

ESKIMO ART SHOW

A remarkable collection of prints from the remote settlement of Holman, on Victoria Island in the high Arctic, has won recognition for a handful of "Copper" Eskimos. The collection will be shown for the first time on November 19 at the New Brunswick Museum in Saint John. "It is appropriate that the art of the Holman Eskimos, with generations of Arctic living behind them, should be displayed for the first time in Canada's oldest museum," said Mr. Arthur Laing, Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, who will open the exhibition.

To be shown at the same time are Eskimo carvings from communities throughout the Arctic chosen by Mr. Barry Lord, Curator of Art of the New Brunswick Museum. Both prints and carvings will be for sale during the display, which will be the first major exhibit of Eskimo art to be held in the Atlantic Provinces.

The five artists involved are members of an isolated community of 125 Eskimos who form part of a larger group known as the "Copper" Eskimos, so called because they formerly fashioned tools and weapons from native copper. Holman has been less affected by the world "outside" than many other Eskimo communities. More than most Eskimo graphic art, the prints produced by the Holman artists depict, in their precise draftmanship, the violent struggle to survive in a harsh land.

HISTORY OF HOLMAN

The Holman settlement has had a brief history. The first trading-post was opened in 1938, and the following year a mission was built. Since 1950, some carvings and handicrafts have been produced. In April 1961, the Holman Eskimo Co-operative was formed under the guidance of the Industrial Division of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

In 1962, Father Tardy, a missionary, encouraged several of the more gifted Eskimos to produce stone-cut prints. Their first efforts, though striking in design and showing great promise, were not up to the high standard set by the Eskimo Art Committee. So, to encourage the Holman group and assist in the technical aspects of print-making, Barry Coomber, a

graduate of the Toronto College of Art, was sent to Holman by the Department of Northern Affairs in March 1963. After months of work the combined efforts of artists and technical adviser brought success, and all 30 prints submitted to the Eskimo Art Committee the following year were approved.

After the exhibition at Saint John, the Holman prints will go on sale at art galleries and fine art dealers across Canada.

In addition to the 70 soapstone carvings being shown at Saint John, six minute figures, carved from walrus ivory by Ranklin Inlet artists, are included in the collection. Few such ivory pieces are available now outside the Arctic. As walrus ivory is rare the delicate carvings made in the North are usually bought on the spot by travellers.

DOMESTIC EXPORTS

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics reports that Canada's domestic exports in July were valued at \$770,355,000, a slight decrease (0.2 per cent) from the July 1964 total of \$772,141,000. This put the value in the January-to-July period at \$4,672,154,000, about 1.4 per cent above the corresponding 1964 total of \$4,605,844,000.

July and January-to-July shipments were up in value to the United States, Belgium and Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Norway compared to the same periods in 1964, while exports to Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany were down. Sales to Britain and Communist China were greater in July and smaller in January to July, while deliveries to Australia and the Republic of South Africa were down in the month and up in the seven months.

Among the principal commodities, the values of exports were higher both in July and January to July compared with the figure of a year earlier for wood pulp, softwood lumber, iron ores and concentrates, crude petroleum, and copper and alloys, and lower for wheat. The values for newsprint, aluminum and aluminum alloys, and nickel and nickel alloys were smaller in the month and larger in the seven months, while those of aircraft and parts were up in July and down in the cumulative period.
