

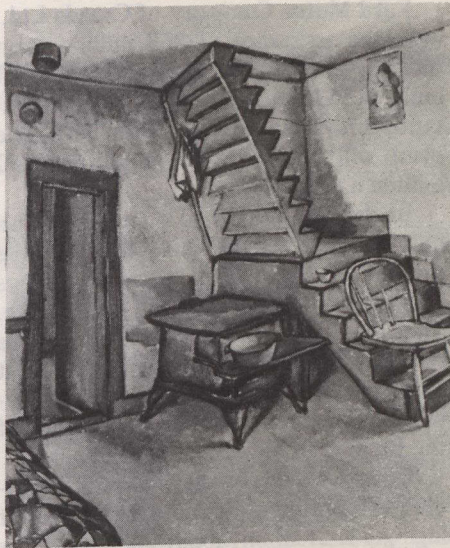
# News of the arts

## Retrospective examines career of prairie artist

Lionel LeMoine FitzGerald: *The Development of an Artist* is the first major retrospective exhibition of the works by this Winnipeg-born artist (1890-1956) in 20 years. The exhibition, organized and



Seated Man (1909).



Farmhouse Interior — Snowflake, Manitoba (circa 1924).

circulated by the Winnipeg Art Gallery, will be on display at the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa until September 10.

The 101 examples of FitzGerald's work, which span his whole career, are an excellent cross-section of his drawings and watercolours, and major oil paintings. The National Gallery's permanent collection will be part of this major retrospective, including its first purchase of FitzGerald in 1918 entitled *Late Fall, Manitoba* (1917).



Rivière des Prairies, Quebec (1922).

FitzGerald was invited to join the famous Group of Seven in 1932 and the following year he became a founding member of the Canadian Group of Painters. A most prolific artist with brush, pen and pencil, he used natural forms as the basis for his abstractions and focused much of his work on landscapes and still life. The works presented in the exhibition include good examples of every stage of his artistic development and the varied techniques and media in which he worked.

## Mix-up sparks theatrical venture

Toronto impresario Ed Mirvish has signed British actor Peter O'Toole for the lead in two local productions next autumn. *Uncle Vanya* and *Present Laughter* will open at Mirvish's Royal Alexandra Theatre before beginning a six-month tour of the U.S.

From Toronto, the productions will go to the Parker Playhouse in Fort Lauderdale for four weeks, the Eisenhower Theater at the Kennedy Center in Washington, then on to Broadway.

The venture is an interesting turn-about for Mirvish, whose seasons usually depend largely on imported American productions. More unlikely was his meeting with O'Toole, which occurred after the actor attempted to kill rumours of his supposed casting in *Uncle Vanya*. By the time he had finished the dinner arranged by a contrite Mirvish, apologizing for the misleading statements that had been billed at the Alex, the actor had agreed to the idea of the tour.

"It's all part of a huge plot, a bit of Canadian cunning, I'm convinced," joked O'Toole, who, since assuming a few administrative duties for the project, has begun casting Canadians in support roles.

## Arts brief

Second prize in the sixth international Tchaikovsky competition in Moscow was shared recently by Canadian André Laplante and Pascal Devoyon of France. Ninety-one pianists from 23 countries took part in the month-long competition. There were 12 finalists. Laplante, who is studying at the Juilliard School of Music in New York City, is a native of Rimouski, Quebec.