

## CORNELIUS KRIEGHOFF, THE SHAKSPEARE CLUB AND THE ANNEXATION MANIFESTO

In the *Journal of Canadian Art History*, (2003) 24 at pp. 46-58, Conrad Graham, Curator of Decorative Arts, McCord Museum, has written a graceful and delightful account of an important but unknown painting dated 1847 by Cornelius Krieghoff (1815-1872) of The Shakspeare\* Club (1843-49), who were a group of Montrealers interested in the “dramatic poets” and “a taste for elegant literature”. The Club was formed in 1843 as The Shakspeare Dramatic and Literary Club and in 1845 became The Shakspeare Club.

Graham is able to identify and describe Club members in the painting and provide Notman photos of them, including John Young (1811-1878), famous Montreal businessman; Frederick Torrance, lawyer and later judge; Edmund Allen Meredith (1817-1899), briefly Principal of McGill College; Sir Allan Napier McNab (1798-1862), Speaker of the House of Assembly; British surgeon Dr. A. Staunton, R.A.; and Cornelius Krieghoff himself. Also present are at least two guests, being Krieghoff’s friend John Budden from Quebec and probably James Gibb, a banker and lumber merchant also from Quebec. As Mr. Graham points out, the Shakspeare Club no longer met when in 1849 the Assembly and Government of Canada was transferred to Toronto and was to alternate between Toronto and Quebec City.

May I add to the excellent Graham article, the fact that the Club’s termination and the abrupt transfer of the Government to Toronto were brought about by the burning of the Assembly building on April 25, 1849 by a group of mostly English-speaking citizens who were enraged by the adoption of the *Lower Canada Rebellion Losses Act*, which Lord Elgin had signed that same day. 23 persons were arrested, including the editor of the *Montreal Gazette*. Equally important and disturbing is the fact that on October 11, 1849 a manifesto (dated September 14, 1849) was presented favouring the annexation of Lower Canada to the United States.\*\* It was signed by 325 Tory businessmen (mostly English-speaking), including John, David, James & J.W. Torrance, John & Peter Redpath, William & John Molson, D. Lorn Macdougall, John McGill, William & Benjamin Workman, L. H. Holton, Alexander T. Galt, Jacob De Witt, John Abbott and Cornelius Krieghoff.\*\*\*

It is significant that the only Shakspeare Club member who signed the Manifesto among the 106 Club members listed in 1847 (the last extant membership list) was Krieghoff. The burning of parliament and the Manifesto were signs of the intolerance of the English-speaking political and commercial community of Montreal of the time, a signing which most of the signatories were to regret. Sir John Abbott (who became Prime Minister of Canada from June 1891 to November

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\* The spelling of “Shakspeare” without the usual first “e” was used by the Club.

\*\* The original signed copy of the Manifesto is in the “Stewart Museum at the Fort”, Ile Ste Hélène, Montreal. There is also a copy in the McGill University Rare Books Department with list of signatories and is entitled "THE ANNEXATION MANIFESTO of 1849."  
"Reprinted from the Original Pamphlet with the NAMES OF THE SIGNERS".

"Montreal, D. English & Co. Printers, 240 St. James Street, 1881".

\*\*\* The names of the signatories of the Manifesto can be seen on my website at <http://www.mcgill.ca/maritimelaw/history/> and below.

1892) penitently described his signing as a youthful error. The members of the Shakspeare Club were clearly much more sensible and tolerant than the political and commercial community.

That Krieghoff was a member of both groups was probably a sign of his wishing to get along with all members of Montreal society for the purposes of his struggling profession as artist.

William Tetley

(William Tetley, C.M., Q.C., was a Liberal Member of the Quebec National Assembly and Minister in the Bourassa government from 1970-1976. He is presently a professor at McGill Law Faculty and Counsel to Langlois Kronström Desjardins.)

Email [william.tetley@mcgill.ca](mailto:william.tetley@mcgill.ca)

Website [www.mcgill.ca/maritimelaw/](http://www.mcgill.ca/maritimelaw/)

## THE ANNEXATION MANIFESTO OF 1849

### NAMES OF THE SIGNERS

Abbott, J.J.C.	Bowerhank Thos.	Bruneau Jean	Chagnon-dit-
Anderson T.B.	Bourdon Chas.	Blanchard Louis	Larose
Atwater Edwin	Bourdon Chas.	Brush Geo.	Cinq-Mars C.N.
Atwater A.W.	Bracken Jas.	Buck M.	Cinq-Mars P.M.M.
Anderson Rbot.	Bibaud J.B.M.D.	Benny James	Coursolles Joseph
Alexander Chas.	Bertrand Chas.	Brewster Henry	Collin D.
Alexander Geo.	Blanchet P.	Babcock M.	Couillard J.B.A.
Archbold Henry	Bérubé L.J.	Butters J.	Cowell J.F.
Asselin J.B.	Bérubé A.	Benjamin Saml.	Cross Root
Aynibd Hiseog	Brown Jas.	Benjamin	Clark Z.B.
Allan Robert	Burmer H.	Goodman	Campbell Chas.
Ashley Geo.	Badeanx P.B.	Benjamin Wm.	Clancey John
Auger E.	Buck Marshall A.	Beliveau L.J.	Charles James
Archambault Alex	Barrett J.T.	Bourne A.	Charles John
Aspinall Robt.	Bryson Thos. Jno.	Benson Henry. E.	Charles Walter
Airde Geo.	Berry Wm.	Baird E.	Charles Simon
Allan Wilson B.	Blackwood R.	Borbridge Thos	McT.
Allan John	Barry John	Borbridge Wm.	Clare W.H.
Allan Wilson	Bergin Wm.	Blanchard Jermh	Converse Jno. A.
Anderson Peter	Burns Mich.	Brennan Patrick	Castle G.
Anderson John	Bockus Chas	Boyle John	Clarke William
Adams Robt.	Brewster Benj'm	Blair Jas	Craig Hugh
Adams Geo.	Bagg Stanley	Bertram Alex	Chedwick John

Adams J. Atchison Jas. Arconet E. Abill C.C. Atkinson Jno. Austin W.S. Bonacina J.M. Bethune John Brazean F.Y. Beaudry Edouard Barsalou Joseph Bernard F. R. Bisailon N. Bétonrnay N. Bell Thos. Browne P. D. Bills Arch. Boan M. Bridges John Boon Wm. Booth Richd. Bain William Beattie Wm Bonner John	Bagg Abner Bryson Alex Bryson T.M. Bell John Beers Jas. C. Brooks Wm. Barnard Jas. Boyd John Browne Geo. Birss J.H. Bent Geo. Bohl H.S Brons John Burroughs A. Barley Wm. Bryson Edmond Brodie Fras. Bude Jas. Bude Nicholas Buther Jas. Bernard J. Baylis Jas. Busseau H. Boyer Louis	Binmore G. Binmore John Brodie John Corse R. Corse Norton. B. Chapman Henry Carter John Crayk Jas. Clark James P. Campbell Robt. Craig Hugh Chalmers Robt. Chalmers Chas. Carter Edward Collette Michel Coalette Thos. Cassidy John Cassidy John Cusson Alexis Carleton Henry Cook A. Cushing J. Cushing L. Cooper P. Cruikshank A.	Cowan Wm. Cowan Hugh Cowan David Carson Robt Clark H.N. Clark Joseph Courtney W. V. Cosgrave John Cadotte T. Cadotte A. Colleritte P.N. Courtney W.B. Cajetan L. Coderre J.E.M.D. Courselle Joseph Campbell John L. Cheesman Wm. Cousens W. Connor John Connor Michl. Clifford Patrick Cavanagh Jno. Clark Geo. Colgan Jas Currigan Jos Currigan Robt. B.
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Campbell Jno. Cane Patrick Conroy Owen Cooper Wm. Clark James Carey Danl. Chester John Cole Thos. Chapple Alf. Cousens Wm. Crawford W.N. Caithes Jno. Childs Geo Chisholm H. Cullen Wm. Cauthers Saml Cauthers John Camen John Cunan James Carroll Jas.	Dorion A.A. Dorion J.B.E. Donohoe T. Desmarai A.N.P. Dufresne A. Doré F. Dubord Antoine Dubord J. Daniel P.S. Daniel W.F. Dow Wm. Duncan John Dobson Wm. Donovan Danl. Dunlop Wm. Dunlop John Drake Robt. Dunn Jas. Donahue Martin Davies Moses	Fitts C. Foster Thos. Franklin Lancelot Flynn F. Flynn Jas Flynn Edward Fellers Geo Francis Benj Ferguson David Ferguson Archibald Frost Norman S. Fleck Alex Farrell D. Foley Michl Fortier L. Footner W. Fournier M.A. Fournier J.M. Fournier S.	Grant J. Gilbert E.E. Graham Jas. Grant John Glassford H.A. Greig John Guimond Ant Germain J.B. Gauthier L. Giroux Jos R. Geroux Joseph Glen Crawford Glen David Greig John Giard A. Gall Wm. Gray Geo. Holton L.H. Holmes Benjn. Holmes W.J.
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Carroll John	Dednam Thos.	Finny Michl.	Hart Benj.
Cutter Geo	Doherty Jas.	Feron John	Henderson John
Dewitt M.P.P.J.	Donelly John	Fairon Arthur	Hutchison Wm.
DeBleury	Deery Henry	Faron Martin	Hutton Jas.
Sabrevois	Donegani John	Glass John	Harvey Jas.
Dease Peter W.	Dalton Jas.	Gemmill Wm.	Hall Geo.
Dease Chas.	Dorten John	Green T.J.	Hall T.D.
Duclos Fras.	Dunbar Jas	Groves Geo.	Hall Jos N.
Dier Wm.	Day John O.	Gnaedinger Louis	Hart Theodore
Donnelly C.	Esdaille Robt.	Geddes Chas.	Haldimand W.L.
DeWitt Jacob H.	Esdale L.	Gunn Wm.	Hagar Geo.
Duffield Geo.	Egar J.	Gregory S.E.	Hagar Chas.
Doan T.C.	Evans J.H.	Green E.R.	Henderson John
Desmarteau E.B.	Evans W.C.	Gadbois J. Bte.	Howard Irvine
Dupont Dominique	Escalonne J.	Gibson T.E.	Hauselman E.
Dubord A.	Easton W.	Grant John	Huston C.W.
Dansereau C.	Ennis Thos.	Gunn Jas.	Healy Christopher
DeMontigny Jos.	Eager D.W.	Gravel Jos.	Hall F.T.
DeMontigny Jean	Eager Wm. L.	Gagnon J.A.	Haldane Jas.
DeMontigny F.X.	Easton Geo.	Gariepy A.	Hays Andrew
Derome A.D.	Eckart Issac R.	Gadebois J.B.	Holland Geo. A,
Doherty Chas.	English M.	Griffard Chas.	Hutchins B.
Doherty John	Elliott Andrew	Gagnon E.	Hutchins James R.
Dorwin C.	English Saml.	Gillerd Jas.	Howell Ed.
Day S.H.	Frothingham John	Gilmour John	Hudson Pierre
Douglas Jas.	Forsythe Thos.	Gardner Jno.	Hibbard Ashley
Davis Nelson	Fisher John	Gleeson Michael	Hilton John F.
Coursens W.	Ferrier Jas. Jun	Gowan Edward	Hilton John
Dumgoole P.	Ferrier Geo. D.	Grodon James	Hurst Willm.
Dufort R.B.	Fuller Rinaldo	Gordon John	Hudson Richard
DeLorme E. Lemay	Froste Bobt.	Graham Robt.	Pierre
Dagg Jas	Farewall A. (Osh.)	Gallagher C.	Hacket Thos.
Darling D.	Frauchere J.B.	Greene N.S.	Harrington Wm.
Docherty John	Fresiault H.A.	Gordon Thos.	Harkin H.
Dagg Jas.	Forbes Jno.	Germain J.B.	Hobin Patrick
Dorion W.P.V.	Krieghoff C.	Guildry Jules	Martin P.P.
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Hagarty P.	Lyman Benj	Leclair Jean	McPherson D.L.
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Henderson James	Lyman S. Jones	Leclair C.I.J.	Mathewson John
Hannan John	Levincourt A. King	Lepaillier N.	McGillis John
Hamulty Lawrence	Leeming John	Leavers Wm.	McDougall Wm
Hannon Patrick	Loughry John	Lothian Adam	Morton Robt

Hutchison John	Lee Joseph	Lyon John	Morton Geo
Hay James	Lalarme E.D.	Levey John	Mullins Fras
Haliday James	Lusignan Alfred	Leprohon JL, MD.	McCoy John
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Irwin Jas.	Linton Sam	Londreau Henry	McDonald Wm.
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Irvine John	Lindsay Chas.	Lenoir J.	McDonald John
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Julien J. Bte Jun.	Lefebre Chas.	Labadie Adolphe	McIntosh Neil
James Thos.	Larue Pierre	Labadie Edmond	McArthur John
Knowlton P.H.	Lepage Germain	Leslie R.W"	Muir Ebenezer
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Kennedey W.	Lapierre A.	Murphy P	McCrib Peter
Keller John	Lrmyre Maxime	Murphy Alex	Mack Robt
Knowlan M.	Lamontagne H.	Murphy John. P.	Mack Saml.
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Kilgour Jos.	Lamontagne J.L.J.	Murphy P.A.	Moir And.
Kelly John	Lamontagne C.H.	McFarlane Arch.	Moir James
Kelly Michel	Laberge Chas.	McFarlane Andrew	McLaughlin John
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Seery James	Urquhart Alex.	Whitty John	
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Stacy Geo.	Visenor Jerry	Warren Francis	
Sims Thos.	Vass David	Warren Chas.	
Stevenson Andrew	Viger J.	Woodside T.	
Stevenson J.	LeLabreche	Wallace Alex	
Shane Lawrence	Naudal H.	Williamson John	
Smith Henry	Van Buskirk Geo.	Weeks Geo.	
Sanderson E.	Venables Joseph	Ward Joseph	
Sargisan Jos.	Vincent Jas.	Whitney H.H.	
Scott W.R.	Vennor H.	Whitney N.S.	
Smith W.P.	Valigny Louis	Wilson Andrew	
Sheney Richard	Way Ed.	Wright Geo.	
Shelly Thos.	Wheeler Geo. H.	Wright John	
Sharpe Edward	Ward Jas. H.	Watson Wm.	
Stewart James	Watson Geo.	White John	