

(D)

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The growing interest in cultural activities in Canada, which was mentioned in the last Canadian report, gathered momentum during the years under review and it became evident that industrial and economic expansion in Canada were accompanied by an increase in cultural stature and an awareness of the importance of developing the creative arts.

1. Study on Cultural Assimilation of Immigrants:

The UNESCO questionnaire on this subject was completed by the Citizenship Branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration in co-operation with the Canadian Citizenship Council. Since then the following activities have been organized in this field:

- (a) An exhibition of paintings by newcomers to Canada, arranged in conjunction with the London (Ontario) Art Gallery, was displayed in many of Canada's principal communities.
- (b) This exhibition inspired the formation of the Colour and Form Artists Society which is composed of painters and sculptors who arrived recently in Canada.
- (c) A national seminar on citizenship problems was sponsored in May, 1953, and the section of the agenda devoted to "The International Aspects of Citizenship" specifically concerned the UNESCO programme and Canadian participation in it.
- (d) Assistance was given to numerous voluntary organizations in arranging folk festivals and exhibitions of handi-crafts.

2. Draft International Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict

The Canadian authorities consulted on this subject were in sympathy with the purpose of the proposal, but did not think that a binding instrument of this kind would be practical, feasible or effective. Two Canadian observers were instructed to attend the conference at The Hague.

3. The Role of Museums in the Education of the Young and Adults

- (a) Two Canadian representatives attended the seminar at Brooklyn in 1952. A misinterpretation of the word "museum" considerably narrowed Canadian participation in this seminar.
- (b) Exhibits of art by Canadian children were sent to Ceylon, Ireland and Japan. Part of the latter exhibit was donated to UNESCO.
- (c) The Canadian Museums Association, affiliated with the International Council of Museums regularly provided information to UNESCO and supported projects in UNESCO's programme.