



Skidegate village, 1878. Photo taken for the Geological Survey of Canada.

a distinctive cultural environment.

The new Pacific Coast hall opens the entire third floor of the museum to the public. On one wall, a photo-mural, 56 feet long and a model, show a typical nineteenth century Haida village named Skidegate. The hall's central space is treated as a platform on which

a feast is staged in front of the village.

The opening of the Children of the Raven hall by the Prime Minister marks the first anniversary of the renovated National Museum of Man. It is housed in the Victoria Memorial building, Metcalfe Street, Ottawa. (Photos courtesy of the National Museum of Man.)

Children of the Raven – historical background

For many centuries the native people inhabiting the narrow shores and rugged valleys along the Pacific Coast of Canada were among the wealthiest of North American Indians. Each village and area was independent and flourished in a different manner. Yet the people, sharing a common world, based on the same fundamental cosmology, were all dependent on a fishing economy, and had similar preoccupations with rank, social status and a continuation of ancestral ties.

With the Europeans came diseases and catastrophic epidemics which swept through the villages between 1750 and 1910. In some areas this resulted in the death of more than 80 per cent of the inhabitants. The native coastal population slowly regained its strength. By 1973 it numbered about 35,000 on the reserves

alone and is increasing steadily. Today the boundaries delimiting each family or village territory have been encroached upon and displaced by the settlements, towns and roadways of white people, leaving only the reserve land for the native people.

Despite continuing cultural changes, assimilation has not taken place. Inter-tribal organization is now based on "brotherhoods" that have had a strong impact on administration from both the federal and provincial points of view. This new social system conflicts with traditional ranks and titles but the old cosmology is still expressed through many feasts and ceremonies, and in the work of internationally-famous native artists, carvers, jewellers and craftsmen. Thus... "In spite of everything that has passed the Children of the Raven still follow the ways of their ancestors."

Gift of books to Mauritius for deposit in Port Louis University

Jean Marchand, Minister without Portfolio and head of the Canadian delegation to the General Conference of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation presented to Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius, on November 11, 150 Canadian books and other works, which will be deposited in the Library of Port Louis University, Mauritius.

"Like Canada, Mauritius is at one and the same time a member of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation and a member of the Commonwealth; moreover, the majority of Mauritians speak either French or English. We wanted to underline by this gift of books the cultural links which unite our two countries within these two international institutions," declared Mr. Marchand. "We wanted as well to give some tangible recognition by all Canadians to the numerous Mauritians who have established themselves in Canada in the last few years, particularly in Quebec."

The works, half of which are in English and half in French, are samples of the latest Canadian work in novels, poetry, history, arts and culture, politics, economy, environment and geography.

The gift falls within the framework of the Department of External Affairs' program of cultural relations abroad.

Delegates to Food and Agriculture Conference

The Canadian delegation to the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), taking place in Rome, from November 8 to 27, is led by the Minister of Agriculture, Eugene Whelan, and includes the Minister of Agriculture from the province of Saskatchewan, Edgar Kaeding.

Among the issues at the Conference is the election of a new director general to replace outgoing Addeke Boerma of the Netherlands. Dr. W. David Hopper, president of the International Development Research Centre, is among the six candidates for the position.