

the Festival Singers of Canada, the Canadian Brass, the Société de Musique Contemporaine du Québec and the Quintette à Vent du Québec.

Representing the visual arts were exhibitions of landscapes by the Group of Seven and of prints, organized by the Ontario College of Art and the Société des Artistes professionnels du Québec, as well as showings of animated films by Norman McLaren. The academic ties established in recent years through the British Association for Canadian Studies and the Chair of Canadian Studies at the University of Edinburgh were strengthened by exchanges of professors and students.

Ireland

Canada's cordial relations with Ireland derive in large part from the fact that some two million Canadians are descended from the Irish who settled here in the nineteenth century, a link currently reinforced by the annual movement to Canada of about 1,000 Irish immigrants.

Stone inscriptions recently discovered in Newfoundland have revived speculation that the Irish connection might go back as far as the sixth-century monk St Brendan, passages from whose fabulous account of a voyage to the West in search of the "Promised Land of the Saints" have sometimes been interpreted as the record of a real voyage of discovery that brought the monkish explorer to the shores of North America. More recent, and less speculative, history was recalled in August when a plaque presented by the Alberta government in honour of the nineteenth-century explorer John Palliser, who surveyed and mapped the Canadian Prairies in the late 1860s, was unveiled in County Waterford.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs visited Ireland from August 31 to September 6 and met with President Patrick Hillery, Foreign Minister Michael O'Kennedy, Finance Minister George Colley and opposition leader Garret Fitzgerald shortly after the victory of the *Fianna Fail* Party in Ireland's June 16 general election. In view of Canada's contractual link with the EEC, the visit provided an opportunity for Canada to learn more about Ireland's four-year experience of membership in the Community and to discuss the special association of Canadian and Irish troops in various UN peacekeeping operations.

The Irish public responded warmly to the RCMP Musical Ride presented to large audiences at Dublin's annual Spring Show, held from April 25 to May 4.

Brian Peckford, Minister of Mines and Energy of Newfoundland, met with Irish officials in September in Dublin to discuss energy production and a marine-research project jointly launched by the University of Galway and the Memorial University of Newfoundland. The then Minister of Industry and Commerce of Ireland, Justin Keating, undertook, from April 29 to May 3, an investment and export promotion drive in Canada aimed at business leaders in Toronto and Montreal. In Ottawa he held discussions with his Canadian counterpart, the then Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Jean Chrétien.

Canada has been a leading source of corporate capital in Ireland. Canadian firms have been closely associated since the 1960s with mineral exploration that has resulted in the discovery of important bodies of lead and zinc and is changing Ireland's traditional image as a country poor in resources. These activities have led to a total Canadian investment in mining ventures of over \$100 million. At the same time, other Canadian firms have established plants for the manufacture of a variety of products, while a parallel expansion has taken place in the activity of Canadian financial institutions in Ireland. The keen interest of Canadian business in the Republic was most recently evinced in November, when Alcan announced that construction would begin on an alumina plant at Aughinish Island near Shannon. This project, the largest single capital investment ever undertaken in Ireland (\$507 million), is expected to have an important effect on the economy of Ireland's western region. The plant is expected to produce 800,000 tons of alumina a year when its operations begin in 1982.

Though bilateral trade remains relatively small, it is diversified (Canadian exports include a good proportion of finished manufactures) and has grown at a rapid rate in recent years. In 1977 Canadian exports amounted to nearly \$30 million.