

News of the arts

U.S. conference focuses on French-Canadian culture

The Canadian/Franco-American studies department of the University of Maine will sponsor a conference, entitled "The French Experience in North America", August 10-13.

The interdisciplinary conference will consider French culture in Canada's eastern provinces and in the northeastern United States.

Antonine Maillet, Acadian author of *La Sagouine* and *Pélagie-la charette*, will present a keynote address to the conference, which is designed for teachers, researchers, librarians and educational policy makers.

Role of immigrants

The conference will foster discussion on the urbanization movement in Quebec

and on the role of French-speaking immigrants in New England's industrialization. The conference will also focus on bilingualism and biculturalism and language maintenance in an English setting.

The socio-cultural context of French-Canadian and Franco-American communities will also be examined. Literary critics will discuss aspects of the literature of French expression in North America.

The conference will also present an exhibit of Canadian art, photographic exhibits of Canada and Franco-American life, theatrical presentations, films and video tape productions, folk art, displays of curriculum materials for Canadian and Franco-American studies and book exhibits.

Canadian publishers boosted

Canadian publishers will receive \$5.7 million in federal funds to encourage marketing and promotion of Canadian books at home and abroad.

The financial assistance is intended not only to increase book sales by facilitating aggressive promotion and marketing campaigns, but also to foster marketing of Canadian textbooks and related learning materials produced for Canadian schools. This is being done in an attempt to slow and, if possible stop, the displacement of Canadian textbooks in Canadian schools by foreign publications. The funding, which is being provided to 68 firms, is part of the government's book publishing program. Authors are also federally supported by the Canada Council and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

Historic sketches

A newly discovered album of Canadian and American sketchings, done in 1832 and 1833 by a British naval officer on tour, is the focus of an exhibition opened recently by Sir John Ford, British High Commissioner to Canada, at the Public Archives of Canada in Ottawa.

Entitled *Friendly Spies on the Northern Tour, 1815-1837: The Sketches of Henry Byam Martin*, the exhibition consists of 52 original sketches by Martin, done while on tour through Upper and Lower Canada and the United States in the early 1830. The sketches are supplemented by tourist guides and illustrated journals

published by other British officers during the period 1815-1837.

Among the items on display are views of the Rideau Canal, the Ottawa River, the steamer *Iroquois* of Prescott and sketches of Penetanguishene.

According to Jim Burant, of the Archives' picture division, who co-ordinated this exhibit, "the simmering hostility between Britain and the United States during this period is reflected in these documents which demonstrate how British officers spared no efforts both to spy upon and belittle American republican ideals. At the same time, the prospects for Canada's future prosperity and the ways to defend the country against

American expansionism were also investigated. The drawings and watercolours done by Martin are informative, skilful, and amusing", he added.

Born in 1804, Henry Byam Martin entered the Royal Navy at the age of 14, and became captain by 1827. During his several years on half-pay, he travelled to many countries. His motives for travelling to North America were twofold: to investigate "the ports and arsenals of the United States and Canada", and to discover more about the federal versus states rights' issue which, in 1832, was threatening the break-up of the United States.

The exhibition will be open to the public until June 30.



The Outaouais River viewed from the house of Colonel By, at Bytown (now Ottawa), October 18, 1832.