

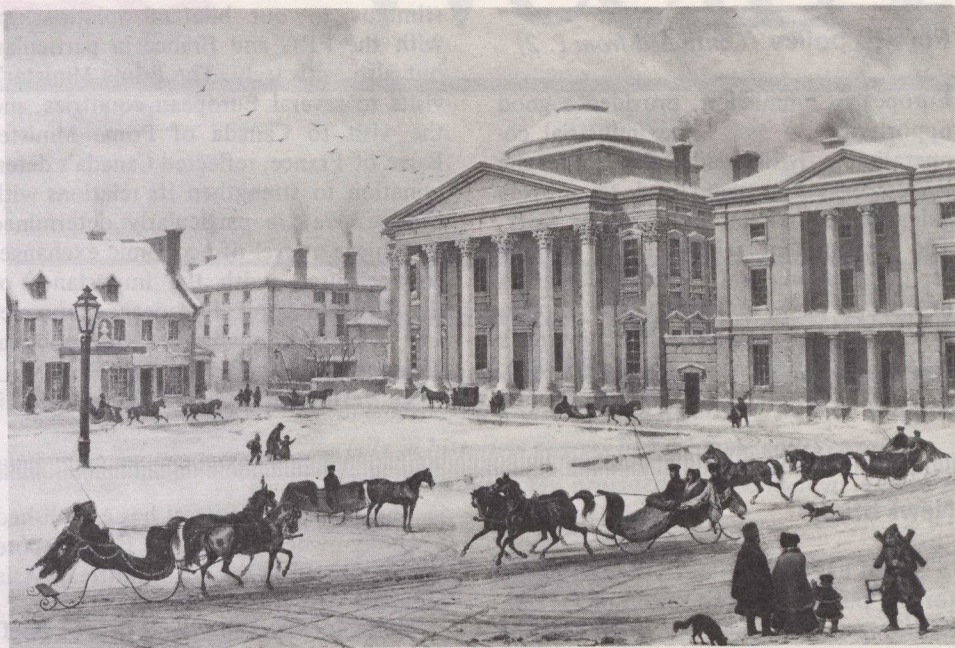
# News of the arts

## Krieghoff and contemporaries

An exhibition of the work of Cornelius Krieghoff, probably the best-known painter of life in Lower Canada in the nineteenth century, opened this month at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. It will be on display until June 6.

The works — oil paintings, prints, watercolours — of some of the artist's contemporaries who copied his style, are also on view. Krieghoff's choice of subject, together with his lively interpretation and brilliance of his landscapes, ensured his lasting reputation in the history of Canadian painting. His success encouraged many to imitate his work.

The exhibition depicts life in Lower Canada, which seemed to change very little, in the eyes of the artists, from the 1780s to the 1870s. They seemed to be fascinated by the "colourful" aspects of frontier society — Indian encampments and costumes, work, pastimes of the *habitants* and the sleigh-club outings of the wealthy. Dramatic landscapes and changing seasons form vivid backgrounds for the passing parade of people. In most of the paintings, life seems pleasant; hardship is not evident.



Place D'Armes à Montréal. Lithograph by A. Borum, after a Krieghoff painting.

Among the earliest artists represented in the exhibition are the British watercolour painters, James Peachey, a military surveyor in the 1780s, and Deputy Postmaster-General George Heriot, who published his views in 1807. Before Krieghoff moved to Quebec, artists by the names of

James Pattison Cockburn and Robert Clow Todd were painting sleigh scenes. The picturesque landscapes by William Henry Bartlett and John Richard Coke Smyth were being reproduced as prints which provided many an artist with inspiration.

## Spring festival celebrates IYC

In its eleven years the Guelph Spring Festival has recognized the anniversaries of Beethoven, Schubert, Benjamin Britten, the city of Guelph, and the festival's founding spirit, Edward Johnson. In 1979 the festival will celebrate the International Year of the Child.

Maureen Forrester will star as the witch in the opera *Hansel and Gretel* and *Chip and his Dog*, commissioned by the Canadian Children's Opera Chorus from Gian Carlo Menotti, will make its world premiere.

Montreal pianist Louis Lortie will give a recital. Concerts are to be performed by Les Petits Violons, the Ontario Youth Choir and the Swingle Singers.

The festival, which opens May 2, will also feature performances by the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, the Canadian Brass, the Orford String Quartet, and tenor Jon Vickers.

For the second consecutive year, master classes will be held by performers and directors appearing at the festival.

## Arts briefs

Harvey Chusid, recently named director of media development for the Stratford Festival, will organize the filming of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, announced for the Avon stage in 1979. His is the first position to be established in connection with Stage One, which will include a film and television studio among its facilities. He will be responding to requests for films of other productions and initiating projects, all of which should help the theatre become more self-supporting, suggests Artistic Director Robin Phillips.

The sinking of the *Edmund Fitzgerald* three years ago on Lake Superior has inspired a film by Ratch Wallace, tentatively called *November Gale*. The film crew "will board the *V.W. Scully*, an almost exact duplicate of the *Fitzgerald*, at Thunder Bay and follow the same course that the *Fitzgerald* took on her last trip", said the director, who believes the wreck of the ship, which took approximately 29 lives, has not been fully explained.

The Canada Council will offer grants of up to \$10,000 for individual artists wanting to write their personal memoirs.

A four-day conference on the writings of the late British author E.M. Forster is to be held in Montreal May 2-5 to mark the one-hundredth anniversary of the writer's birth. About 100 people are expected to attend the seminars and about 25 papers will be presented. Among the participants in the conference are Quebec writer Marie-Claire Blais, American author Elizabeth Spencer, who has lived in Montreal for 20 years, and writer Eudora Welty.

The National Film Board's seven-minute film *Special Delivery* has been nominated for the 1979 Academy Awards as best animated short. Story, direction and animation are by John Weldon and Eunice Macaulay, with original music by the late Karl Duplessis. The producer is Derek Lamb. This is the fiftieth Oscar nomination for the NFB in its fortieth anniversary year. Most of the previous nominations have been for the Board's animation work.