

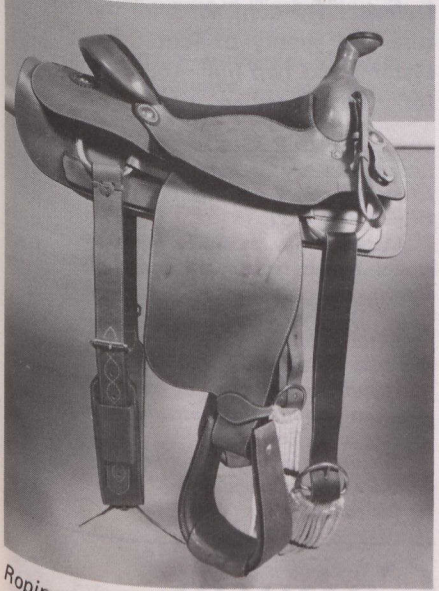
## Contemporary Canadian crafts featured at special exhibit



The newest travelling exhibition mounted by Ottawa's National Museum of Man pays tribute to the creative wealth of Canadian contemporary crafts.

*Works of Craft: The Massey Foundation Collection* is the result of several years of careful collection by representatives of the Massey Foundation, who were guided by four main principles in making their selections. First, they were determined to create a hoard of crafts that are distinctively Canadian, which reflect as much as possible the varied regional and ethnic wealth of Canada.

Thus, a visitor to the exhibit will travel from coast to coast, and from north to south, witnessing the variety of interests, styles and materials that are born of this country's diversity: the east coast, with its woven fish creels and scallop boat



Roping saddle made by Victor Bennett.

brooms, to the north with its beaded sealskin boots. Lustrous hand-blown glass and intricately worked jewellery from Toronto are the products of a sophisticated urban craft centre, while the rich woods of the west coast have given rise to a long tradition of fine wood-carving.

Secondly, the collectors were determined to gather contemporary works that have been produced in the past in response to modern tastes and needs. Much of the collection harks back to traditional styles and techniques. Some artists even continue to work in the media of years past, producing such practical items as horse harnesses, iron tools and baskets.



Handpainted kimono by Marta Dal Farra.

Other artists have gathered inspiration directly from the material and designs of the twentieth century. An "evening raincoat" is woven out of deeply fringed saran wrap. Some of the roughly elaborate jewellery with intricate metalwork, as well as many examples of glass and pottery with their unconventional shapes and abstract decoration are modern.

The third standard governing this collection was functionality. All of the pieces are items that were made to use. The final demand imposed by the Massey Foundation on its directors and collectors was that of excellence.

The exhibition is arranged in six sections: fibre, featuring basketry, weaving and textile crafts; glass, including stained glass and free-blown pieces; wood, including bowls, covered boxes, musical instruments and furniture; leatherwork,



Handmade pewterware by Raymond Cox.

from Inuit boots to saddlery; metal, including blacksmith tools, pewter goblets, steel knives and silver jewellery; and clay, including earthenware, stoneware and porcelain.

*Works of Craft* will remain open until July 2 at the National Museum of Man in Ottawa.

## Big Apple bites Canadian culture

Canada recently made a full-scale "culture blitz" of New York, highlighted by the triumphant return of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and its star, Evelyn Hart.

The company, under artistic director Arnold Spohr, opened its first New York season in six years at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, giving a performance of modern dance that emphasized classical lines. The undisputed star of the performance was Evelyn Hart, the ballerina who rocketed to international fame in 1980, dancing Norbert Vesak's *Belong pas de deux* with David Peregrine, and winning a gold medal at Varna, Bulgaria.

The two-month Canadian cultural blitz began in late March. It involves two of Canada's three major ballet companies, three orchestras, choirs, a baroque chamber music orchestra and individual performances — ten events in all.

Les Grands Ballets canadiens returned for a second season at the City Centre. The National Arts Centre Orchestra performed at Carnegie Hall under its new conductor Franco Mannino. Also scheduled to appear are the Montreal Symphony, the Toronto Symphony and the Mendelssohn Choir.