

News of the arts

Photographs show Quebec remains bastion of old Europe



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Quebec's Château Frontenac. Photographic process produces effect similar to paintings.

An exhibition entitled *Quebec City: Bastion of Old Europe*, opened recently at the Public Archives of Canada.

The 25 photographs of old Quebec taken by Robert Taillefer and Gerard Poulin in 1981 and 1982 clearly show that as a bastion of old Europe in America, Quebec City has succeeded in preserving its distinctive private and public character.

A process invented in 1855 called gum-bichromate was used to produce the photographs on display. It enables the artist-photographer to alter the tonality of the photograph by hand to produce effects similar to paintings or drawings. Although a single printing using this process tends to leave a weak image, multiple

exposures increase the depth of the shadows. "For this reason," says Guy Tessier, co-ordinator of the exhibition, "it is impossible to predict how a multiple printing will turn out. Changes in humidity or colour saturation can make many of the most beautiful effects happen by chance."

Robert Taillefer and Gerard Poulin became partners in 1980 and have recently concluded a photographic essay entitled *Eugene Shoestring*. They are currently working on two publications, one on Quebec City, the other on Upper Canada Village in Morrisburg, Ontario.

The exhibition is open to the public until June 3.

Vancouver hosts top collection

The Canada Packers Collection, an exhibition of 61 paintings spanning four decades of Canadian art, from the 1910s to the early 1950s, opened recently at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Members of the Group of Seven, their contemporaries and many of the succeeding generation of artists who came to prominence in the 1930s and 1940s, are represented in the exhibition which is sponsored by Canada Packers Inc. and organized by the Art Gallery of Ontario.

Most of the Canada Packers Collection was assembled by its founder, J.S. McLean. He began collecting in 1927, shortly after he established Canada

Packers Inc. and in the ensuing 25 years, he accumulated 300 works. One hundred and ninety-two of these were acquired by Canada Packers for its corporate collection.

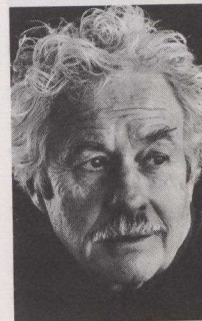
Landscapes dominate the exhibition with ten painted by A.Y. Jackson, Mr. McLean's friend and advisor. David Milne is also strongly represented by 16 works, including *St. Michael's Cathedral* which is regarded by many as "the masterpiece of all colour drypoints". Among the other artists included are Franklin Carmichael, Emily Carr, A.J. Casson, Paraskeva Clark, Stanley Cosgrove, Lawren Harris, J.E.H. MacDonald, Goodridge Roberts, Tom Thomson and F.H. Varley. The exhibition continues until March 18.

Canadian authors star on film

Four films, produced by the National Film Board on leading Canadian authors, were shown recently on TV Ontario. The films were part of the series *Exploration and the Arts*.

In Search of Farley Mowat looks at the controversial and enigmatic man who has sold more books than any other Canadian writer. Through interviews with Newfoundland artist David Blackwood, author Harold Horwood and fellow writer Margaret Laurence, and a meeting with the man himself, the film unmasks the many, and conflicting, faces of Farley Mowat.

Directed by Andy Thomson, the film won the Chris Bronze Plaque at the twenty-second Annual International Film Festival in Columbus, Ohio.



W.O. Mitchell

W.O. Mitchell — Novelist in Hiding goes beyond the eccentric public persona and shows the man and his work. Performer, teacher, writer and family man, W.O. Mitchell achieved national popularity for his long-running CBC radio series *Jake and*

the Kid and through his frequent radio and TV appearances. The film is directed by Robert Ducan.

Earle Birney: Portrait of a Poet. Master wordsmith and literary pioneer, Earle Birney, at 78, is still innovating. In this film, directed by Donald Winkler, he talks of his life which has spanned many careers, and explains the process of translating poetic inspiration into a successful work of art.

The last of the series, *Margaret Laurence: First Lady of Manawaka*, features one of Canada's most celebrated novelists, whose books are studied in every major Canadian university and have been translated into eight languages. Winner of a Gold Plaque at the Chicago Film Festival, the film was written and directed by Robert Duncan. Margaret Laurence's prose is read by Canadian actress Jayne Eastwood.



Margaret Laurence

John Reeves photos