

Canadian arts festival in U.S.

A month-long festival of Canadian theatre, dance and music was opened in Scottsdale, Arizona, February 19.

The Canada Festival, which was officially opened by Canada's Consul General in Los Angeles James Nutt, is being funded by the Canadian government and the Scottsdale Arts Centre Association.

At the opening the Theatre Ballet of Ottawa performed both classical and contemporary selections; a champagne reception followed.

Joanne Birnie Danzker, video curator of the Vancouver Art Gallery, gave a lecture demonstration at the festival. She has organized an exhibition of ten different tapes from across Canada for a visual arts display at the Scottsdale centre as well.

Appearances during the month will also be made by: Moe Koffman and his Jazz Quintet; the musical Zoo Lampoon Puppet Theatre, which combines puppets with live music; Camerata Canada, an innovative chamber music group that introduces children to musical instruments; Mary Lou Fallis in *Prima Donna*, a one-woman show; Beth Ann Cole, also in a one-woman musical show; *Little Mary Sunshine*, Rick Besoyan's musical about an old operetta; Figgy Duff, a folk-song group from Newfoundland; Oscar Peterson, jazz pianist; and Future Stars of Canada, some winners of the annual du Maurier Search for Stars.

Book published in Norway

A Norwegian Book Club is publishing more than 80,000 copies of Margaret Laurence's *Stone Angel*, which will be offered as their book-of-the-month selection in the spring. Margaret Laurence has been invited to Norway to launch the book club edition.

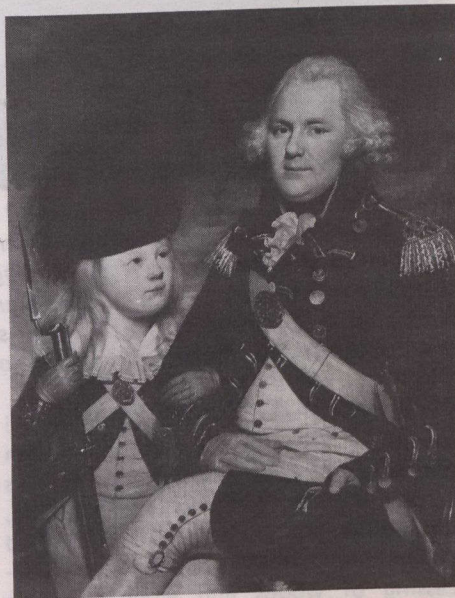
Publication of the book reflects the growing interest in Canadian literature in Norway where a course in Canadian literature is currently being offered at the University of Oslo. Many Canadian books have already been translated and published and others including an anthology of Canadian short stories are being prepared.

Authors Margaret Atwood and Graeme Gibson have made trips to Norway to promote their books and plans are being finalized for Alice Munro to travel there this year when her work is published.

Portraits added to collection

The Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto has bought two important late eighteenth century oil paintings with the help of federal funding.

The paintings, portraits of William Jarvis (1756-1817) first Secretary of Upper Canada and his wife Hannah (1763-1845), were purchased from a descendant of the Jarvis family in Florida through a federal program that enables Canadian institutions to acquire art objects of national historic interest from abroad.



William Jarvis with his Son Samuel Peters, oil on canvas, attributed to Matthew Peters, circa 1791.

Very few such early and accomplished paintings exist portraying the founders of the Province of Upper Canada, now known as Ontario. They make a valuable addition to the Royal Ontario's Canadiana collection.

William Jarvis came to Canada in 1792 at the request of Lieutenant Governor Simcoe where he served as the first Secretary of Upper Canada and as Registrar of Deeds. His second son Samuel, who like his father, was active within the political group known as the Family Compact, developed the family property and created the Toronto thoroughfare that commemorates the Jarvis name.

Family groups

The subjects of the two large paintings are arranged in family groupings. William and his first son Samuel Peters (b. 1787) are shown wearing the uniform of the Queen's Rangers. William's uniform is

preserved at Fort York, Toronto. Hannah is posed with the two oldest Jarvis daughters; Maria Lavinia (b. 1788) and Augusta Honoria (b. 1790).

The classical pose of the parents is enlivened by attention to costume detail, and also by the presence of the children. The son glances at his father and slips his gloved hand through his arm, and the baby daughter holds a basket of strawberries as she offers one to her sister.

Judging from the ages of the children, the portraits must have been painted in 1791 or early 1792, shortly before the Jarvis family sailed for Canada. The paintings were unsigned, and have been tentatively attributed to Matthew William Peters, a member of the British Royal Academy.

Arts briefs

The Banff Centre's art gallery became a studio in late February as part of an experimental exhibition, when New York artist Charles Simonds moved in. Students of the Banff Centre are able to watch Simonds at work for three weeks.

A vaudeville revue is touring Alberta this month. Theatre Network's Pantages Presents...*Unequalled Vaudeville* that pays tribute to Edmonton's first vaudeville house, the Pantages Theatre, which is slated for reconstruction at Fort Edmonton Park sometime in the future. The revue will appear in Camrose, Hanna, Didsbury, Vauxhall, Bassano, Milk River, Drumheller, Peace River, Devon, Fort MacMurray and Calgary.

Highlights of the Guelph Spring Festival scheduled for May include Smetana's romantic-comedy opera *The Two Widows* and an appearance by Andrew Davis, music director of the Toronto Symphony. Other featured acts include *The Tin Soldier* and *Oliver Button Is a Sissy* by the National Tap Dance Company, Gilda Cruz-Romo, a soprano with the Metropolitan Opera, the Boston Symphony Chamber Players and the Famous People Players.

The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts has received an art collection willed to it by David Rousseau Morrice and Frances Eleanore Morrice, nephew and niece of famous Canadian painter James Wilson Morrice. Included in the legacy are Morrice's canvases and watercolours, and 22 of his drawing books. A museum spokesman said the gift is one of the most important legacies of its history.