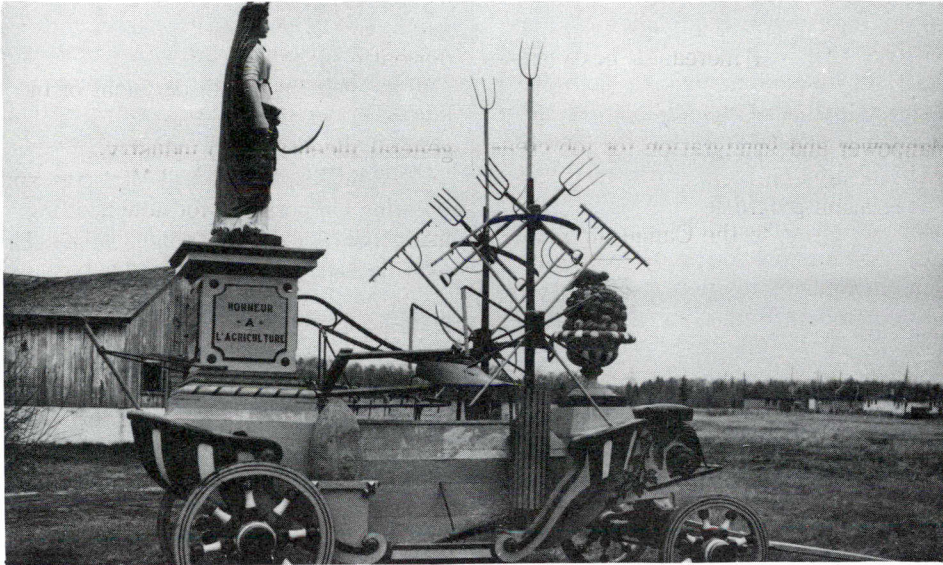


# News of the arts

## An exceptional old parade wagon acquired by Museum of Quebec

A parade wagon built in 1880, which recently became the property of the Museum of Quebec, is a work of exceptional value and, of its kind, one of the last traces of traditional Quebec civilization.

The wagon, ordered for the Saint-Jean-Baptiste Day festivities by the Saint-Jean-Baptiste Society of Ancienne-Lorette, a small community near Quebec City, was created by Pierre Gauvin, the parish cartwright, from



plans by Pierre Cousin, an architect in Quebec City.

It is in the shape of a boat bearing farming implements in a cluster arrangement, sculptured fruits and vegetables, with a secular statue executed by Louis Jobin.

This symbolic representation of the values of a rural society in days gone by is mounted on massive wheels ornamented like those on a Roman chariot. A beaver stands on the lookout on the prow. In the centre is a raised platform, from five to six feet high, on which a plough has been placed. In front of the platform, farming implements such as forks, scythes, sickles and rakes fan out. On the stern, a pedestal sculptured and ornamented with mouldings supports the statue of Ceres, the Roman goddess of agriculture. The sculptor created the statue from a photograph of the Ceres in the Vatican. Each of the four panels bears a different inscription in French, translated as: "The farmers of Ancienne-Lorette", "All honour to agriculture", "Take possession of the soil" and "Festival of June 24, 1880".

## Praise for Canadian art exhibition in London

The Canadian High Commissioner in Britain, Paul Martin (right) with Greg Curnoe at a recent exhibition of Mr. Curnoe's work at Canada House in London.

The paintings in the show included eight "mixed media" paintings of views from windows in Curnoe's London (Ontario) studio, complete with taped soundtracks, and seven life-size watercolours of racing bicycles. Part of the collection was seen recently at the Venice Biennale where Curnoe represented Canada. Other paintings were borrowed from the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa.

Curnoe, a painter, author and amateur bicycle-racer, has always chosen to relate his work to his daily experiences of life. Michael Shepherd, art critic of The Sunday Telegraph in London described Mr. Curnoe as having "a lively sense of experiment which makes him a central figure in current Canadian art." Mr. Shepherd also paid tribute to the Canada House Gallery: "Canada has been doing in London what every foreign embassy should do,



maintaining an art gallery to show off its artists without waiting for chancy official museum or dealer approval. Let me praise its incomparably information continuous flow of shows and recommend regular visits."

## New publications

*Canada North Now* (McClelland and Stewart) is Farley Mowat's most recent addition to a long list of novels about the Canadian North. The book, a summary of the geography, discovery, people, exploitation and vulnerability of the Arctic, includes maps by James Loates and starkly striking photography by Japanese Canadian Shin Sugino.

*Robert Service* (McGraw-Hill Ryerson) is a biography by Carl F. Klinck, which includes anecdotes of the writer's life, many of them drawn from Mr. Service's own autobiography *Harper of Heaven*, now out of print. Robert Service, the author of *The Shooting of Dan McGrew*, wrote 13 volumes of poetry, six novels, his autobiography and a handbook of diet, exercises and hygiene for men over 50. Professor Klinck, a well-known academic critic and general editor of the *Literary History of Canada*, reports many unknown facts about Service, among which was that the poet spent only eight years in the Yukon, he lived in France for a time, visited the Soviet Union in the Thirties and took up residence in Hollywood during