

chosen as the location of the regional immigration headquarters for continental Europe, announced earlier, which would open in April. "The opening of an office in Japan indicates the extent of our global search for well-qualified, skilled persons so greatly needed by our expanding economy," the Minister added. "It results directly from our policy of doing all we can to facilitate immigration to Canada of persons with skills needed."

IMPROVED RECEPTION SERVICES

The Minister said that he was pleased to note that the Department had also expanded its facilities in Milan in 1965 and extended its services to Marseilles and Bordeaux. "We must continue," he declared, "to improve Canadian Immigration facilities abroad and, at the same time, provide better reception services in Canada, so that the period of transition — during which the skills of our newcomers are progressing to their full potential — is as short as possible."

The regional headquarters for continental Europe in Geneva will be responsible for directing and coordinating immigration affairs on the continent. Immigration of Swiss residents will continue to be handled by the office in Berne.

Immigration from Japan was formerly handled through Canadian diplomatic facilities. The opening of full facilities by the Department follows discussions with the Government of Japan and a survey by officers of the Department, to assess the interest in Canada.

HISTORIC SHIP FOR EXPO

Mr. Arthur Laing, the Minister responsible for the Canadian Historic Parks system, announced recently that an exact, full-sized copy of Jacques Cartier's ship *Grande Hermine* would be moored in the La Ronde lagoon of Expo '67. The ship, 78.75 feet long, with a displacement of about 120 tons, will be built by Davie Brothers Ltd., of Levis, Quebec, at an estimated cost of \$279,500. "The *Grande Hermine* will be a major historical contribution to Expo '67", Mr. Laing said. "It will be comparable in significance to the reconstruction of part of the Fortress of Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island, and will be a proud addition to the various sites and structures administered by the Canadian Historic Sites Division throughout the country."

After Expo '67, the *Grande Hermine* will be floated to Cartier-Brébeuf National Historic Park at Quebec City, where it will be displayed permanently as the main attraction. The park was established by the Federal Government in 1958 to commemorate the spot, near the junction of the Lairet and St. Charles rivers, where Cartier wintered in 1535-36 during his second voyage of exploration to Canada.

Research for this project sponsored by the Federal Government, has been done by L'Ecole Polytechnique of Montreal, which will supervise the construction of the *Grande Hermine* and its location at the Expo site.

NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE TAKES SHAPE

Public Works Minister George J. McIlraith announced recently that six construction companies had been asked to submit bids to build the final phase of the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. A committee selected 30 companies from across Canada to be considered for the project and, on the basis of a questionnaire investigating past experience, work force and present commitments, selected six to submit tenders by the beginning of May. Work on the main complex, which is scheduled to begin in the middle of June and completed by the end of 1968, will include a substructure, three superstructures, mechanical and electrical systems and all finishes. Three months will be needed for testing acoustics and stage and lighting equipment when the project is finished.

LOCATION AND DESIGN

The National Arts Centre will occupy a seven-acre site immediately south of Confederation Square in the park bounded by Elgin Street, the Rideau Canal and the Mackenzie King Bridge, Ottawa. The underground structure will be three storeys high, its roof forming a plaza at about the level of Confederation Square and the Mackenzie King Bridge, from which the main buildings will rise — a concert hall, a medium-sized theatre and a small studio for the use of theatrical groups.

SEATING CAPACITIES

The main hall will seat 2,300 and will house symphony concerts, operas, ballets and musicals. The theatre will be used for drama, chamber music and soloists and will have a seating capacity of 900. The studio, which will seat about 300, is intended for experimental theatre, use by amateur groups, and rehearsals. Plans for service facilities, 40 feet below ground, include restaurants, cafeterias, a shopping mall and a garage that will also be used for commercial city parking. Dressing rooms will accommodate 160 people and there will be extra rehearsal rooms and office space.

HIGHWAY SAFETY STAMP

Support for a campaign to reduce traffic accidents will come from the Post Office in May with the issuance of the first Canadian highway-safety stamp, Postmaster General Jean-Pierre Côté announced recently.

The Postmaster also said that he would participate in sessions of the Canadian Highway Safety Council in Calgary, Alberta, where the opening ceremonies of the group's twelfth conference will coincide with the date of issue for the new stamp.

The Toronto artist Helen Fitzgerald designed the new issue, which portrays traffic signs and symbols in tones of blue and yellow on a black background. The stamp is to be of the five-cent denomination, and will be one of the few stamps issued in any country encouraging highway safety.