

Exclusive Canadian showing of armour at Royal Ontario Museum

Treasures from the Tower of London: An Exhibition of Arms and Armour will be presented in an exclusive Canadian showing at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto from March 19 to June 19.

The exhibition is the first of its kind to leave the Tower in its 900-year history. Approximately 120 masterpieces, dating from the fourteenth to the nineteenth century have been selected to illustrate the exhibition's purpose — that ancient arms and armour can be appreciated as works of art and triumphs of functional design, rather than quaint relics from a barbaric past.

Included are tournament and parade armour, ceremonial and presentation pieces, hunting equipment, edged and missile weapons, and a variety of firearms.

Several of the works are associated with stellar historic figures. Included are full armours for Henry VIII (*circa* 1520), Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester (*circa* 1575) and a youth's armour for the future Charles II as the Prince of Wales at age 14 (*circa* 1644). Among the edged weapons are a great ceremonial sword of the early Lancastrian kings, a military backsword believed to have belonged to



Field armour of the future King Charles II. This armour is depicted in a portrait of Charles, Prince of Wales, when 14 years of age. The portrait was painted in Oxford in 1644 by William Dobson.



Head of Programs and Public Relations of the Royal Ontario Museum Charles Tomsik (left) and Master of the Armouries, Tower of London A.V.B. Norman examine an open-faced parade helmet included in the exhibition. The German helmet, dated to about 1600, is made of finely embossed steel with elaborate decorations of gilt copper.

Oliver Cromwell and a dress sword of the "Iron Duke", the first Duke of Wellington.

Other items of note are a great helm (similar to that of the Black Prince), a bow-stave found on a mid-nineteenth century diving exploration of the vessel *Mary Rose*, and a pair of pistols, considered the finest ever made in Britain, attributed to Pierre Monlong, gun maker to William III.

Luxury items — a gilt-trimmed parade helmet, decorated staff weapons, engraved and inlaid swords and firearms — serve to illustrate the high achievements of designer and craftsman as well as man's continuing impulse to utilize arms and armour as personal adornment and an indication of status.

Treasures from the Tower of London provides a brief introduction to the history of the 900-year old Tower of London, begun in 1066 by William the Conqueror, and its role as a museum. The exhibition is divided into several themes: Tournament and Parade; The Hunt; The Royal Court; Presentation and Ceremony; War; The Craft of the Armourer and the Weaponsmith.

Royal Ontario Museum photos

Canada's Oscar quest

Three Canadian documentaries and the Canada-France movie co-production *Quest for Fire* have been nominated for Oscars.

After the Axe, a 60-minute film about executive firing made for the National Film Board (NFB) by Sturla Gunnarsson and Steve Lucas of Toronto was nominated in the documentary feature category.

So was *Just Another Missing Kid*, a 90-minute film which traces a young Ottawa man's tragic disappearance during a trip to Colorado. It was made for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) by Toronto film-maker John Zaritsky and shown on the CBC television program *The Fifth Estate*.

If You Love This Planet, a warning about the dangers of nuclear war, produced by Edward LeLorrain and directed by Terri Nash for the NFB, was nominated for documentary short subjects.

Quest for Fire was nominated for best achievement in make-up. Sarah Monzani and Michele Burke used complicated techniques to remodel the actors' faces into those of primitive man.

Quest for Fire, produced by International Cinema Corporation of Montreal, was the only Canadian feature film nominated for an Academy Award, although a record 23 were submitted to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

The three nominated Canadian documentaries have already won several prizes on the international film festival circuit and *Quest for Fire* won a Cesar as the best French movie of 1981.

Canada's native people now have a newspaper of their own. *Nation's Ensign*, an Edmonton-based publication that has been serving Canadian Indian communities from the Yukon and British Columbia to Ontario for two years, has extended circulation to Quebec and the Maritimes. As a national publication, it has become the "voice" of nearly 2 million native people across Canada. Bert Crowfoot and Ben Buffalo Rider, started the paper two years ago. Today, the 48-page tabloid, published twice a month, has a staff of 14 and several freelance writers across Canada. Greg Harrison, managing editor, said that the paper's goal is to reflect the real concerns and aspirations of native peoples on a national basis.