

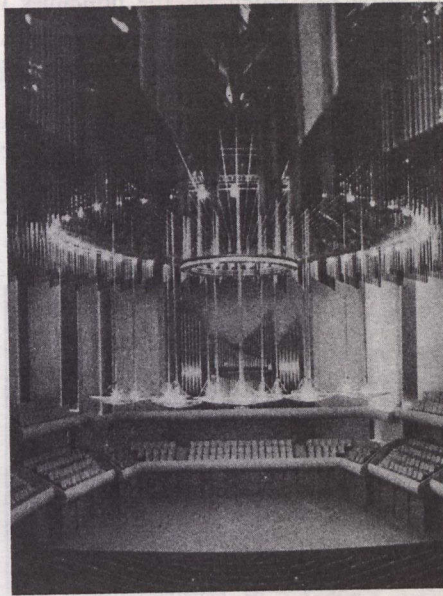
News of the arts

Concert stage finds new home

Toronto's new Massey Hall, to cost an estimated \$34 million, will be part of a project called Downtown West, containing the theatre, three offices and commercial buildings and a park. Nine million dollars have been allocated by the Secretary of State, \$10 million by the Ontario lottery and \$5 million by Metro Toronto Council.

A crew of experts is working with the architectural firm, Erickson, Mathers and Haldenby to match the excellence of the acoustics with those of the old Massey Hall. Canadian weaver Mariette Rousseau-Vermette has been commissioned to design the acoustical banners that will hang in the new building.

If the entire \$34 million can be raised, the new structure will be ready in October 1980.



View of the interior model for Toronto's new Massey Hall.

New records for Arts Centre

A total of 763,320 patrons purchased tickets to performances at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa during the July 1976 to June 1977 season, paying a total of \$4,164,600.13 to attend 827 shows there in that period.

During the year, the 46-member National Arts Centre Orchestra, in addition to its resident season, gave 26 performances on tour in Canadian cities such as Rouyn, Quebec and Victoria, British Columbia. L'Hexagone, a professional French-speaking touring company, gave 154 performances before a total audience of 56,340 students in Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

The Centre's theatre department presented a record number of 18 productions written or adapted by Canadians. It also presented: 14 visiting Canadian companies from Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia; 11 in-house productions; and seven foreign companies representing Britain, France, the United States, Austria and Switzerland.

Another of the season's highlights was the production of Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades* during the Centre's annual July festival of opera and chamber music, starring Canadians Jon Vickers and Maureen Forrester.

Writer exchange

The Canada Council has instituted a new writer-in-residence exchange program between Canada and Scotland.

Under the terms of a joint agreement between the Canada Council and the Scottish Arts Council, Glendon College of York University, Toronto will receive a Scottish writer, and the University of Edinburgh a Canadian writer, as writer-in-residence, from October 1, 1978 to June 30, 1979.

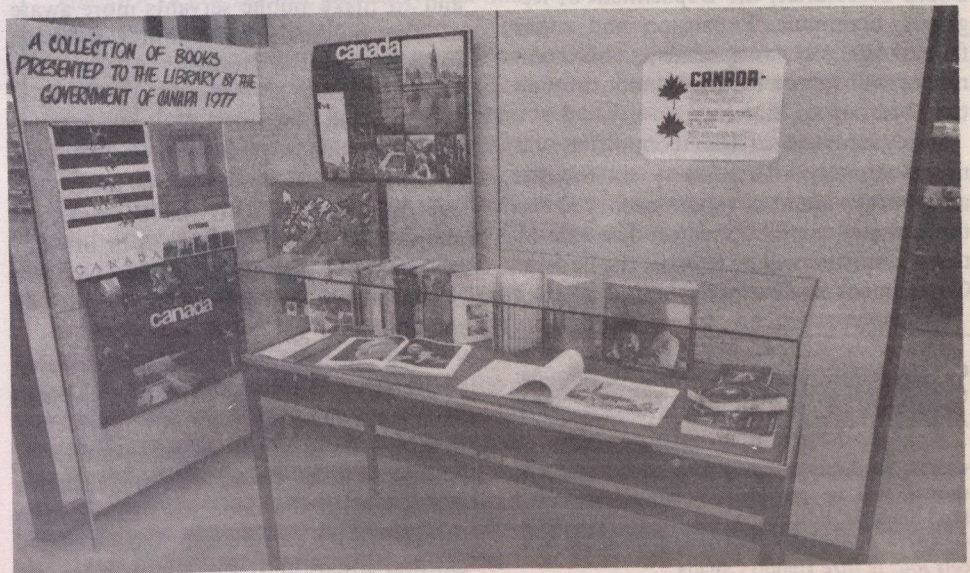
The aim of this exchange, according to Naim Kattan, head of the Writing and Publications Section of the Canada Council, is to strengthen the long-standing ties between Canada and Scotland: "I believe it is a valuable and enriching experience for a writer to be, in effect, an exponent of the literature of his own country in the writer-in-residence situation while being exposed to the culture of another. Canada and Scotland have historic and cultural links. We should take advantage of them."

The writer will travel, give lectures and readings, and participate in seminars and literary meetings. An important part of his duties will be engaging in the literary life of the university and making himself available to students for consultation.

The host country will assume accommodation costs for the visiting writer, and the writer's country will cover return travel fares for him and his immediate de-

pendents. The fellowship for the Canadian writer will be £5,000 and the Scottish writer will receive \$17,000.

The exchange program is open to English-speaking writers who have had a successful writing career over several years, have some notable accomplishments to their credit and are still active in their profession.



Macquarie University, North Ryde, the newest of three universities in the Sydney, Australia area, recently established a Canadian Studies program. During a "Canada Seminar", held on November 1 of last year, the university library exhibited some of the 800 volumes donated by the Canada Council and presented by the Canadian Consulate General in Sydney since the commencement of a book donation program.