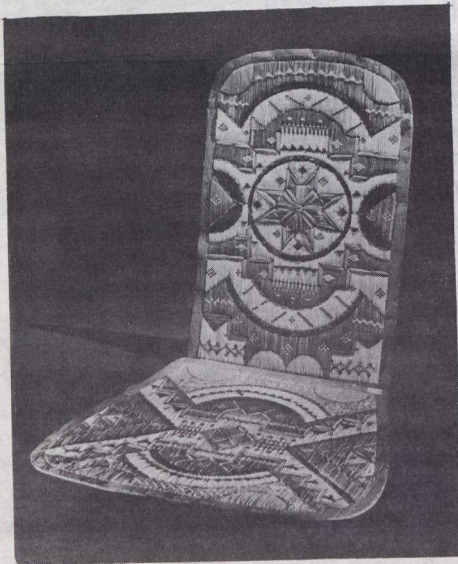


News of the arts

Native embroidery exhibited

Quillwork, a unique art practised by the North American Indians, is the theme of an exhibition at the Royal Ontario Museum from October 17 to January 15, 1978.

Used as a decorative art by the native peoples of the Woodlands, Plains and Athapaskan areas (where porcupines have their habitat), quillwork was often complemented or replaced by bird quills and moose hair.



Micmac chair cover, made from birch-bark and aniline dyed porcupine quills, for members of the white community, Nova Scotia (circa 1890).

Quilled garments such as shirts and robes were signs of rank and wealth. Among the peoples of the Rockies, the Subartic and the Eastern Woodlands, highly skilled women were chosen to quill the most important items for major occasions, such as the burial of a chief, a sun dance, or gift-giving. The most talented women did the sacred pieces, such as medicine bags, used by the societies within the tribe.

The European introduction of ribbons, silk and beads greatly influenced the designs and often dominated the craft. But changes were gradual, and this display shows how the styles and designs that have evolved were unique to area and culture.

This exhibition of quillwork includes both historic and contemporary pieces. An outstanding piece is an Iroquois prisoner's cord, tied around the neck or used to bind the hands of a captive. Other

objects in the exhibition include riding crops, saddle bags, pipe bags, dance cuffs, prayer sticks, buffalo horns, moccasins, necklaces, shirts, belts, dolls, gloves, hoods and cradle fringes. A pouch with exquisitely elaborated floral designs, used to carry Wampum belts from 1780-1860, is said to have once been owned by John Tecumseh Henry.

Support for literature

Among the new cultural programs announced recently by Secretary of State John Roberts, are several to be administered by the Canada Council. Funds for the following programs have been committed for the 1977-78 and 1978-79 fiscal years:

National book week — During this annual event probably next autumn, there will be theme displays of books in both official languages as well as publishers' displays. Authors will read from their works and will participate in "book launchings", seminars, debates, and in the presentation of the national literary awards.

Distribution of Canadian books — This is a new program designed to increase the holdings of Canadian books in the other official language in both English-language and French-language libraries. An independent jury of leading writers and critics will make a selection of outstanding books in the two languages; the books will be bought by the Canada Council and distributed free of charge to public and university libraries.

Translation of Canadian books and plays — The Council will identify a number of outstanding works of Canadian literature published ten or more years ago which have not yet been translated into the other official language. Canadian-owned publishing houses will then be invited to bid for the rights to publish, with Canada Council assistance, a series of these works in translation.

Support will be made available to theatres wishing to translate and perform plays originally written in the other official language.

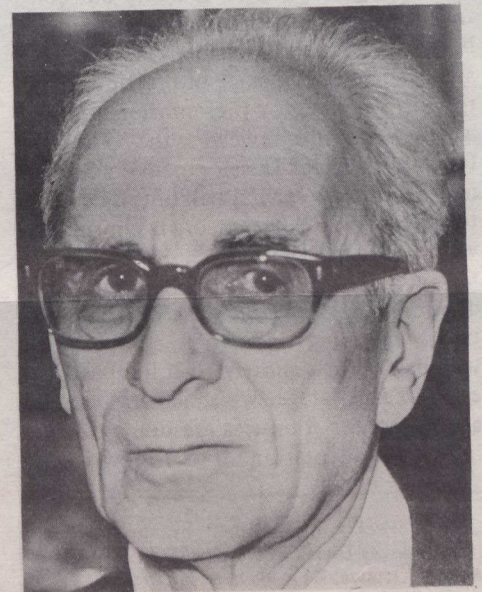
Canadian children's literature — A program has been created to support the publication of original Canadian books for children. A competition will be held in which a jury of leading specialists in children's literature will assess applications from Canadian-owned publishing houses.

Stage revival of student revolt

Poet and playwright James Reaney has dramatized yet another event from the annals of southern Ontario, in co-operation with the NDWT Company of Toronto. Reaney, best known for *The Donnelly Trilogy*, an imaginative portrayal of the famous, feuding clan from Lucan, Ontario, has unearthed a little-known incident in the University of Toronto's past — a short-lived student strike in 1895.

The uprising was inspired by the dismissal of a professor, William Dale, who dared to express concern, in a letter to the editor of *The Globe*, over university hiring practices which, he claimed, favoured foreigners and relatives of faculty members.

Reaney, an alumnus of U. of T., has exposed Victorian hypocrisy and academic stuffiness in his treatment of what may have been the first student revolt in North America. Ironically, his musical comedy, *Dismissal*, is on stage at U. of T.'s Hart House Theatre.



Renowned French anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss will deliver the 1977 Massey Lectures, Myth and Meaning, on CBC radio, December 26 to 30. Lévi-Strauss, born in Brussels in 1908 and currently a professor of social anthropology at Collège de France, Paris, suggests that the scientific method and mythology are no longer incompatible approaches to knowledge.