

News of the arts

Course on NFB at University of Southern California

The University of Southern California in Los Angeles is offering a course on the work of Canada's National Film Board.

Though courses dealing with the films of one country or one film-maker are not uncommon, no course seems hitherto to have dealt exclusively with a single production organization.

The intensive eight-week program which began on March 15, entitled "Behind the Screens of the National Film Board of Canada", is intended to familiarize students with the history, technology and operation of the NFB — especially its animation and documentary techniques.

In its syllabus, the USC School of Performing Arts states that "the National Film Board of Canada, a very special organization, may be a paradigm for the development of an American Film Board". Sponsored this year by the USC College of Continuing Education, the class, open to professionals and the public,

is of special interest to independent producers. The program will probably become a credit course next year.

Among the film-makers presenting and discussing their films, will be Tom Daly, who will provide a historical look at the Film Board and Donald Brittain, who will discuss the documentary film. Kathleen Shannon will talk about the social-awareness film, Co Hoedeman the animation film, Marcel Carrière the cultural film and Bill Mason the information film.

The idea for the course grew out of discussions between the Canadian Consulate in Los Angeles and the University of Southern California, which have since undertaken arrangements to provide the necessary resources. The program itself was established and is being co-ordinated by the Media Division of NFB's Distribution Branch in Montreal with the assistance of the Board's distribution office in San Francisco.

ROM contributes to U.S. exhibitions

The Textile Department of the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, has made two important loans to the United States.

Four magnificent examples of Chinese embroidered silk, sent to China House, the display gallery of the China Institute in America, New York, will be displayed in a Chinese Embroidery Exhibition from March 15 to May 28.

The most impressive piece in the ROM loan, a seventeenth-century robe embroidered with dragons in two shades of gold filé, is the sole surviving court coat of its date and is the type once worn by the attendants of the Manchu Imperial Court. Because of the robe's extreme fragility, it was shipped in a custom-made plexiglass case, designed so that visitors may view the rare garment without its having to be removed.

The ROM Textile Department will also lend part of its felt collection to an extensive travelling exhibition by the Museum of Art, Carnegie Institute in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The exhibition, entitled, *Yörük, The Nomadic Weaving Traditions of the Middle East*, demonstrates the textile techniques of the Eurasian Steppes. It will be on view at the Museum of Art, Pittsburgh from April 6 to May 28. Following this, it will move to the Field Mu-

seum in Chicago, and the Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts until November 5.

Rare book acquired

Secretary of State John Roberts recently announced the first grant issued under the Cultural Property Export and Import Act which came into force last year.

The grant will be used by Memorial University of Newfoundland towards the purchase, from outside the country, of a rare book entitled *A Short Discourse of the New-found-land* printed in Dublin in 1623. The work, which would be unique in Canada, is one of a half-dozen seventeenth-century pieces which attempted to induce support for the establishment of an English colony in Newfoundland.

Memorial University maintains the Centre for Newfoundland Studies which collects materials relating to the early settlement of this portion of Canada. The Centre has already acquired three of the four most significant early seventeenth-century documents on the subject of Newfoundland, which include *Guy's Newsletters*, *Vaughn's Golden Fleece* and *Whitbourne's Discourse*. The acquisition of *A Short Discourse of the New-found-land* will complete the set.

NAC orchestra prepares for second European tour

The 46-member National Arts Centre Orchestra will embark on its second tour of Europe on April 2, under the direction of its resident conductor Mario Bernardi and under the sponsorship of the Department of External Affairs.



Steven Saryk

The pianist Anton Kuerti and the Canadian violinist Steven Saryk, former concertmaster of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, will accompany the group, which will give three concerts in Sicily, one in Italy and 14 in Germany.

The orchestra has prepared three Canadian contemporary compositions — *Third Symphony* by Jacques Hétu, *Cortège* by R. Murray Schafer and *These Silent Awe-Filled Spaces* by Harry Somers — in addition to works by Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn, Stravinsky and Schubert. Mr. Kuerti will perform at 11 concerts, playing either the Mozart *Concerto No. 27 in B flat K. 595* or the Schumann *Piano Concerto*. Mr. Saryk will perform the Mendelssohn *Violin Concerto* at seven concerts.

Concerts given on April 13 and 20 will be broadcast in Germany, and will be heard later this spring in Canada.