

## New gallery at ROM displays musical instruments

The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) in Toronto, Ontario has opened a new musical instruments gallery to display its outstanding collection of historical musical instruments.



Double bass from Italy, c. 1600, attributed to Casparo Bertolotti da Salo.

ROM photos

The *European Musical Instrument Gallery: 1500-1900* was developed by ROM curator, Ladislav Cselenyi.

The collection, one of the most extensive in Canada, includes more than 120 instruments, mainly of European origin and dated from the late sixteenth to the late nineteenth century. The display is complemented by music books, sheet music, manuscripts and works depicting the musical life of the past. An additional feature is an audio system providing visitors with brief musical excerpts and a self-guided tour of the gallery in English or French.

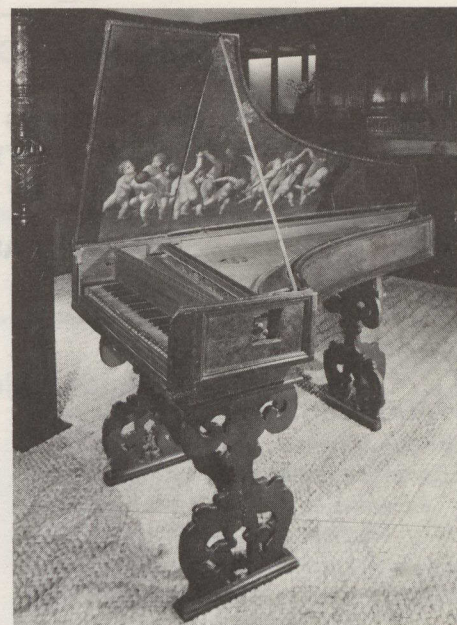
### Separate groups

The instruments in the new gallery are arranged by family such as bowed strings, woodwinds, brass winds or keyboards. While some are incomplete, they have been included to demonstrate the essential characteristics of their type.

Many of the instruments, lavishly inlaid and ornamented with a variety of motifs, were chosen for their design and decorative quality as well as their development, character and use.

### Important gift

Central to the ROM collection is the gift to the museum more than 70 years ago by one of Canada's foremost families of the musical instrument industry, R.S. Williams. Among the important objects from the Williams collection on view are the Celestini harpsichord (Italian,



Italian harpsichord is inscribed by *Johannis Celestini Veneto, MCXCVI (1596)*.

sixteenth century); the Dragonetti double bass (Italian, c. 1600); and the Zumpe square piano (English, eighteenth century).

One of the most elegant objects is an eighteenth century mandora. Of Italian craftsmanship, this mandora was illustrated on a Canadian stamp issued in 1981 to commemorate "The Look of Music", an international exhibition held in Vancouver.

The gallery also features some recent acquisitions including an English ivory flute dated 1818; a Portuguese guitar, c. 1900; and a melodeon manufactured in Toronto in 1865 by R.S. Williams.

## Rare bibles donated to the National Library of Canada

The National Library of Canada has acquired a second portion of the Hebraica and Judaica collection of the Montreal bibliophile Jacob M. Lowy. The first part of the collection was donated in 1977.

Collected over nearly half a century, the Lowy collection was considered one of the outstanding private collections of Hebrew incunabula and rare printed books in the Western world.

The new acquisition contains 700 volumes of rare printed Hebraica, manuscripts and facsimile editions, and bibliographic literature. Rare books in the collection include five incunables, with two bibles in Latin and one of the earliest Hebrew printed books, a bible printed in Mantua in 1474. The National Library now holds over 50 volumes of incunabula, including 26 titles in Hebrew and 20 titles in Latin.

Other rarities are 150 volumes printed

before 1800, among them early bibles in Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, and Latin, some polyglots, and the first edition of the Anglo-Saxon translation made by Aelfric. There is also a group of bible texts in the Inuit and Indian languages of Canada.

The collection encompasses all areas of Hebrew literature, from the bible, talmud, and legal codes to philosophy, the sciences, historical writings, and mysticism. Among the liturgical works are a variety of Passover *haggadahs*, some in Yiddish, Ladino, and Judeo-Arabic.

Over 100 places of printing are represented in the collection including a large group of Leghorn imprints, many books from Austro-Hungary and a selection of printing from North Africa and the Orient. There is also an edition of the Chinese Hebrew bible, the work of Christian missionaries, printed on rice paper in Shanghai in 1851.

## Charlottetown festival opens

The 1985 season of the Charlottetown Festival began on June 20 with the world première of Alan and Blanche Lund's *Swing*. The annual Prince Edward Island festival runs until September 14.

The musical *Swing* takes one on a sentimental journey in a tribute to the big band songs and sounds of the 1930s and 1940s.

The family classic, *Anne of Green Gables*, is being presented for its twenty-first season. Filled with merriment, music and magic, *Anne of Green Gables* is one of Canada's most famous and best-loved musicals.

The third main stage presentation of the festival is *Fauntleroy*. With music and lyrics by Johnny Burke, it tells the story of a young street-wise New Yorker who inherits a life of titled royalty.

The cabaret performance is entitled *Sleeping Arrangements* and the major children's presentation is *Hansel and Gretel*.