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that year. The highlight of Prime Minister Harper's visit was his address to a joint sitting of the Parliament of Australia on September 11, 2007. Coincidentally, this was the 68th anniversary of the Canadian Government's appointment of its first High Commissioner to Australia.

Following the address to Parliament, at a luncheon hosted by the Australian Prime Minister, the Honourable John Howard, Prime Minister Harper presented the Australian people with an historic document – a theatre playbill – produced in Sydney in 1796. *The Playbill* is a gift of great significance as it is Australia's earliest surviving printed document, and the earliest known advertisement for a theatrical performance in Australia.

Canada and Australia have a history of exchanging gifts. This includes Canada's gift of a magnificent pavement mosaic – Speakers Square – which celebrates Australia's 2001 Centenary of Federation. Several decades earlier during Canada's Centennial in 1967, the Australian Government presented the Canadian people with two outstanding oil paintings by one of Australia's finest artists, Sir William Dobell.

This tradition of exchanging gifts reflects the warm relationship that has developed over the years and which continues today. In fact, Canadian gifts can be found throughout Australia, from convict memorials in Hobart and Sydney to a 39m flagpole in Canberra and an Inuit *Inukshuk* in Brisbane.



The Canadian High Commission in Canberra, the Canadian Consulate General in Sydney and the Honorary Consulates in Perth and Melbourne are proud to be associated with these gifts and the long-standing friendship between Canada and Australia that they represent.

This publication, which has been printed as a second edition to commemorate the 70th anniversary of official diplomatic relations between Canada and Australia, invites you to learn more about Canada's presence in Australia and the special connection between our countries. We thank our partners without whose generous support, this publication would not have been possible.