

## INDIAN AND ESKIMO ART IN PARIS

Mr. Gérard Pelletier, Secretary of State, represented the Canadian Government at the opening of "Masterpieces of Indian and Eskimo Art in Canada", a major exhibition which opened in Paris on March 25.

In co-operation with the Department of External Affairs the exhibition was organized by the Société des Amis du Musée de l'Homme in Paris and the National Museum of Man in Ottawa, and presented under the aegis of the France-Canada cultural agreement. It will run until September, when it will move to the National Gallery of Canada.

More than 200 sculptures and other items, provided by Canadian museums, are on display. The collection, which is the most important of its kind ever assembled, brings together works selected not only for their ethnographic and archaeological value but also for their aesthetic qualities, which have originated from several Canadian regions and recently excavated archaeological sites.

All the items shown were borrowed from Canadian institutions through the good offices of Dr. William E. Taylor, Director of the National Museum of Man in Ottawa, who also contributed to the bilingual catalogue, illustrating every item. This catalogue has been published by La Société des Amis du Musée de l'Homme in Paris. The Department of External Affairs contributed administratively to the organization of the exhibition through its Cultural Affairs

Division in Ottawa and its Embassy in Paris. The Department also has borne most of the financial costs of the exhibition, providing funds for a total of \$65,000 out of its cultural exchanges budget.

### AN INTERNATIONAL FIRST

"This will be an event of major importance for Canadian Indian and Eskimo art," said Dr. Taylor. "While this art, particularly that of the Northwest Coast Indians, is widely represented in museums round the world, this is the first time it is being exhibited on an international scale."

Prehistoric Eskimos and the Northwest Coast Indians have the largest representation, as these two groups were artistically the most active and sophisticated. The oldest piece is an Eskimo ivory mask, dated at 700 B.C. by radio-carbon; it was found at Hudson Strait by Dr. Taylor in 1958. Dr. Taylor writes in the catalogue that the Dorset Eskimos produced some of the best Arctic work: "Hardly primitive, it is rather an aboriginal art reflecting a long heritage of development and is inextricably fused to religion." This art is marked by a fine sense of craft and painstaking finish, in contrast to that of the later Thule culture which was seldom so well finished.

## VIETNAM HOMES GIFT OF CANADA

Canada will share in the financing of a 152-unit housing complex to help solve Vietnam's serious refugee-housing problem, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, announced recently.

The complex will be built at Minh-Mang, a suburb of Saigon, where a 72-unit apartment complex financed by Canada has just been completed. The suburb was devastated during the Tet offensive a year ago.

Canada will contribute \$355,000 toward the construction costs and the Government of Vietnam has pledged the equivalent of some \$91,000 in Vietnamese currency.

## LAST DOG-SLED PATROLS

A romantic chapter in the story of Canada's North ended last month when two Royal Canadian Mounted Police constables with their dog-teams and sleds returned from the last long spring patrol of this vast wilderness. The growth of a network of roads and the building of airports and helicopter-pads have all but eliminated dependence on this mode of travel, which is being replaced by the faster and more economical snowmobile.

The two teams, which set out from Old Crow, the northernmost settlement in the Yukon, 300 miles north of Dawson City, had to break their own trail through the Richardson Mountains. Once they hit the well-used trails to the Arctic Red River and Inuvik, the going became easier. Their last stop was at Aklavik on the Mackenzie Delta where, after a short respite, they made their way back to Old Crow, covering some 800 miles on the round trip.

## SEAWAY ANNIVERSARY

The Expo 67 islands have been chosen as the site of the keynote celebrations that will mark the tenth anniversary of the St. Lawrence Seaway. The public commemorative ceremonies are scheduled to be held on June 26 at the Place des Nations, within sight of the St. Lambert Lock, where, ten years ago on the same date, Queen Elizabeth and the late President Eisenhower officially inaugurated the Seaway.

Other events are also being planned by provincial and municipal governments, government agencies, ports and private organizations to celebrate the first decade of the waterway.

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