

News of the arts

Joseph Légaré exhibition

The first exhibition devoted exclusively to Joseph Légaré, a nineteenth-century Quebec painter, opened at the National Gallery of Canada September 21. The exhibition, on view in Ottawa until October 29, will also be seen in Toronto, Montreal and Quebec City.

The exhibition's 81 works offer examples of Légaré's religious and allegorical art, scenes from Indian life, still lifes and portraits such as those of King George III, King George IV and Queen Victoria, and the artist's self-portrait.

Légaré's dramatic series in five canvasses of the 1845 fires at Saint-Roch and Saint-Jean, Quebec City suburbs, which he painted to raise funds for the victims, have been brought together from the collections of lenders.



National Gallery of Canada

Portrait of Josephite Ourné.

Eight works from the National Gallery's early Canadian collection will be on view, including the portrait of *Josephite Ourné*, an Indian princess, and one of the earliest paintings of a military battle *The Battle of Sainte-Foy*, by a Canadian artist.

Jean Sutherland Boggs, Director of Canada's National Gallery for ten years until 1976, has been recommended by the Philadelphia Museum of Art's search committee to fill the post of director for that museum. Dr. Boggs, who has been teaching at Harvard University's Fogg Museum, expects to assume her new role next March 1.

Actor brings humorist to life

Canadian actor-director John Stark, internationally acclaimed for his portrayal of humorist Stephen Leacock, recently returned to the United States after performing for audiences aboard the *Queen Elizabeth II*. Other U.S. appearances, at the Coronet Theatre in Hollywood, the University of Chicago and a recent national radio broadcast from Washington, D.C., have also been well received. This is Stark's fourth year as Leacock. Last year, visitors to the UN Habitat Conference in Vancouver also had an opportunity to hear him. He has performed throughout Canada, for Canadian television and at Oxford University, England.

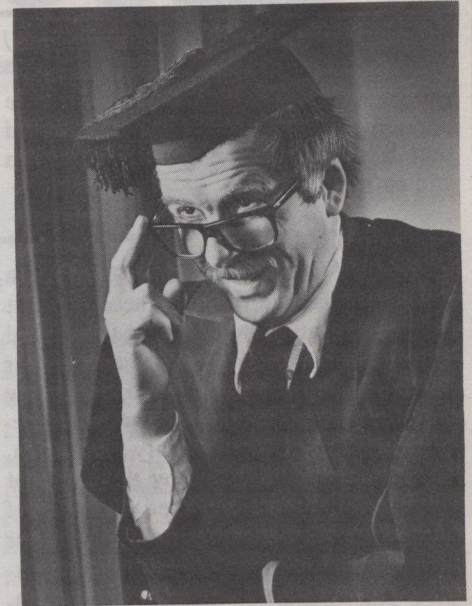
The *QE2 Express*, in its promotion of Stark's performance on board the ship in August, said of Leacock, who won the Mark Twain Medal in 1935, that the humorist's style was very much like Twain's in its use of exaggeration, juxtaposition of irrelevant ideas and sympathy for the luckless little guy dealing with a baffling, technological society.

In his preface to the original edition of *Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town*, a collection of short stories about a fictitious place called Mariposa, later identified by those in the know as Orillia, Ontario, Leacock notes:

"I was born at Swanmoor, Hants, England, on December 30, 1869. I am not aware that there was any particular conjunction of the planets at the time, but should think it extremely likely.

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"I have written a number of things in connection with my college life — a book on political science, and many essays, magazine articles, and so on. I belong to the Political Science Association of America, to the Royal Colonial Institute, and to the Church of England. These things, surely, are a proof of respectability. I have had some small connection with politics and public life. A few years ago I went all round the British Empire delivering addresses on Imperial organization. When I state that these lectures were followed almost immediately by the Union of South Africa, the Banana Riots in Trinidad, and the Turco-Italian war, I think the reader can form some idea of their importance. In Canada I belong to the Conservative Party, but as yet I have failed entirely in Canadian politics, never having received a contract to build a



John Stark as Stephen Leacock.

bridge, or make a wharf, nor to construct even the smallest section of the Transcontinental Railway. This, however, is a form of national ingratitude to which one becomes accustomed in this Dominion."

John Stark, known primarily for his one-man show about Leacock, also created the set design for such films as *Five Easy Pieces*, *Carnal Knowledge*, *Food for the Gods*, and several television series.

He recently directed the world premiere of his translation of a Miroslav Krljeza play, *In Agony*, for the Canadian Government, and will soon stage a second play, *The Glembays*.

New albums of Canadian music

The overseas office of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Radio Canada International, has announced the release of the first two albums of its proposed *Anthology of Canadian Music*. The project, when completed, will include close to 300 original works by 35 Canadian composers. The first two albums are of works by John Weinzweig and Serge Garant. Each album contains a booklet giving information about the composer and his work.

Distribution of the albums abroad will be undertaken by Radio Canada International. In Canada the albums are for sale by the English and French divisions of the CBC at: *Anthology of Canadian Music*, CBC Learning Systems, P.O. Box 500, Station A, Toronto M5W 1E6.