

# News of the arts

## Canadian folk art acquired

The National Museum of Man has acquired a new collection of Canadian folk art, tapping a wealth of paintings, needlework, carving and ironwork created as hobbies.

Wes Mattie, curator of the museum's centre for folk culture studies, said when the Price collection was unveiled recently that the 256 items ranging in size from table-top miniatures to life-size wood and metal statues, represent an art form being explored by antique collectors.

### The people's art

"Folk art can be called art by the people, for the people and of the people, and to many buyers, if you touch on any one of those bases you've got yourself a collector's item," said Mr. Mattie.

Ralph and Patricia Price, who live near Oshawa, Ontario, began collecting the pieces in 1966. They said the collection, which they presented to the museum as a half donation, half purchase, sprang from shopping which began originally as a search for furniture.

Most of the objects, some date from the 1790s, were simply the products of hobbies enjoyed by housewives and tradesmen. Much of the work was done by those with time on their hands, such



Michel Lafleur

*A relief sculpture of an angel by Sam Spencer, a hermit from Saskatchewan.*

as senior citizens or trappers.

### Got into it early

Museum officials say development of the Price collection of pieces from Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes was made easier by their early entry into the market.

Curators and antique dealers see a growing interest in folk art by collectors and investors as a booming market dries up the best sources of furniture and other traditionally sought antiques.

## NFB film wins Oscar

For the third consecutive year the National Film Board has won the coveted Oscar in the best animated short film category from the American Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

*Every Child*, directed by Eugene Fedorenko and produced by Derek Lamb, is Canada's contribution to an hour-long UNICEF production made in celebration of the International Year of the Child. The film illustrates one of the ten "Principles of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child", namely that every child is entitled to a name and a nationality. Translating this abstract principle into concrete terms required the collaborative efforts of the writer, filmmaker and Les Mimes électriques, a Montreal-based mime company.

*Every Child* was one of four National Film Board films nominated for academy awards. The other nominations were *Bravery in the Field* (live-action short), *Going the Distance* (documentary feature)



*Nobody wants the baby in the NFB film Every Child.*

and *Nails* (documentary short subject).

This year's recognition from the Academy follows on a series of recent successes: *I'll Find a Way*, won the award in 1978 for best animated short; and *Sand Castle* received an Oscar for best short subject animation. In 1979, *Special Delivery* won the award for best animated short.

## Wildlife film wins award

*Bears and Man*, a film about the intrusion of man on grizzly territory in the Rocky Mountains, has been awarded the 1980 Wildlife Society Award.

The film, produced by Bill Schmaltz for the federal parks department, was shot over four summers in the Rocky Mountains. A wildlife consultant was mauled to death by a bear during filming.

The film has also won an award at the International Wildlife Film Festival and an educational award from the Alberta Cinematographers Association.

## Canada-Switzerland literary prize established

The Canada Council and the Swiss Fondation Pro Helvetia recently signed an agreement creating the Canada-Switzerland Literary Prize.

Worth \$2,500 (or the equivalent in Swiss francs), the prize will be awarded each year alternately to a Canadian writer and a Swiss writer for a work published in French during the preceding eight years. Poetry, fiction, drama and non-fiction will be eligible. In addition to works written in French, the prize may also be given for the French translation of a work written originally in English by a Canadian author, or of a work written originally in German, Italian or Romansh by a Swiss author.

The prize will be awarded first to a Swiss writer, whose name will be announced during the Salon du Livre, to be held in Montreal from November 25-30 this year.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Canada Council and the Fondation Pro Helvetia will each name a five-member jury. This year, a Swiss jury will select six to eight eligible Swiss writers and will submit their names to a Canadian jury for selection of the winner. Next year, the process will be reversed.

Swiss recipients will receive their prize at a ceremony held in Canada, and Canadian recipients will receive their prize in Switzerland. Guest lectures, seminars, and radio and television appearances will be arranged for the visiting recipient in the host country.

The prizes will be financed equally by the Canada Council and the Fondation Pro Helvetia.