

Under visitors' programs, the Department sponsored familiarization tours of Canada for foreign critics and impresarios and helped the playwright Michael Garneau to attend the Paris opening of his play *Quatre à Quatre*. Brian Macdonald, artistic director of Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, was also assisted in preparing a performance of one of his ballets by the National Ballet of Cuba, which took place during Prime Minister Trudeau's visit to Cuba.

In support of the fine arts, the Department arranged a major exhibition tour of works by the Group of Seven, with a collection of 44 paintings on loan from the McMichael Canadian Collection. The works opened their British tour in Glasgow and were then displayed in galleries in Edinburgh and Aberdeen. The exhibition is to go on to London and major cities in Germany and the U.S.S.R. in 1977. Another principal undertaking by the Department on behalf of the National Museums of Canada was negotiation with the Soviet Ministry of Culture of an agreement to bring an exhibition of masterworks from the Hermitage and State Russian Museums to the Winnipeg Art Gallery and to the Musée des Beaux Arts in Montreal. The exhibition was seen by over 150,000 persons. As part of the program of Canadian cultural activities saluting the United States during its Bicentennial year, the Canadian Government donated an *inukshook*, an Inuit stone figure, to the World Sculpture Garden in Philadelphia. The permanent collections of the Department continued to circulate abroad. One selection of Eskimo prints was displayed in Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Senegal and Ivory Coast. Another collection went to galleries in the United States and a display entitled "Four Canadian Photographers" was sent to Iran. Craft works and a collection of Eskimo artifacts have been travelling through France. A new collection of "Hard-Edge" art was seen in Belgium and Poland, and the print collection entitled "Canadian Landscapes" toured the U.S. The Smithsonian Institution in Washington took two Canadian collections as part of its touring program, one a series of

prints by the Eskimo artist Pitsecolak and the other a collection of historical maps showing the routes followed by Captain J. E. Warre in his travels across Canada and the Western United States.

During July, a number of foreign art critics and curators were brought to Canada to view the art work assembled for the Olympic Games arts and culture program. The Canadian cultural centres in London, Paris and Brussels continued their exhibition programs. The Greg Curnoe show was seen at the Venice Biennale and later at Canada House in London. Atlantic art works were shown in Paris and works by the painter George Rackus were displayed in Brussels. A collection entitled "Alberta Art", from the Alberta Art Foundation, was shown in all three centres. The Canadian Institute in Rome sponsored an exhibition of contemporary prints featuring works by nine Canadian artists. A new sculpture garden at the Canadian Cultural Centre in Paris was opened with an exhibition of ceramic works by Louis Gosselin.

In literature, the first winner of a new prize for English-language writers in Canada and Australia was announced in November. The Australian playwright John Romeril received the award of \$2,500. A Canadian author will be selected in 1977. The Canada-Belgium Prize for writers in French was awarded to the Canadian novelist Marie-Claire Blais. Miss Blais is the sixth writer to receive the award, which has alternated between authors in the two countries since its inception in 1971. Other Canadian writers were sponsored for lecture and reading tours abroad; Anne Hébert was sent to Australia and Earle Birney to Mexico. Under the Canada-U.S.S.R. exchange agreement, four Canadian writers visited the Soviet Union.

Under the continuing program of book donations, the Department presented publications to over 50 foreign universities and public libraries. Each presentation contained 150 French and English titles on Canadian politics, economics, sociology, arts and literature. As part of the Government's continuing program of assistance to Canadian publishers, the De-