

Cultural affairs

Scholarships and academic exchanges

In continuation of its awards program, the Department offered some 250 scholarships for postgraduate work at Canadian universities to scholars from 22 countries. These countries grant a comparable number of awards to Canadian students. Travel grants from the Department permitted more than 100 Canadian academics to teach at foreign universities or to participate in learned conferences abroad. Another program of grants, financed by the Department and administered by the Canada Council, enabled Canadian universities to bring more than 60 foreign professors, experts and artists of world eminence to Canada to give courses at institutions of higher learning. The Department also helped more than 30 English-speaking Canadians to travel to France to combine postgraduate studies with the teaching of English, as part of an exchange program that brought an equal number of French-speaking language assistants to Canada.

The Department gave assistance to a number of academic missions, including a delegation of German state-education authorities who visited several Canadian provinces to discuss exchanges of high-school students and teachers, and representatives of the Association of Community Colleges of Canada, who visited European and African countries to discuss international co-operation at the junior-college level.

In association with the Council of Ministers of Education (made up of the education ministers of the ten provinces) and national non-governmental organizations, the Department made arrangements for Canadian participation in various educational activities, carried out under the auspices of international organizations such as the OECD, UNESCO and the Commonwealth.

Cultural relations have become an increasingly effective means of creating understanding among nations and awareness of the values they share. Since Canadian cultural programs have been designed principally to support foreign-policy aims, they have been concentrated in countries of special importance to Canada. They have also attempted to meet the needs of the Canadian artistic community by publicizing Canadian achievements in the arts abroad, thereby providing opportunities for Canadian artists to become better known and to perform in other countries. Programs include tours by performing companies, art exhibitions, exchanges of persons, book donations, special events such as "Canada Weeks" and participation in international festivals.

Cultural agreements and programs

Canada has signed cultural agreements with Brazil (1944), Italy (1965), Belgium (1967), the Federal Republic of Germany (1975), Mexico (1976) and Japan (1976), as well as a General Exchanges Agreement with the U.S.S.R. (1971). It has also had active programs of cultural exchange that were not governed by formal diplomatic instruments.

The Mixed Commission administering exchanges with France met in Ottawa in May. The Belgium-Canada Mixed Commission met in Ottawa in October and the Quebec-Belgium Subcommittee met in Quebec City. In November, federal and provincial officials met with Mexican representatives to develop a one-year program of exchanges, and they visited London to develop further cultural links with Britain.

Artistic exchanges and cultural promotion

Les Grands Ballets Canadiens toured Latin America in May and June, giving 44 performances in ten countries. The company's repertoire featured Fernand Nault's *Carmina Burana* and Brian Macdonald's *Tam Ti Delam*; their reception everywhere was enthusiastic and critics were unanimous in their praise. Entre-Six and Le Groupe de la Place Royale, two modern dance companies, made