

#### DESCRIPTION OF FURNITURE

The tapestries with which the furniture is upholstered, depicting scenes from Greek mythology, are woven in threads of silver and gold. They are in their original condition, which is extremely rare. Gilded frames richly carved with scrolls and shells; contemporary Saint-Cyr petit-point embroidery with couched silver threads, showing reserves of mythological and fable subjects surrounded by flower and leaf ornament. It is possible that an allegorical reference to Louis XIV and Mme de Maintenon can be found in the mythological scenes of the embroidered backs. The maker of this furniture is unknown.

Until 1892, when it appeared in a Paris sale-room, the furniture had remained in private collections. In 1960 it was displayed in an exhibition at the Musée des Arts décoratifs in Paris.

"Our Baroque Gallery," declares Mr. Hickl-Szabo, "will now be a world-wide focal point for scholars who are concerned with early eighteenth century antiquities. No one who wants to write about or study the Sun King can do so without mentioning the treasure of the furniture."

Dr. Swann says that "whereas we have passed a milestone in this \$50,000 expenditure, it is only a high price in Canada. Museums in other countries have vast resources. What we lack in purchasing power, we must make up in knowledge, scholarship and business acumen".

*(Material and photographs courtesy of the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto.)*



*Dr. Peter C. Swann, director of the Royal Ontario Museum, leans gently on one of the Louis XIV chairs acquired recently from Paris.*

#### MAN-HOURS AND EARNINGS

Advance estimates indicated that average weekly wages increased sharply in construction and decreased in mining and manufacturing in July 1970, compared to June. Average hourly earnings were lower in mining and manufacturing and higher in construction. Lower average weekly hours were recorded in all three industry divisions.

In June, average weekly wages in manufacturing rose by \$1.18 as a result of a 0.1-hour increase in average weekly hours and a 3-cent gain in average hourly earnings. A 0.3-hour rise in average weekly hours in the durable component offset a 0.1-hour decline in non-durable goods manufacturing. Both components contributed to the increase in average hourly earnings. Average weekly hours in manufacturing were 0.1 hours lower and average hourly earnings 24 cents higher than in June 1969.

In mining, average weekly wages fell by \$3.03 to \$148.14 in June from the May level of \$151.17. This drop resulted from a 0.1-hour decrease in average weekly hours and a 6-cent decline in average hourly earnings. In the year-over-year comparison, average weekly hours were 0.3 hours lower and average hourly earnings 41 cents higher.

Average weekly wages in construction showed little change from May, as a 0.5-hour increase in average weekly hours failed to offset a 5-cent decrease in average hourly earnings. Compared to those of June 1969, average weekly hours were 0.2 hours lower and average hourly earnings 47 cents higher.

#### EMERGENCY AID TO JORDAN

The Secretary of State for External Affairs recently announced that Canada would make a special supplementary grant of \$150,000 to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees.

This contribution is intended to help the Agency carry on its work at a time when its financial situation is precarious and the demands being made upon it for services are increasing as a result of the civil strife in Jordan. It is in addition to Canada's pledge of \$1,200,000 to UNRWA for the current fiscal year and will bring the level of Canadian support for the Agency to \$1,350,000 for 1970.

The Canadian Government also announced recently a donation of \$25,000 to the Canadian Red Cross for emergency relief for the victims of the civil war in Jordan.