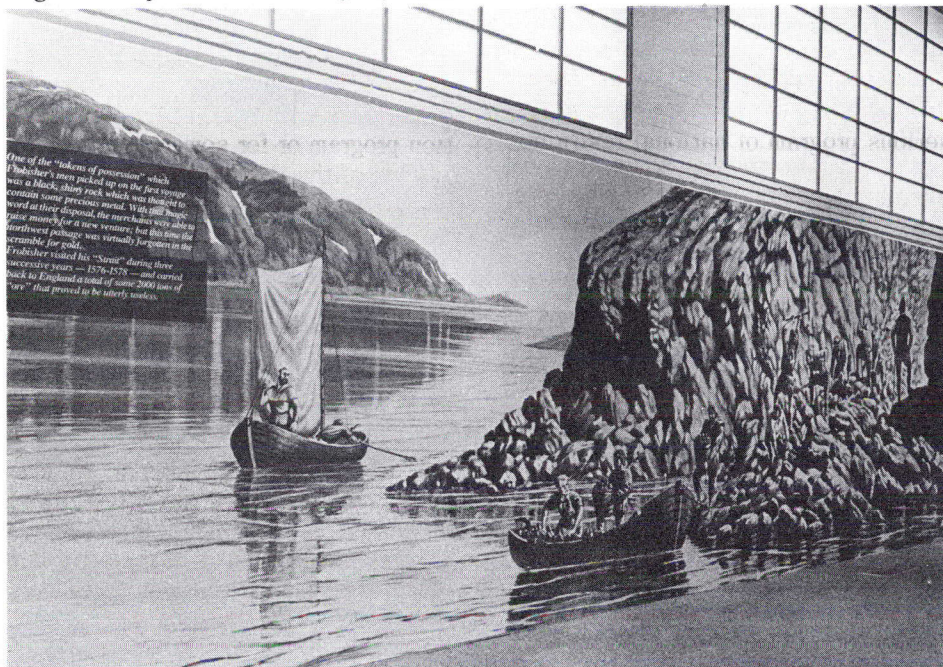


Exhibition marks anniversary of Frobisher's first visit to the Arctic

An exhibition commemorating the four-hundredth anniversary of Martin Frobisher's first voyage to what is now the Canadian Arctic opened last month at the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto. Organized by Dr. Walter Kenyon, Cura-

tor, Office of the Chief Archaeologist, the exhibition features a collection of Elizabethan artifacts, navigational instruments, maps, paintings and tools. Also included are samples of Frobisher's ore, collected by Dr. Kenyon



Frobisher visited his "Strait" during three successive years - 1576-1578 -

and carried back to England 2,000 tons of "ore", that proved to be useless.



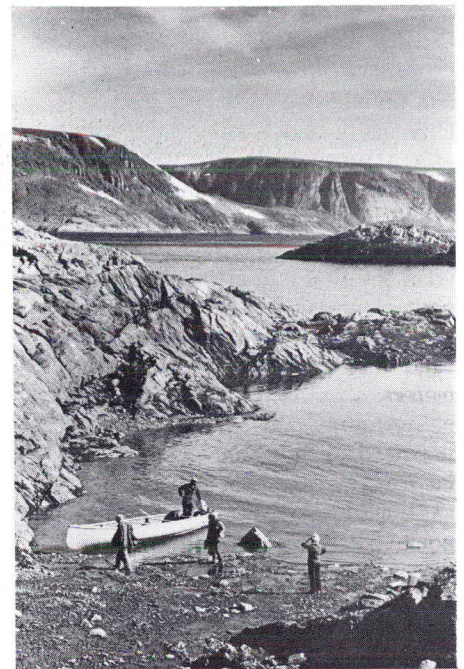
Sir Martin Frobisher. Attributed to Cornelis Ketel (1548-1616), Dutch, late sixteenth century. (Courtesy the Curators of the Bodleian Library, Oxford.)

on an expedition to Baffin Island in the summer of 1974.

On June 7, 1576, Martin Frobisher left England on the first of his three voyages in an unsuccessful search of a Northwest passage to the Orient. On his return, however, he brought with him "tokens of possession", or objects he had collected and brought home as proof that he had actually visited some exotic land. Among these was a heavy, black rock thought to contain valuable quantities of gold.

With the magic word "gold" at their disposal, the London merchants who financed Frobisher were able to raise money for two more expeditions - not to search for the elusive passage to the northwest, but to dig out vast fortunes from the rocks that glittered there. In all, Frobisher brought almost 2,000 tons of totally useless "ore" back to England.

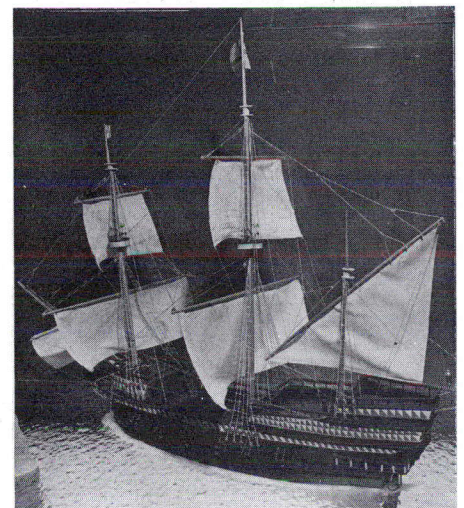
As an economic venture, the Frobisher voyages were a complete failure. But in the history of Canada and of the western world, they were starkly signi-



Frobisher Bay 1974.

ficant, for they initiated a series of some 17 voyages into the Canadian Arctic during the next 56 years. The earliest description of an Eskimo was written by George Best, one of Frobisher's officers, and the earliest visual record of an Eskimo was painted by John White, another member of Frobisher's staff.

The exhibition, which ends on March 28, is a tribute to the memory of one of the great Elizabethan seaman. (Photos courtesy Royal Ontario Museum.)



Model of The Aid, Frobisher's flagship. Reconstructed on the basis of available information on vessels of the period.