



Handicrafts

Since the Ojibway Indians first daubed birch bark with red ochre, Canada has had its native handicrafts and some of these have been preserved and extended over the years. Certain Indian skills in leather, beadwork and basketry are still practised. On the West Coast one man continues to carve totem poles and a few others weave Chilkat blankets of cedar bark fibre and spun goat wool.

Eskimo sculpture exhibited in many parts of the world has attracted widespread attention. These dynamic carvings in soapstone and walrus

ivory have great charm and the demand far exceeds the supply. Some of the skills and crafts of the early settlers have been maintained and developed.

To these traditional crafts some new skills have been added. There has been new interest in ceramics. In New Brunswick, for instance, two craftsmen of Danish origin make pottery of great beauty. In Alberta, a wood carver produces abstractions from native juniper roots. The variety and quality of handicrafts have been enriched by the skills and traditions which newcomers have brought from Europe.

◀ Indian totem pole in British Columbia

Craftsmen fashioning delicate pottery

