

News of the arts

Painter of the Canadas

George Heriot: Painter of the Canadas, an exhibition of George Heriot's watercolours, prints and memorabilia, including a piece of the family tartan, is on tour in central Canada until July 14.

One hundred and forty items have been loaned to the exhibition from private collections, as well as from the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the National Gallery of Canada.

George Heriot (1759-1839), born of a Scottish family, first came to Quebec in 1792, and painted Quebec landscapes in watercolour, before returning to England in 1796. He became involved with the artistic community in London and exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1797. The same year, he came back to Quebec, where he began to collect written and illustrative material for two works: *A History of Canada* and *Travels Through the Canadas*.

In 1799 Heriot was appointed Deputy Postmaster General of British North America — a position which was to give him ample opportunity to travel throughout what is now eastern Canada recording in watercolour the landscape and the life of its people. Among these works is his masterpiece, *Lake St. Charles near Quebec*,



Heriot's Indian Lorette — watercolour.

1801, owned by the National Gallery of Canada. Heriot stayed in Canada until 1816, when he resigned his position and retired to London.

This is the first time that an exhibition has been organized devoted solely to Heriot's work. A monograph on Heriot by Professor Gerald Finley of Kingston's

Queen's University will soon be published for the National Gallery's *Canadian Artists Series*.

The exhibition will visit the McCord Museum, Montreal (March 20-April 18), the Art Gallery of Windsor (May 3-June 2) and the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto (June 16-July 14).

Major gift to Alberta museum

Art and museum collections worth an estimated \$20 million have been given to the Glenbow-Alberta Institute by the Devonian Foundation in a transfer officials describe as "probably the most important single contribution to Canadian museum resources in the nation's history".

The collections contain about 100,000 artifacts, including paintings, sculpture and ethnographic specimens. They increase the Glenbow's total collections by 70 per cent.

The Devonian Foundation, a Calgary-based charitable group, also announced that it would give the institute up to \$2 million if the collections were made accessible to the public through visible storage displays. Museum collections used primarily for research are usually kept out of public view.

The Alberta government, which owns the museum, has agreed to finance expansion and operating costs made necessary by the gift.

Art magazines on display

The role of the art magazine in the history of modern art is examined in an exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ontario until March 25.

Organized by London's Victoria and Albert Museum, *The Art Press: Two Centuries of Art Magazines* is brought to Toronto for its only showing to date since it opened in 1976 at the Victoria and Albert.

The exhibition is the first attempt to consider the art periodical as important in the development and understanding of art. Through 35 panels of printed and illustrative material, the show traces the contributions of such well-known publications as *The Burlington Magazine*, *Apollo*, *Domus* and *The Connoisseur* as well as lesser-known periodicals including *La Critica d'Arte* and *Der Dada*.

Two Canadian publications (*Artscanada* and *File* magazines) are included, along with a companion exhibition prepared by the Gallery, *The Art and Pictorial Press in Canada*, which traces 200

years of documentation by Canadian periodicals of art and illustration.

Although magazines devoted exclusively to art did not flourish in Canada until 1945, the exhibition mentions that information on art and artists was included in periodicals such as *Saturday Night* as early as 1887 and also in later, well-established journals like *Beaver* and *Canadian Forum*. Of particular interest in the exhibition will be a display of rare, early issues including *Anglo-American Magazine*, *Canadian Queen*, *Abeille canadienne* and *Bibliothèque canadienne*, as well as a wide selection of contemporary Canadian artists' magazines.

James de Beaujeu Domville, the first administrative director of the National Theatre School and a former film consultant for the National Arts Centre, has been appointed Government Film Commissioner. He succeeds André Lamy, who was appointed a vice-president of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.