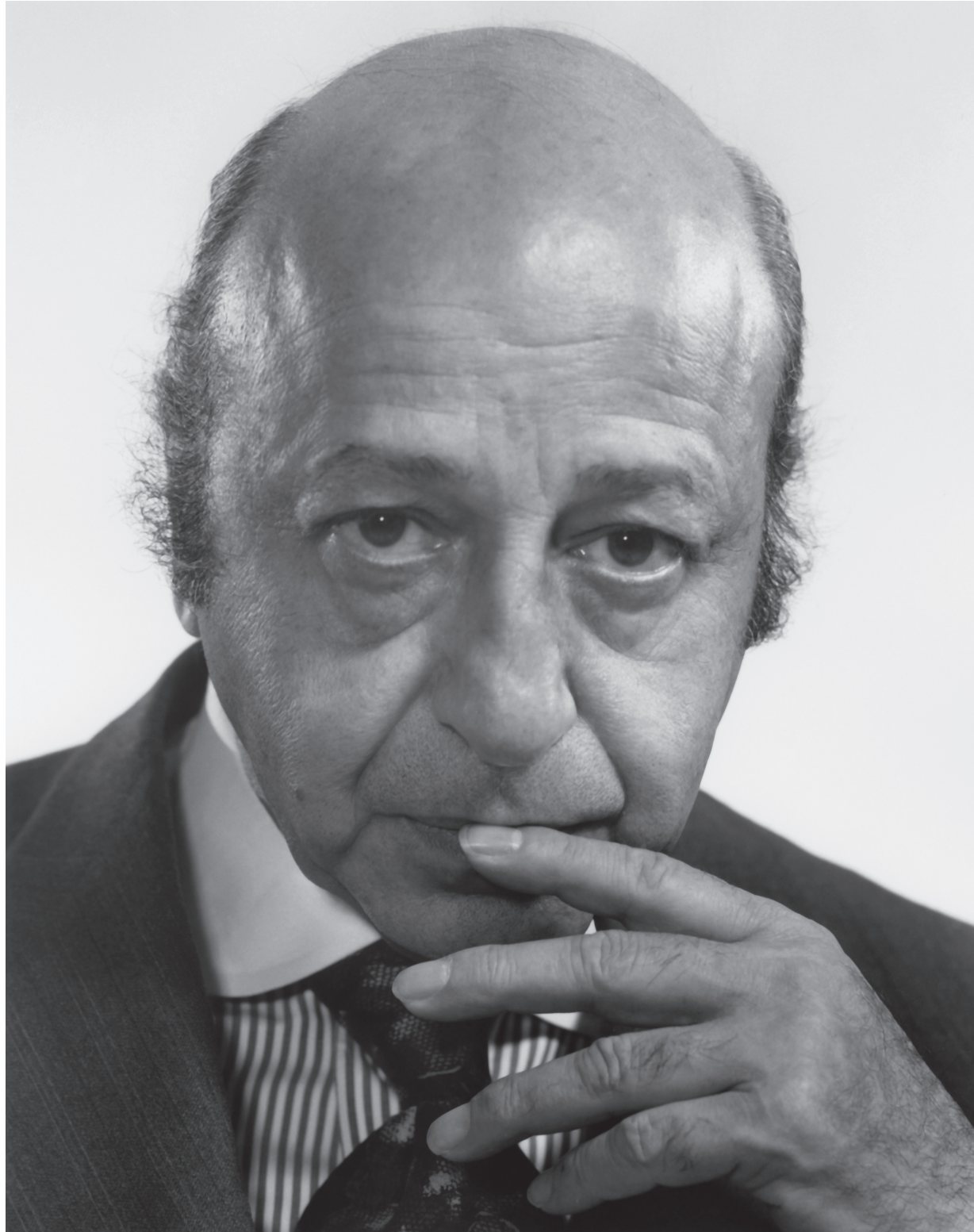


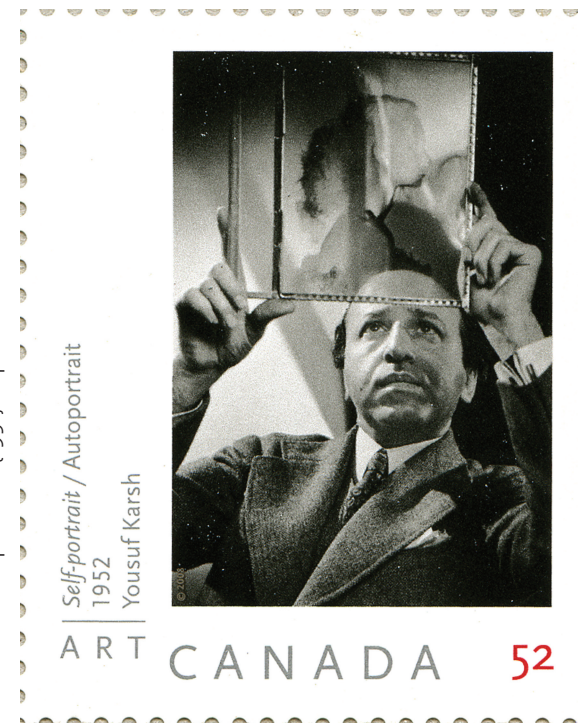
Yousuf Karsh

Photographer (1908 – 2002)



Courtesy of the Estate of YOUSUF KARSH

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The photo on the stamp is a self-portrait

Karsh was a Canadian photographer, and one of the most famous and accomplished portrait photographers of all time.

He was born in the eastern Ottoman Empire and at the age of 14, he fled with his family to Syria to escape persecution. Two years later, his parents sent Yousuf to live with his uncle, a photographer in Quebec. His uncle saw great potential in his nephew and in 1928 arranged for Karsh to apprentice with portrait photographer John Garo in Boston. Karsh returned to Canada four years later and established a studio in Ottawa, where he was discovered by Prime Minister MACKENZIE KING, who arranged introductions with visiting dignitaries for portrait sittings. Karsh's place in history was established on December 30, 1941 when he photographed Winston Churchill, after he gave a speech to the Canadian House of Commons. He allowed Karsh just two minutes but the result was the iconic image of the indomitable Churchill. The famous scowl came after Karsh removed the cigar Churchill was smoking. This image, along with one of Audrey Hepburn and one of Karsh himself, were used on a trio of Canadian stamps issued in 2009 to honor the photographer.

In 1967, Karsh was made an Officer of the Order of Canada and in 1990 was promoted to Companion. In 2000, Karsh was named one of the 100 most notable people of the century by the International Who's Who. His brother Malak Karsh was also a noted photographer, famous for the image of logs floating down the river on the Canadian one dollar bill.

In the late 1990s, Karsh moved to Boston and on July 13, 2002, aged 93, he died there after complications following surgery. Karsh was a Centurion for 30 years and he photographed nearly two dozen Centurions.