

News of the arts

Documentary photography in Canada 1850-1920



From Custom House, Montreal, Looking E. by William Notman.

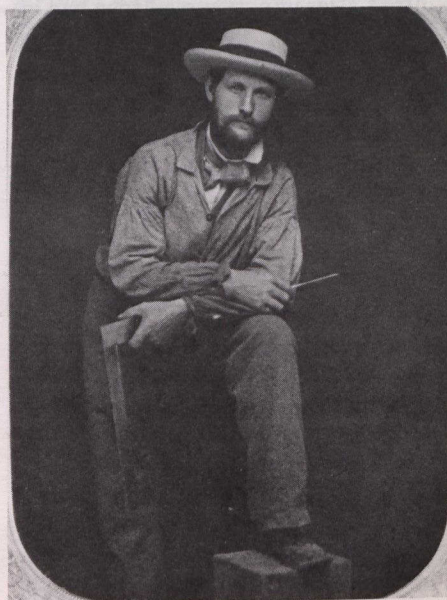
Documentary Photography in Canada 1850-1920, an exhibition of 89 photographs of Canadian views and Canadian portraits, was on view recently at the National Gallery of Canada.

It included the works of over 16 photographers: 14 Canadian, one American, one English and several anonymous photographers. Among the more familiar names of nineteenth century Canadian photographers in the exhibition were those of Humphrey Lloyd Hime (1833-1903); Samuel McLaughlin (1826-1914); William Notman (1826-1891); Alexander Henderson (1831-1913) and L.P. Vallée (1837-1905). The Hime photographs — both salted paper prints and albumen silver prints — were the result of Hime's engagement with the Assiniboine and Saskatchewan Exploring Expedition in 1858 and as such are valuable records of Canadian history. They include the stark images of the Prairies such as *View of Red River from St. Andrew's Church, four miles above the Stone Fort, 1858*; *Tents in the Prairie, west of the Settlement, 1858* and the sensitive portraits, *John McKay: A Plain-Cree Half-breed, 1858* and *Letitia Bird: A Cree Half-breed, 1858*.

The architectural and landscape photographs of Samuel McLaughlin, government photographer 1861-1893, include: *Winter Scene in Lower Canada* (from *The Photographic Portfolio 1858-60*) and *Par-*

liament Buildings, Side View of Main Tower, 1863.

Some of the more powerful portraits are those of William Ellison, a photographer who worked in Quebec City in the mid-nineteenth century. Also noteworthy is the daguerreotype portrait of Louis-Joseph Papineau, c. 1851, possibly the work of Thomas Doane, a daguerreotypist from Barrington, Nova Scotia. A daguerreotype is a photograph produced on a silver or silver-covered copper plate.



An anonymous daguerreotype picture of a carpenter, c. 1850.

Film magazine folds

The film magazine, *Take One*, has ceased publication, editor Phyllis Platt announced recently.

Founded 13 years ago by three members of McGill University's film society, the magazine reached a peak circulation of 35,000 late last year, making it the second-largest magazine of its kind in North America.

"But it would have required further promotional efforts to sustain and enlarge the circulation," Miss Platt said. "We decided it was just too costly."

About two-thirds of the magazine's sales were outside the country, mostly in the United States, England, France and Australia, Miss Platt said.

The magazine was a mixture of industry news, film reviews, personality pieces and essays for the general reader and film-goer. Articles dealt mostly with the international film world, but kept an eye on the developing Canadian film industry as well.

The three leading film publications still publishing in Canada in English are *Film World*, a trade newspaper published in Toronto, and *Cinema Canada* and *Cinemag*, both published in Montreal by the same company and both concentrating on the Canadian film industry.

Performing arts groups get Canada Council grants

Seventeen performing arts organizations and artists shared grants totalling \$234,300, made recently by the touring office of the Canada Council.

Among these grants, involving theatre, music and dance are: The tour of Toronto's Tarragon's Theatre successful production of the truckers' musical *18 Wheels* to Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta in the autumn of 1979; *Billy Bishop Goes to War* (Vancouver East Cultural Centre) and *Jacques Brel is...* (David Y.H. Lui Productions) to be presented on subscriptions by sponsors throughout British Columbia; the 71-concert tour for Jeunesses Musicales du Canada of the Maritimes, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan by the Orford String Quartet, celebrating its fifteenth anniversary and the thirtieth anniversary of Les Jeunesses Musicales du Canada.