commissioned for the company and are the works of well-known Canadian and British artists. The prints are full colour reproductions, 16 inches x 20 inches, printed on high quality art stock. They were packaged in a special grey hinged box with a reproduction of the first page of the HBC's charter inside the lid. There are bilingual (English and French) descriptions of each of the prints explaining the events and persons depicted. Each print is also bilingually captioned. The set was printed by Bulman Brothers Limited, Winnipeg.

The HBC had 10,000 of the commemorative sets printed. Of these, some were distributed for public relations purposes, the remainder being sold in the Bay's retail stores. Some sets were later broken up and prints sold individually on request. The portfolios were still available in 1975 but by 1979, the company's supply was exhausted. The sets initially sold for \$7.98, were reduced to \$6.98 and later to \$3.95 in 1971.