



## CANADA'S NATIONAL LIBRARY AND PUBLIC ARCHIVES

Just west of the Houses of Parliament, on the bluff overlooking the Ottawa River, stands the National Library and Public Archives Building, the repository of some of Canada's most valuable historical treasures. Its 13 miles of floor-space, housing 81 miles of steel shelving, link early pageantry, by means of microfilm and automation, to the bustling life of contemporary Canada.

The Prime Minister of Canada opened the \$13-million building in June 1967 and, among the gifts that were presented to Canada on the occasion were a Henry Moore sculpture and a collection of books among which are such rarities as the first printed edition of Euclid (from Britain) and 350 volumes on literature, history, art and music (from the Soviet Union). The centennial gift from the United States, which was placed on display early in 1968, is a magnificent creation in Steuben glass featuring the coats of arms and floral emblems of Canada and the provinces and territories.

Within these cool, marbled walls are stored copies of all current Canadian publications, official proclamations and numerous historical papers and works of art. Carefully preserved for public viewing are original portfolios of coastal navigation charts made two centuries ago for use by British ships of the Line. Still visible are caustic notes scratched by Captain Cook on a hydrographic chart drawn off Canada's east coast by Captain Bligh, who later commanded HMS *Bounty*. Here also are bound volumes of newspapers dating back to the beginning of Canada, which can be perused in a reading room open 24 hours a day. Students and researchers may

obtain keys to small private rooms where long periods of study may be carried out in solitude.

In other larger reference rooms copies of every current publication printed in Canada can be read.

### UNION CATALOGUE

The National Library operates the Union Catalogue — a file of over 10 million cards (growing at the rate of 4,000 a day), which lists all the books stored in libraries across Canada. Telex and TW communication systems help channel some 300 enquiries a day on book-searching and, from the Library, lists are sent to other nations informing their reference services of available Canadian publications.

Historic paintings, photographs and manuscripts are sent to the Public Archives for renovation, preservation and study.

The National Library and Public Archives of Canada have become an invaluable source of knowledge, are preserving national culture and are one of the public attractions of the capital city of Canada. (See also *Canadian Weekly Bulletin*, Volume 22, No. 25, dated June 21, 1967.)

(From National Film Board Photostory No. 466.)

1. The central stairway.
2. Reading a rare printed copy of Euclid.
3. Retouching a picture for conservation.
4. Canada's oldest maps are stored in this unit.
5. Old photos are preserved by being re-photographed.