

News of the arts

ROM exhibits Arctic prints

Historic watercolours and prints depicting Arctic voyages of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries form a new exhibition, on display at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto until January 7.

Several of the pictures recall searches for the Northwest passage by explorers such as Sir John Ross, Sir William Parry and Sir John Franklin. Rare books provide accounts of the obstacles encountered while navigating unknown waterways, and maps are included to illustrate the gradual charting of the Arctic coastlines.

Ship portraits record the names of vessels active in the 12-year search for Franklin's lost expedition of 1845. Lieutenant Walter W. May sailed with the *Belcher* expedition looking for traces of the missing hero and a dozen prints, made from May's dramatic on-the-spot sketches, show the perilous conditions met on that voyage. Sir Edmund Belcher was forced to abandon four of the five British Admiralty vessels under his command to the Arctic waters.

A view by Samuel Gurney Cresswell of the sinking of the *HMS Breadalbane* in 1853 is included in the exhibition. The wreck of this three-masted barque was



First Discovery of Land by H.M.S. *Investigator*, September 6, 1850, colour lithograph after sketch by Samuel Gurney Cresswell.

discovered in 50 fathoms of water off Beechey Island this past summer by the Toronto underwater explorer Dr. Joseph MacInnis (see *Canada Weekly* dated September 10). According to reports, the vessel is intact and the masts are still

upright.

The unfolding trials and triumphs of northern exploration that captured the imagination of Victorian England are illustrated in the many rare books, prints and watercolours on display.



Sledging Over Hummocky Ice, April 1853, colour lithograph after sketch by Samuel Gurney Cresswell, who served as second lieutenant on the *H.M.S. Investigator*.

NFB week in Wiesbaden

A cross-section of National Film Board (NFB) documentaries, animation shorts and feature films were presented in Wiesbaden, Germany during a recent NFB Film Week.

The event was hosted by the Department of Cultural Affairs of the city of Wiesbaden and organized in co-operation with the National Film Board's London, England office.

The opening program included some of the NFB's best shorts and Gilles Carle's drama *L'Age de la machine*. There were three screenings a day during the week, including showings of NFB feature films such as *Why Rock the Boat?*, *Games of the XXI Olympiad*, *One Man, Mon Oncle Antoine*, *Mourir à tue-tête*, *Tendresse ordinaire* and *J.A. Martin, Photographe*.

Some NFB classics also on the program were: *The War for Men's Minds*, *Churchill's Island*, the documentary that brought in the first Oscar to the NFB, and Norman McLaren's *V for Victory*, all made during the war years.