

News of the arts

Early art at the Quebec museum

The Quebec Museum recently held an exhibition of works from its collection of eighteenth and nineteenth century art in Quebec. The paintings fell into four categories: religious works, landscapes, portraits and genre scenes. A work by Brother Luc entitled *L'Archange Raphaël guidant Tobie* (The Archangel Raphael leading Tobias), painted in about 1670, was the oldest in the exhibition.

Of particular note were Théophile



François Ranvoyzé, altar-cruets.



Louis Jobin's Saint-Marc, gilded pine statuette.



Théophile Hamel's Ernest Hamel, enfant, oil on canvas.

Hamel's portraits of children and Cornelius Krieghoff's sleigh ride scenes.

The museum chose statuettes of gilded wood by Levasseur, Jobin and others to depict the sculpture of the period, illustrating the gilding technique so characteristic of early Quebec art.

The exhibition also included elaborate examples of the gold and silver smith's art, which was of major importance in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Three articles in gold by François Ranvoyzé, on loan to the museum, are the only known works of Quebec goldsmithery. The museum's most recent acquisition is a magnificent silver dish by Nicolas-Clément Vallières.

Phillips takes sabbatical

After lengthy discussions between Stratford Festival's artistic director Robin Phillips and members of the Board of Governors, Mr. Phillips, who had submitted his resignation in July, has been persuaded to take a sabbatical for one year.

Although he will not direct at the Festival in 1979, he will oversee planning and casting of the season, prior to beginning his sabbatical.

In his four seasons at Stratford, Mr. Phillips directed and co-directed 22 productions in addition to general administration of the Festival.

Referring to Phillips' desire for a rest, Festival president John Heney said there was "a growing awareness that highly

placed innovators who live and work daily under enormous pressure and whose jobs demand great creative output, need to be able to step back every few years to renew themselves if they are going to be able to continue working at their maximum over the long term".

"The staff heading the theatre's departments have my full confidence," Mr. Phillips said. "I'm certain that with guest directors and with the talented acting company we now have, the 1979 season will unfold with all the energy, excitement and professionalism that patrons have come to expect of Stratford. I have discussed this not only with members of the Board but with my associate directors and with members of the company. They were all determined that two things had to happen: first, that I should have time off just to live at a normal pace and re-acquaint myself with theatre outside Stratford and with the world at large and, secondly, that the season here should not suffer because of that. They are all committed to maintaining the quality and the standards that we've all worked hard to achieve in every area of the Festival's operation. Moreover, they're determined that the thrust and motivation of what has been started here should continue without interruption, so that on my return we can move ahead with all the drive and momentum that will be needed to carry out our plans for the future."

Arts briefs

An Anglo-Canadian film about murderer Jack the Ripper is under way on location in London, England, with several Canadian names in leading roles. Christopher Plummer portrays the famous sleuth Sherlock Holmes to British actor James Mason's Dr. Watson. Other Canadians are Donald Sutherland, Susan Clark and Geneviève Bujold. Toronto filmmaker Bob Clark is co-producer and director.

The California Shakespearean Festival, modelled very much after the Festival Theatre in Stratford, Ontario, is expected to begin operation in 1980. Tom Patterson, founder of the Canadian festival, has been made a trustee of the new complex, and Canadian actors, Lorne Greene and William Shatner, both of whom acted at Stratford in its infancy and who are now residents of the U.S., have agreed to serve as advisers to the project.