

Canadian folk art exhibited

The most comprehensive exhibition of folk art ever produced in Canada opens at the Glenbow Museum in Calgary, March 7, as part of a cross-Canada tour.

From the Heart: Folk Art in Canada was organized by the National Museum of Man in Ottawa and features about 300 artifacts from the museum's collection. The Allstate Foundation of Canada is sponsoring the exhibition with a \$200 000 grant — the largest grant ever received by the National Museum of Man from a corporate sponsor.

Folk art can perhaps be best defined by what the folk artists have in common. Most significant is the fact that many are self-taught artists who have close ties with the land. Their inspiration often comes out of situations they have experienced themselves, from memories of the past and from their personal imagination and fantasy. Many work with a minimum of materials and tools that are at hand. Their work is characterized both by a strong community tradition and an imaginative exuberance, emphasizing the essentials in a direct way.

The works included in the exhibition are drawn from the National Museum of Man's folk art collection, the largest of its kind in this country which includes the extensive Price, Sharpe and McKendry collections. This will be the first time such a significant selection of works from



Wooden and metal tobacco cutter made by an artisan in Quebec.

the Museum's Canadian Centre For Folk Culture Studies will tour nationally.

The *From the Heart* exhibition will include approximately 280 artifacts and emphasis will be on twentieth-century folk art from all parts of Canada with material from the nineteenth century. Included will be carvings (the largest single category), paintings and a selection of handcrafted tools and furnishings. The over-all purpose of the exhibition is to demonstrate the richness and variety of folk art in Canada.

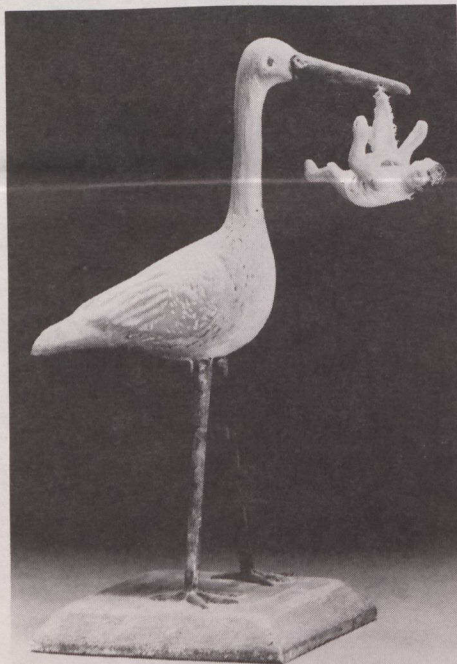
Three main themes

Three main themes are illustrated:

Reflections includes: utilitarian objects such as tools, furniture, hooked rugs; nature-depicted figures such as animals, birds, weather-vanes and decoys; man in nature or settlement which shows representations of early home life; past occupations includes models of plowing, logging, boats and trains; paintings of the past illustrating folk tales and history.

Commitments includes: icons, objects and furniture which represent past cultural affiliations; religious objects which include biblical figures and church scenes; and love, which includes objects that have been made for loved ones.

Fantasies includes: Eros as represented by sensual bathing beauties, the sailor and his girlfriends etc.; humour illustrated in such objects as dancing dolls and a trick bible box; eccentricities which includes a unique music box incorporating over 50 moving figures; and yard art which includes outdoor pieces such as bird houses, whirligigs and mailbox holders that were carved to decorate people's premises.



The Stork made of wood and cloth by Billie Andrews of Bradford, Ontario.

Another section of the exhibition will highlight *Four Canadian Folk Artists*, all of whom are living and still producing works. This section includes Nelphas Prévost of Quebec, who carves fiddles and makes root sculptures; Sam Spencer of Saskatchewan, who carves wooden plaques; Frank Kocevar of British Columbia, who paints memories of his past; and George Cockayne of Ontario, who creates wooden sculptures.

After its showing in Calgary, *From the Heart* will travel to Saskatoon, Regina, Windsor, Edmonton, Vancouver, Charlottetown, Halifax, Winnipeg, Quebec City, Toronto and Montreal.



Clem, was originally used as a scarecrow.