

## PRECIOUS PAINTING TO EXPO 70

A fourteenth century painting by Simone Martini of Siena has been lent by Canada to Japan for display at Expo 70, in Osaka.

Jean Sutherland Boggs, director of the National Gallery describes the delicate portrait of *St. Catherine* as "one of the most beautiful and precious works in the national collection" and "a work of great historical importance". It is the only painting being sent to Japan from the National Gallery collection. The tempera work on arched panel is of modest size - 32 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches x 16 inches. It was painted about 1320 as the left wing of an altar-piece in San Francesco, Orvieto.

Like Expo 67 in Montreal, Expo 70 features art from around the world in its Museum of Fine Arts. Works by Canadian artists are being loaned by provincial galleries and museums.

Dr. Nathan Stolow, director of the National Conservation and Research Laboratory of the National Gallery, took the painting to Japan in a hermetically-sealed case that provided an environment for the painting identical to the environment of the National Gallery. This effect was achieved by the use of silica jell, a conditioning material that prevented the wooden panel from either drying out or becoming excessively damp. Dr. Stolow explained before his departure that paintings on wood panels were more susceptible to excessive dryness or damp than those on canvas.

The changeability of the Canadian climate is such that museums need special atmosphere-control systems to prevent damage to certain works of art. Because the system in the National Gallery does not function as well as it should, certain fragile works, including *St. Catherine*, are exhibited in protective cases. Another example is the wooden sculpture *Tobias and the Angel*, which is kept in such a case.



*St. Catherine*

The National Gallery of  
Canada, Ottawa

## CANADA'S FOOTLOOSE YOUNGSTERS

The Canadian Welfare Council's national survey of transient youth in the summer of 1969 has uncovered urgent problems, including a lack of services and hostile community attitudes toward transient youth that must be overcome before the beginning of the summer holidays. The Council is convinced that more young people will be on the road than ever before.

A 147-page report of findings and recommendations on transient youth in Canada was released by the Council in Ottawa in March.

According to Reuben C. Baetz, executive director of the Council, the purpose of the inquiry was twofold: to provide a profile of young people on the road, and their needs, and to assess how communities respond to them.

Mr. Baetz describes the main points of the report in the following words:

"By far the largest number of young wanderers are ordinary, healthy, reasonably well-adjusted individuals who are on the road for a summer holiday or looking for work. But Canada lacks services and accommodation for these young people. Hence our

recommendations include the need for hostel accommodation, travellers' aid services, better student employment opportunities, youth residences, and so on. But we are particularly concerned about the troubled youth among the transients, some of whom have been travelling three years - those who are left on the road when the other summer travellers have returned to school and jobs. This is a smaller group of severely damaged, sick, and often drug-dependent youth. We hope our report will make a useful contribution toward a more constructive approach to their problems."

Interviews were conducted with a sample of 119 young transients. The survey included Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Halifax, Sault Ste. Marie, Thunder Bay, Edmonton, Calgary and places such as Banff National Park - anywhere young people were likely to stop on their peregrinations throughout Canada. Besides visiting these centers and conducting personal interviews with some 140 agencies, the Council gathered information by mail from Victoria, Regina, Sudbury, St. Catharines, London, Niagara Falls, and Kingston.