

4. Improvement of Art Teaching and Popularization of the Arts

(a) During the years under review there was a growing public consciousness in Canada of the importance of the arts. Many techniques were employed to stimulate this increasing interest. Evidence of this upsurge of interest are the following examples:

(i) Canadian Government Overseas Awards provided opportunities for creative artists among others, to study abroad. This should do much to improve standards of art teaching in Canada.

(ii) The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation played an outstanding part in this endeavour. Many programmes specifically designed to stimulate interest and popularize the arts were broadcast each week.

(iii) The National Film Board participated fully in the development of Canadian appreciation of the arts. Examples of its work in this direction were the films "Côté Court - Côté Jardin", describing the work of a professional theatre company; "Varley", a portrait of a Canadian artist; "Shadow on the Prairie", a film on Canadian ballet.

(iv) Newspapers devoted an increasing amount of space to the arts and many of them now employ competent critics in the individual fields of the arts.

(v) The annual national ballet festivals, music festivals, operatic festivals, drama festivals and other cultural events were supported with enthusiasm.

(vi) The first Canadian Shakespearean Festival at Stratford, Ontario, in 1953 was an outstanding success.

(vii) Art study and appreciation groups fostered and assisted by the National Gallery of Canada and other art galleries and academies throughout the country proved popular.

(b) International Conference on the Role and Place of Music in the Education of Youth and Adults, Belgium, July, 1953

Representatives of the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto, and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, played a prominent part in the seminar. Dr. Arnold Walter of the Royal Conservatory, Toronto, served as one of the chairmen of the conference's preparatory commission and was elected president of the International Society for Music Education. The London (Ontario) Girls Choir sang at the Conference.

5. Knowledge and Appreciation of Masterpieces

(a) The National Gallery of Canada added to its collection of masterpieces and organized a special exhibition of masterpieces which toured Canadian cities.

(b) UNESCO travelling exhibitions were circulated throughout Canada by the National Gallery of Canada and the Canadian Education Association.