

News of the arts

Museums awarded grants

Federal grants to Canadian museums totalling \$1 million were announced recently.

Three museums in Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia, which are planning travelling exhibits, were among 34 museums and related institutions for which grants were approved at a recent quarterly meeting of the National Museums board of trustees.

The Bernier maritime museum in L'Islet-sur-mer, near Quebec City, is to produce an exhibit for a cross-country tour depicting the development of maritime activities along the St. Lawrence River since the beginning of the century.

The Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature in Winnipeg is to receive \$29,500 to help produce an exhibit on the mass migration of East European peoples to Manitoba and Western Canada, to be called *About Free Lands*.

The B.C. Provincial Museum in Victoria will receive up to \$30,000 for a touring museum, which is to go to more than 40 rural communities in western Canada for showings to pre-school children.

Conservation car

In addition, Canadian museums now can receive conservation aid from a mobile laboratory opened recently by the Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI).

The unit, a revamped, climate-controlled van complete with refrigerator for storing paste and adhesives, a chemical fume extractor, chemical storage area and light box, will be manned by two CCI officials and will tour the Atlantic provinces for the next three months. On the agenda are such out of the way museums as the Albert County Historical Society in Hopewell Cape, New Brunswick, O'Dell House in Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia and the Hector Centre Trust in Pictou, Nova Scotia — museums that have until now, received little conservation attention for their collections.

According to the program's co-ordinator, Michele LaRose, the idea of mobile conservation units goes back many years. But it was the closing this spring of the CCI's regional centres in Vancouver, Moncton and Quebec City, due to budgetary restraints, that brought the idea to fruition. The CCI plans five more such units to tour Canada next year.

Tokyo Symphony finishes Canadian tour



The Tokyo Symphony in rehearsal.

The Tokyo Youth Symphony recently completed a tour of Canada commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and Japan.

The tour, which took in ten Canadian centres, started in Victoria on July 20 and ended in Ottawa on August 3. The visit was sponsored by the Japan Foundation, in co-operation with the Canadian Embassy in Japan, the Embassy of Japan in Canada and the Canada-Japan Society (Tokyo), with the assistance of the Canada Council.

Arts briefs

The Stratford Festival will produce a full-length feature film for television based on its widely acclaimed stage production of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*, with studio and location shooting scheduled to begin in June 1980, Artistic Director Robin Phillips has announced.

The Canada Council will consider ways to involve investors in joint-financing "showbusiness" ventures. Council chairman Mavor Moore said the council might profit monetarily in an arrangement with private industry or another government agency such as the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation or the National Film Board. Secretary of State David MacDonald said

there would be more money for its operations, but "no figures were mentioned".

Established in 1962, the orchestra performs on NHK (Japanese Broadcasting Corporation) and in concerts and consists of 50 students ranging in age from 13 to 23. The orchestra has participated in several international concerts tours, including the fourth International Festival of Youth Orchestras and Performing Arts in Switzerland in 1972, and was host orchestra at the sixth International Festival of Youth Orchestras and Performing Arts in Aberdeen and London in 1974. This is the first time the orchestra has toured Canada.

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The Royal Winnipeg Ballet has signed Michael Bjercknes of the Joffrey Ballet in New York as principal dancer for its 1979-1980 season. The 22-year-old Chicago-born dancer who is more than six feet tall, made his professional debut at 16. He joined the Chicago Ballet in 1974 and in 1976 danced as a soloist with the Houston Ballet.

Canada's two largest rotogravure magazines, *Weekend* and *The Canadian*, are to merge, effective with the issue of October 27. The new magazine, to be called *Canadian Weekend*, will be published by a company owned by FP Publications Ltd., Southam Inc., and Toronto Star Newspapers Ltd., all of Toronto.