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SPRIT OF PROGRESS

JOURNAL OF ART DECO AND MODERNISM SOCIETY INC.

issue
49

AUTUMN 2012
volume 13 number 2

TORONTO STOCK EXCHANGE MURAL



The eight panels shown were designed and painted for the walls around trading floor of the Toronto Stock Exchange in 1936. Painted by Charles Comfort, a well-known muralist and painter, they represent the industries of Canada whose stocks were handled on the trading floor: construction and engineering; mining; smelting; refining; oil; pulp and paper; agriculture; transportation and communications. Each was 4.9 metres by 1.2 metres, decidedly vertical, and depict stylised industrial items such

as muscled (but streamlined) workers, speeding trains, pouring vats, and industrial structures. Overall Comfort's murals are an unabashed glorification of industry, the physical work that it entails, and the power of modern industry. Comfort also designed a series of wonderful stylised friezes on the exterior - but that's for another issue!

Source: *Designing the Exchange*, 1994
Image: Peter Sheridan AM

