

# News of the arts

## Early printmaking in Canada

An exhibition of rare engravings and lithographs, printed in Canada between 1792 and 1850, will open at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, on April 18.

The collection, entitled *Printmaking in Canada: The Earliest Views and Portraits*, is considered to be the largest and most comprehensive of its kind ever mounted in this country. The 106 works have been drawn from 15 different collections; many of the prints exist only in one or two impressions and several have never been exhibited before.

Some of the earliest prints on display were selected from small periodicals but the majority were issued as single sheets suitable for framing. Collectively, they document the development of Canadian printmaking and provide a glimpse of the social issues and interests of the time. The exhibition presents an array of rural and city views, portraits, political broadsides and cartoons, and illustrations of newsworthy events such as the execution of Louis XVI.

Among the most popular prints were street scenes and building studies, sometimes issued to commemorate the completion of a fine city landmark. The exhibition contains views of the Province Building (Halifax, 1819), St. Mark's Anglican Church (Niagara, 1834), the Parliament Buildings (Toronto, 1835 and 1844 issues), Victoria College (Cobourg,



SOUTH VIEW OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL HOUSE, CORNWALL,

WHERE THE HON. CHIEF JUSTICE ROBINSON, HON. J. B. MACAULAY, HON. JONAS JONES, HON. ARCHIBALD M'LEAN, AND OTHER INFLUENTIAL GENTLEMEN OF THIS PROVINCE WERE EDUCATED.

Dedicated, by Permission, to The Lord Bishop of Toronto, by his Obedient Humble Servant,

JOHN G. HOWARD.

South View of the District School House, Cornwall, a rare lithograph published in 1845 by John G. Howard, architect and painter. The print is one of over 100 on display.

1847) and Knox's Church (Toronto, 1848). Montreal's Notre-Dame Cathedral, "calculated to hold upwards of 10,000 people" is illustrated from several perspectives and in various stages before its completion in the early 1840s.

Portraits of notables were also favoured subjects. *Printmaking in Canada* includes portraits of clergymen and politicians, personalities from abroad such as Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, royal patron of

the Masons of Lower Canada, and a post-humous picture of novelist and poet Sir Walter Scott.

*Printmaking in Canada: The Earliest Views and Portraits* will be on view at the ROM's Canadiana Building until May 25. Following its Toronto showing, it will be on display at the McCord Museum, Montreal from June 11-July 13, and then at the Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa from July 25-September 1.

## New work commissioned for National Ballet of Canada

Imperial Oil Limited has commissioned a new Canadian ballet to be created by Brian Macdonald of Montreal as one of its special cultural projects during 1980, its hundredth anniversary.

*Newcomers* is a four movement ballet for National Ballet of Canada dancers, including Frank Augustyn, Mary Jago, Karen Kain, Raymond Smith, Hazaras Surmeyan and Veronica Tennant. Each movement is based on a Canadian composer's music: André Prévost's *Fantasmies*, Harry Freedman's *Green...Blue...White: Songs of the Eastern Provinces*, John Weinzwieg's *A square dance*. Music for the fourth movement is being composed by Lothar Klein who will draw in part from the themes composed for the *Newcomers*, Imperial's centenary film series. Set design will be by Montreal sculptor/

painter Claude Girard, costumes by designer Suzanne Mess. *Newcomers* will have its *première* during the National Ballet's 1980 fall season.

Imperial is also sponsoring Les Grands Ballets Canadiens' production of *Pas d'époque* choreographed by Fernand Nault.

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens' new work *Pas d'époque* is composed of ten short sections — each one inspired by different styles of dance prevalent during each of the last ten decades. It includes works from the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, The National Ballet of Canada, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens, Isadora Duncan and Les Ballets Russes. *Pas d'époque* will have its *première* at the centennial celebrations of Imperial Oil at Place des Arts this June.



MORO SYDENHAM  
The portrait of the late Governor General of British North America  
is respectfully presented to the Anniversary of the  
British Colonist, the Proprietor, St. George.

A posthumous portrait of Charles Poulett Thompson, Baron Sydenham.