

National Gallery of Canada acquires Bernini sculpture

The National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa recently acquired in New York one of the most important works in its collection — a marble bust of Urban VIII, who was the Pope from 1623 to 1644. It was carved in 1632 by Gian Lorenzo Bernini, one of the most celebrated figures in the arts.

As a sculptor, Bernini (1598-1680) is probably most famous for his *David* and *Apollo and Daphne* in the Villa Borghese, Rome, and the *Ecstasy of St. Theresa* in the Cornaro Chapel of the church of Sta. Maria della Vittoria, Rome. As an architect, he is renowned for the design of St. Peter's Square in Rome, where most of his work remains.

The National Gallery coup in acquiring the *Bust of Urban VIII* for Canada is particularly important, since few marble sculptures by Bernini exist outside Italy. Two are in the United States (one in the National Gallery of Art, Washington), three in England, two in France, one in Austria, and one in Switzerland.

Apart from the rarity of works by Bernini outside Italy and the greatness of the artist himself, the work is particularly important in enhancing the Na-



Bernini's Bust of Pope Urban VIII. The warmth of the artist's feeling for Urban is conveyed in the gentle expression of the ageing pope's face.

tional Gallery's sculpture collection and its group of paintings produced in the seventeenth century. Jean Suther-

land Boggs, the director of the National Gallery, who wrote a book on the Gallery's collection in 1971, expressed the hope that the Gallery's sculpture collection would grow and some day possess works by the French seventeenth-century sculptor, Pierre Puget (1620-1694), and by Bernini. Last year the *Bust of a King* by Puget was bought. This year the Bernini has been added.

Aside from Urban's significance as a patron of the arts, he was important for his encouragement of missionary activities throughout the world. As Cardinal and, after 1623 as Pope, he was at least indirectly responsible for the appearance of the Recollets in Quebec in 1615, the Jesuits in 1625, and the Ursulines in 1639. One of his first duties as Pope was to reorganize the Congregation of the Propagation for the Faith to train for the priesthood candidates from all nations of the world who would defend the faith, even at the risk of their lives. In 1632 the Jesuits, who were directly responsible to the Holy See, were granted permission by Urban to reopen their missions in Quebec when the French regained control of the colony. Urban died in 1644, five years before the martyrdom of one of the most renowned of their number, Jean de Brébeuf, at Huronia.

French businessmen in Ontario

A group of French businessmen met in Toronto October 8 and 9 with their Ontario counterparts and provincial government officials to discuss future prospects for economic exchanges between France and Canada.

The group, members of a France-Canada Chamber of Commerce mission from Paris, was in Canada to attend six days of seminars and discussions in Quebec and Ontario.

While in Toronto the visitors attended the French Technical and Scientific Exposition being held at the Ontario Science Centre.

The exposition, which is sponsored by the French Government, is the first French scientific and industrial exhibit of its type to be shown in Ontario.

Canada/France science relations Industry, Trade and Commerce Minister Alastair Gillespie, who opened the exhibition, outlined as follows "the

close and longstanding" relations in science and technology Canada has with France:

"Back at the turn of the century Ernest Rutherford, working at McGill University, explained the nature of radioactivity which had been discovered by Becquerel in France. But our links in this area are more than historical.

"We have just extended, for a further three years, the 1971 agreement between Canada's National Research Council and the Centre national de la recherche scientifique in France. We expect 16 Canadian researchers will go to France and a similar group of 25 will come to Canada during the next year.

"Our Marine Industries Limited is finishing off a contract for seven cargo vessels for two French companies... and I am happy to see that the buyers are so satisfied with these vessels that they have ordered six more.

"We welcome the involvement of

Eastcan and Aquitaine in Canadian oil exploration.

Banking

"In addition to these commercial activities, France and Canada are co-operating in banking. We have four Canadian chartered banks resident in France and these are affiliated with French banks in international banking consortia.

"French investors had a direct stake of \$433 million in Canada at the end of 1970, while Canadian direct investment in France was some \$82 million on the same date.

"Canadian engineering firms have been involved in a number of projects in France and in former French colonies. They have had projects in forestry, power and communications, mining and petroleum, transportation, industrial, municipal and buildings and resources.

"We want to continue and expand this co-operation...."