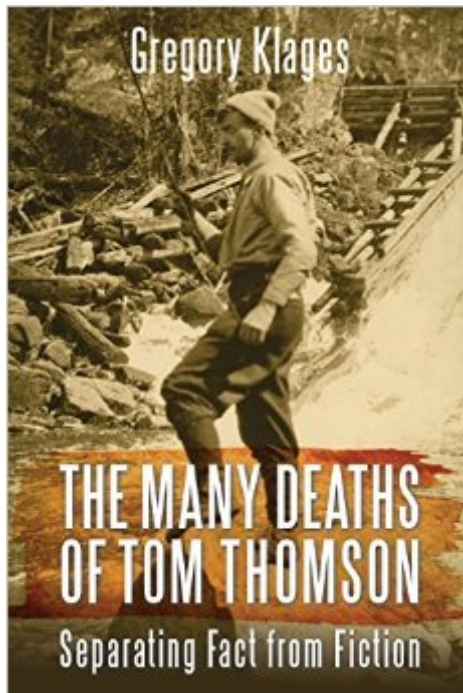


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# The Many Deaths Of Tom Thomson: Separating Fact From Fiction



## Synopsis

A National Post Bestseller! How did Tom Thomson die in the summer of 1917? Was landscape painter Tom Thomson shot by poachers, or by a German-American draft dodger? Did a blow from a canoe paddle knock him unconscious and into the water? Was he fatally injured in a drunken fight? Did he end his life out of fear of being forced to marry his pregnant girlfriend? Commemorating the one-hundredth anniversary of the death of the renowned Canadian landscape painter, *The Many Deaths of Tom Thomson* offers an authoritative review of the historical record, as well as some theories you might not have thought of in a hundred years. Cultural historian Gregory Klages surveys first-hand testimony and archival records about Thomson's tragic demise, attempting to sort fact from legend in the death of this Canadian icon.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It is unfortunate that Tom Thomson is renowned at least as much for his death as for his art. His art is stunning, unique and lauded worldwide. His death was early, sudden and unwitnessed, which has led to an entire industry of theories, books and stories. Thomson was a natural. Without formal training or apprenticeship, he developed a style of landscape painting that is world class, and in only five years. In France, a critic of Thomson's work noted that "no landscape ever painted in France made you feel the presence of man, but that in Canadian landscapes you feel his absence." Thomson caught the real, natural, vacant Canada whose unsurpassed beauty has never been represented better. Tom Thomson would make God proud of His work. Klages is very precise. He has examined all the available evidence, compared it among the rapporteurs and

against original documents. His fact checking is intensive, extensive and impressive. His findings are just as precise: Tom Thomson must have slipped, hit his head on a rock, log or gunwale, and drowned. At the scene, in 1917, there was no disagreement or alternate scenario considered. It was obvious, and there was no evidence whatsoever for other intrigues. It was really only in the 1930s that the rot started to set in. Over the decades, more and more phony stories appeared, and much like internet facts, the more places they appeared, the more truthful they became. By this century, it was out of control, with books, songs and even a board game. Authors who got it wrong the first time came back with new offerings making it even worse: drunken fights the night before, threats that never occurred, a (non) pregnancy and forced wedding to avoid, an empty coffin sent home â “ all published to credible reception.

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