



G. Hamilton Southam

said in the third book of his *Republic*: 'Let our artists rather be those who are gifted to discern the true nature of the beautiful and graceful; then will our youth dwell in a land of health, amid fair sights and sounds, and receive the good in everything; and beauty, the effluence of fair works, shall flow into the eye and ear, like a health-giving breeze from a purer region, and insensibly draw the soul from the earliest years into likeness and sympathy with the beauty of reason.'

"But the arts can do more than make Canadians better men and women, and Canadian children better children. From the dawn of time the civilizing influence of the arts has helped make better citizens. The arts in Canada could help make our men and women and children better Canadians. The arts, which by their very nature bring men 'into likeness and sympathy with the beauty of reason' can help bring peace and harmony....

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A home for artists

"One of the places in Canada where artists feel most Canadian is the National Arts Centre, perhaps because, as Mr. Pearson* said, Ottawa in the final analysis is the most Canadian of cities. It is wonderful – and reassuring – to see how Canadian artists of either expression – French or English – feel at home there. Playwrights like Michel Tremblay or James Reaney, actors like Albert Millaire or Tedde

moore...composers like Jacques Hétu or Murray Schafer, singers like Monique Leyrac or Anne Mortifee (remember *Love and Maple Syrup*?) – all feel they belong there, because 'there' belongs to them, and what is more, they all belong together there, because 'there' belongs to all of them together.

"The National Arts Centre is a tiny microcosm, set in the very heart of this larger microcosm called Ottawa, of what all Canada could be. Within that rather severe-looking building across the street – once compared by an admirer to an outcropping of the Precambrian Shield – there has been a harmonious nurturing these last eight years of both French and English culture. In theatre especially we have been exploring with your support what it is to be a human being in general, and more particularly a Canadian, in times like these. We have been defining the personality and nurturing the souls not of one but of two nations – French and English – and both Canadian.

Model of Canadian reality

"I would claim, ladies and gentlemen, that the National Arts Centre, and Ottawa as largely reshaped by the Centre, our national theatre and our national capital together, have become in recent years the very model we need of a higher, more creative and harmonious Canadian reality in both of its two principal cultural expressions.

"Perhaps we in Ottawa can say, as did Lincoln Steffens some 50 to 60 years ago in another context: 'we have been over into the future, and it works.' That has been the measure of our response to the challenge laid down for the Centre years ago.

Tours and TV

"But as I leave the Centre I know that what we have done, within the measure of our means, is not enough. What we have done must be seen to be done, not only in Ottawa but across the length and breadth of Canada. Only then will Ottawa have measured up to what Mr. Pearson called its proud responsibilities. I am delighted to see my successor, Donald MacSween, here today. I would say to the Government as I leave, give him the means and he'll finish the job. And to him I say: touring and television, Mr. MacSween, touring and television!"

Canadian teachers in China

Two Canadians recently left for China to teach French for three months to graduate students specializing in the teaching or interpretation of the French language. Mrs. Dorothy Speirs, who taught French at the University of Toronto, currently working on a doctorate, and André Reny, co-ordinator of language programs at the House of Commons, are in China under the official program of exchanges of education between the People's Republic of China and Canada.

Other Canadian teachers will go to China next summer to teach English for a similar length of time. In exchange, three Chinese professors will be coming to Canada in the autumn to give courses and lectures in Canadian universities on Chinese language, literature and history.

This program arises from an agreement on educational exchanges made when Prime Minister Trudeau visited China in autumn 1973. Under the same agreement, some 25 Canadian students are in China, studying Chinese language, literature, political philosophy and history. In exchange, 25 Chinese students are in Canada to improve their knowledge of English or French as well as to study in various disciplines. Other Chinese students are in Canada outside the official exchange program, under the auspices of the Chinese Government.

Interfaith colloquium

An all-Canadian interfaith colloquium on religious dimensions of quality of life is being planned by the national religious department of the Canadian Jewish Congress, the Canadian Catholic Conference and the Canadian Council of Churches in Ottawa on March 15 and 16.

Participants will deal with quality of life on all levels, individual, family and community. A planning meeting for the colloquium was held at Congress headquarters in Montreal, December 2 with the participation of Dr. Donald W. Anderson of Toronto; Rev. Michael O'Connell of Ottawa; and Father Stephane Valiquette, Sister Marie-Noel, Rabbi Allan M. Langner and Samuel Lewin (Montreal).

* Lester B. Pearson, former Prime Minister of Canada.