

# News of the arts

## Books on Canadian artists

The *Canadian Artists Series*, a new series of books, has been published by the National Gallery to bring to the attention of Canadians the life and work of leading Canadian artists.

Each of the four books, comprises an introduction, illustrations of important works, a list of principal exhibitions and a comprehensive bibliography. The series is under the general editorial supervision of Dennis Reid, curator of post-Confederation art at the National Gallery who was also author of *The Group of Seven* (The National Gallery of Canada, 1970) and *A Concise History of Canadian Painting* (Oxford University Press, 1973).

The first in the series, *Bertram Brooker*, by Dennis Reid, deals with an important but neglected figure in Canadian art who was a pioneer abstract painter; it is the first comprehensive study of this Toronto artist, whose several careers touched Canadian art at many points.

*William Hind*, by J. Russell Harper, is an account of a Victorian Canadian artist until recently all but forgotten. Hind brought a touch of the pre-Raphaelite sensibility to Canada's eastern and western wildernesses as he described in vibrant colour and minute detail the country in which he journeyed and hunted. J. Russell Harper is perhaps the dean of historians of Canadian art, author of *Painting in Canada, a History*; *Paul Kane's Frontier* and the recent *People's Art*.

*Paul-Emile Borduas*, by François-Marc Gagnon, is the first full study in English of one of the most influential figures in modern Canadian art. At first deeply rooted in traditional Quebec art, this controversial Montrealer mastered international styles and is perhaps best known as the pioneer of *Automatisme* and author of the *Refus global*. François-Marc Gagnon, professor in the art history department of the University of Montreal, has written extensively on Borduas and is at present editing an English translation of Borduas' writings.

*Edwin Holgate*, by Dennis Reid, is the first book-length study of this twentieth-century Canadian artist. Something of a cultivated "loner" in a period dominated by strident groups,

Holgate applied his sense of colour and craftsmanship to a wide variety of subjects. The publication grew out of Mr. Reid's work for a national program exhibition *Edwin Holgate*, circulated by the National Gallery of Canada to six centres across Canada from October 1975 to June 1976.

Forthcoming are: *A.Y. Jackson*, by Naomi Jackson Groves, and *Georges Heriot*, by Gerald Finlay.

Books in the *Canadian Artists Series* can be obtained by writing to The National Museums Corporation, Marketing Services Division, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0M8, Canada.

## Mime company popular down under

The Canadian Mime Company from Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario has won high praise from theatre critics in New Zealand and Australia. The company left Canada in early September and has been on tour for a week in New Zealand and several weeks in Australia during September and October prior to engagements in the Orient and in Britain.

"The Canadians were brilliantly quiet," headlined the Wellington *Eve-*

*ning Post*. The Brisbane *Courier-Mail* called the company "magnificent, hilarious, funny and gloriously skilful", while Sydney papers included comments like "uncanny brilliance, an evening of sublime entertainment".

The company of five actors – Adrian Pecknold, Harro Maskow, Paulette Hallich, Larry Lefebvre, and Robin Patterson – has established an enviable reputation since its founding in 1969. The season includes a summer series at its own theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake and extensive tours across Canada. The current tour, which will take the company over 48,000 miles in 15 weeks, is supported by the Department of External Affairs as part of its program of cultural relations. The performances in Britain constitute a return visit for the company which appeared in London in 1974. This December they will perform for one week at the Curtain Theatre under sponsorship of the Inner London Education Authority, and a finale week in Glasgow with the Strathclyde Regional Council.

## Half a million dollars to theatre

The new Citadel Theatre complex of Edmonton, Alberta, has received a grant of \$500,000 from the Department of the Secretary of State. The grant is in addition to the \$1 million previously received by the theatre from the Department and is given under the Capital Grants for the Performing Arts Program administered by the Cultural Affairs Branch of the Department of the Secretary of State.

Audiences at the opening of the new Citadel Theatre this month will see an expanded complex. The largest will have a seating capacity of 699, the Rice Theatre a capacity of 200, and the Zeidler Theatre for cinema and lectures will seat 260.

The new Citadel will retain its comprehensive library on the performing arts and the Citadel-on-Wheels-and-Wings, the travelling company which covers 12,000 miles each year giving over 700 performances to 50,000 patrons will continue.

The new Citadel Theatre was one of the first Canadian buildings for the performing arts designed to accommodate handicapped patrons.



Preston Haspell

*Adrian Pecknold (left) and Harro Maskow in a scene from "Painless Dentistry", one of the vignettes in the Canadian Mime Theatre's production The World of Mime.*