

News of the arts

Gallery acquisitions

Canadian, United States and European prints at the Art Gallery of Ontario have been slowly accumulating by gift and purchase until they now occupy the largest single area in the building.

To enrich the Gallery's holdings in specific areas, master prints from the fifteenth to the twentieth century have been acquired over the past two-and-a-half years.

Several outstanding early works have been donated, among them a Wolgemut woodcut entitled *Moses Striking the Rock* (1491) and an engraving by Dürer, *Christ Shown to the People* (1511).

Several acquisitions reflect the revival of etching in the latter half of the nineteenth century in France and England. Included in this group are two etchings by the French artist Charles Meryon, *Bain-froid chèvrier* (1864) and *La Ministère de la Marine* (no date). Although Meryon did not produce many etchings, his work had a strong influence on other artists of the period. Among them was James McNeill Whistler who helped to initiate a renewed interest in etching in England. Several works by Whistler have been acquired, including his Venice etching *Nocturne* (1879/80). Also represented are etchings by Félix Bracquemond and Jean Baptiste Camille Corot.

Lithography also enjoyed a revival in France and England in the 1890s. New works which supplement the Gallery's holdings in this area include a three-coloured lithograph by Pierre Bonnard entitled *Rue, le soir, sous la pluie* (1895) and *Des peuples divers habitent les pays de l'océan* by Odilon Redon.

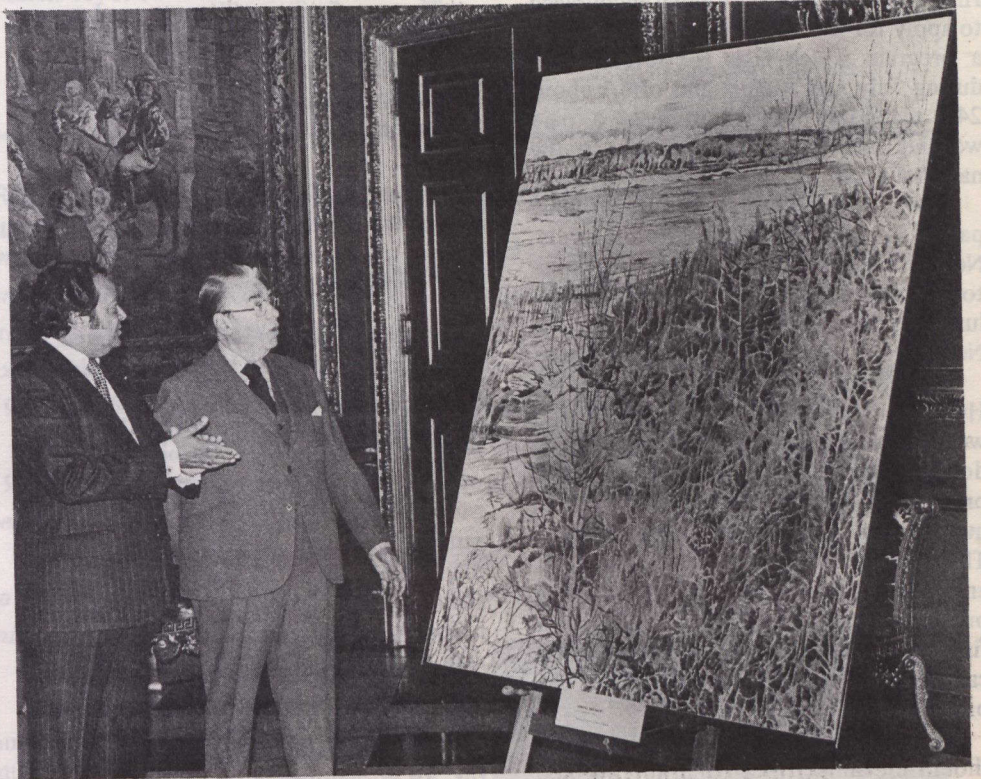
Other outstanding additions to the collection include a rare Bresdin lithograph, an etching by Rembrandt and a drypoint by Rodin.

Canadian theatre at French festival

The Department of External Affairs will sponsor representation of French-speaking Canadian theatre at the Festival d'Avignon, France, from July 10 to August 10.

The Montreal company, Le Théâtre du Rideau Vert, has accepted the festival's invitation to present three plays — *La Sagouine*, *Gapi* and *Evangeline Deusse*

Painting added to Commonwealth collection



A landscape painting by Canadian artist, Dorothy Knowles, was added recently to a collection of art from the Commonwealth displayed at Marlborough House, London, England, head of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

(Above right) Canadian High Commissioner, Paul Martin, presents Spring Breakup 1977 to Commonwealth Secretary-General, Shridath Ramphal.

—by Acadian playwright, Antonine Maillet, whose most recent work *Les Cordes de Bois* recently won the Quatre Jurys literary prize in Paris. The province of New Brunswick is sponsoring the attendance of the playwright, who will take part in writers' seminars and discussion groups during the festival.

The department is also sending Quebec playwright Michel Garneau and six Quebec actors to the festival. Mr. Garneau has been invited to conduct a workshop on writing for experimental theatre, as part of the "open theatre" activities that encourage the audience to participate in the creation of a play, which may, if feasible, be presented at the end of the festival.

This is the second year the External Affairs Department has assisted Canadian representation at the Festival d'Avignon. Last year the Théâtre Populaire du Québec presented Roland Lepage's *Le Temps d'une Vie*, which was one of the major artistic successes of the festival.

Arts brief

Chinese music lovers responded warmly to the Toronto Symphony Orchestra on its first night in Peking. Traditional Western music, not well known in China, pleased the curious audience, who rewarded the orchestra with a standing ovation. According to *Globe and Mail* critic John Fraser, who accompanied the orchestra, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5* met everyone's approval. "The proof came with the soft sound of humming. The Chinese love mumbling along with the music — it's a compliment."

Eighty-four international awards were won by the National Film Board of Canada in 1977. To date, the NFB has recorded approximately 1,500 wins in international competition. The honours in 1977 came from 14 nations: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, England, France, Germany, Hungary, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Switzerland and the U.S.