

News of the arts

Culture symposium in Washington

More than 40 Canadian and United States' experts will take part in panel discussions and lectures on Canadian literature, drama, films, radio and television, publishing and the visual arts at a symposium in Washington, D.C. from January 24 to April 6. The nine-week event, the first of its kind and magnitude to be organized in the United States, is sponsored by the Association for Canadian Studies in the U.S. and made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, with financial assistance from the Cultural Affairs Division of the Department of External Affairs.

Sessions, open free to the public, will be held at the Smithsonian Institution's Hirshhorn Museum and at the Phillips Collection gallery in Washington in conjunction with major exhibitions of Canadian art at each location. A series of films on Canadian artists, as well as experimental and animated films will also be shown twice weekly in the Hirshhorn Museum auditorium.

According to Dr. R.S. Berman, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the symposium "will illustrate the nature, diversity and vitality of twentieth century Canadian culture."

Opening on January 24, the Phillips Collection will display paintings by the Group of Seven, drawn from the McMichael Canadian Collection in Kleinburg, Ontario. Beginning on February 3, the Hirshhorn Museum will present "14 Canadians: A critic's choice." This exhibit, chosen by critic Andrew Hudson, reflects his appraisal of "the most vital work being produced in Canada today. It will comprise 42 works by the following 13 painters and one sculptor: Jack Bush, David Bolduc, Alex Cameron, Paul Fournier, K.M. Graham, Howard Simkins, Paul Sloggett, Dan Solomon, Alan Reynolds, Bruce O'Neil, William Pehudoff, Dorothy Knowles, Charles Gagnon and Jean Paul Lemieux.

Among the noted Canadians invited to participate in lectures and panel discussions are Northrop Frye, Canadian Under-Secretary of State André Fortier, novelist Robertson Davies, journalist Robert Fulford and many other well-known persons. Their lectures will cover such topics as the Americanization of Canadian culture,

the renaissance in Quebec, and the state of literature, art and drama.

The Association for Canadian Studies in the U.S. is a private non-profit educational group founded in 1971. Its president, Edward J. Miles, is director of Canadian studies at the University of Vermont.

Canada Council awards

The Canada Council recently awarded 94 grants, worth a total of \$448,930, in the most recent competition under its explorations program. Recipients were chosen from 484 applications submitted in the annual competition.

The program is designed to encourage Canadians to investigate new forms of expression and participation in the arts; to inquire into the past to discover the influences that have shaped the cultural development of Canada; to introduce a different perspective in the understanding of Canadian society; and to develop new means of fostering public enjoyment of cultural activities and an appreciation of Canada's heritage.

Like the others that preceded it, this competition produced biographical and historical studies, as well as projects that seek to preserve social or artistic traditions. In the performing arts, projects include theatre research and plays written by groups based on regional themes, theatre and puppetry for young people, pop opera, multimedia concerts, research into electronic music, dance workshops and performances. Included in the visual arts are exhibitions and other events in the art centres, the establishment of a slide library, studies on architecture and traditional arts, and technical research (for example, the creation of electronic images for television, and the perfection of a practical and economic method of video editing). Other projects are based on the history of cinema, photography, painting or theatre.

The amount of the grants ranges from \$300 to \$12,000 with the average between \$3,000 to \$5,000. An unusually large grant of \$25,000, to Hayden/Arn Productions in Toronto, will go towards the development of automated information systems in the arts and the development of a terminal for economical and practical access to the information.

Following are some examples of pro-

jects funded in regions across the country:

Atlantic Provinces – The Cape Breton School of Crafts in Sydney, Nova Scotia, which plays an important role in the preservation and use of the crafts traditional to the region, has, since 1972, offered craft courses directed by specialists. Some of the school's workshops, directed by Else Regensteiner, a weaver of international repute, have attracted craftsmen from throughout the Atlantic provinces, Ontario, Quebec and the United States.

The development of tourism and the flooding of the Island by commercial products threaten the traditional crafts. The Council's \$3,000-grant will make it possible for two specialists to compile for the school a documented collection of samples of typical crafts of the region.

Quebec – Lévis Martin, director of the Fine Arts Department at the Cégep in Trois-Rivières, owns 60 designs, drawings and sketches by painter Ozias Leduc (1864-1955). The majority of these are studies for the decoration of Notre-Dame de la Présentation church in South Shawinigan, which was recently designated a heritage building by the government of Quebec. To make this Quebec painter better known in the region where he created his last great work, Mr. Martin will organize, around an exhibition of the sketches and designs, a series of evening audio-visual presentations to be held in Notre-Dame church and in cultural centres and art galleries in Trois-Rivières and Shawinigan. The Canada Council gave \$4,000 to Mr. Martin to help cover the costs of research, materials and publicity.

Prairies and Northwest Territories – The Parachute Centre for Cultural Affairs in Calgary, Alberta, was established in 1975 to promote new and experimental art forms. Activities at the Centre include concerts of contemporary music and jazz, video productions, poetry readings, workshops and a wide variety of artistic events.

Records of all activities are kept either in the form of written reports or tapes. To enlarge its audience and extend the scope of its activities, the Parachute Centre will broadcast radio and television programs, either live or drawn from its material in its archives.

The grant of \$3,757 covers the cost of production.