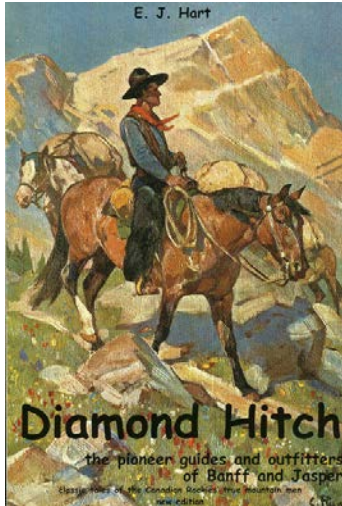




Diamond Hitch by E.J. (Ted) Hart



As the tourist trade developed in Banff and Jasper in the late 1800s, a special breed of men emerged to lead wealthy, latter-day explorers into the Canadian Rockies wilderness. These guides and outfitters were often as undisciplined and unkempt as their clients were refined and polished. But together this unlikely alliance forged the last chapter in the history of exploration of the Canadian Rockies. Hart's book *Diamond Hitch* describes the colourful lives and times of such men as Tom Wilson, Bill Peyto, Jimmy Simpson, the Brewster brothers, Fred Stephens, and Curly Phillips—the true mountain men of the Canadian west.

The cover of *Diamond Hitch* is a painting that depicts legendary Canadian Rockies guide and outfitter Jimmy Simpson, who built Num-ti-Jah Lodge overlooking Bow Lake. It was painted by Carl Rungius in the 1920s. Rungius (1869-1959) was the premier wildlife artist of his era, but was also renowned for his landscape and western paintings.

At the time of book publication, the painting hung in the Shelburne Museum (Vermont), but the piece has since been sold, with no records as to its current owner.

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About the Author

E. J. (Ted) Hart graduated from the University of Alberta with a Master's Degree in Western Canadian History in 1972. Recruited to work in the archives at the Whyte Museum of the Canadian Rockies, he became Head Archivist in 1976 and in 1979 the Executive Director of the Whyte Museum, a position which he continues to hold. Through this time, Ted has authored a dozen books on the history of Banff and the Canadian Rockies. He was the mayor of Banff from 1995 to 1998.

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