

News of the arts

Traditional art of Nova Scotia

Folk Art of Nova Scotia, an exhibition which includes more than 100 carvings, paintings, textiles and furniture by folk artists from that province, opened at the Art Gallery of Ontario on May 20. This, the first major touring exhibition organized by the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, has been seen in centres across Canada and will end its tour on closing at the Gallery on July 3.

The works in the exhibition capture rural Nova Scotia — the people, birds, animals and landscapes from the familiar world of each artist's experience — and reveal the simple and direct technique favoured by self-taught artists equipped with the skills of carpenters, fishermen and farmers.

Included are a number of wood carvings by Collins Eisenhower that vary in scale from his life-size carvings of Messrs Trudeau, Stanfield, Lewis and Regan entitled, *Political Figures* (on loan from the National Museum of Man in Ottawa) to his small carving, *Woman and Dog Dancing*.

Among the many paintings are works by Maud Lewis, Joseph Norris and Joseph Sleep. As Marie Elwood, chief curator of history at the Nova Scotia Museum, writes in the exhibition catalogue, "The subject matter of the paintings comes from the landscape of Nova Scotia. These are

not real scenes...they are images from memory. There are no cast shadows, no movement of wind; a magic stillness prevails."

Other traditional forms of folk art in the show are quilts, a hooked rug and several items of decorated furniture. The exhibition spans about 70 years, but the majority of the works have been executed

in the past 15 years by 32 artists working throughout Nova Scotia.

"The works speak for themselves," writes Bernard Riordin, organizer of the exhibition and curator of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, "and are individual statements which display the creative features of spontaneity, simplicity, and in some cases humour."



Two Oxen, Winter (oil on board, circa 1950) by Maud Lewis.

Governor General's literary awards

The Canada Council recently announced the winners of the 1977 Governor General's Literary Awards, each worth \$5,000.

The books, by category, are: fiction — *The Wars* by Timothy Findley and *Ces enfants de ma vie* by Gabrielle Roy; non-fiction — *Essays on the Constitution* by Frank Scott and *Le développement des idéologies au Québec des origines à nos jours* by Denis Monière; poetry and drama — *Under the Thunder the Flowers Light up the Earth* by D.G. Jones and *Les Célébrations* and *Adidou Adidouce*, two plays in one volume, by Michel Garneau. Mr. Garneau has declined the award.

Timothy Findley

The Wars is Timothy Findley's third novel. It is a First World War story of a young Canadian lieutenant's reactions to

the slaughter and devastation in Ypres, Belgium.

The author worked as a professional actor for 15 years, during which he was encouraged by playwright Thornton Wilder to develop his interest in writing. He has written two film scripts as well as scripts for several television series, including *Jalna* and *The National Dream*. Findley and co-author William Whitehead won an ACTRA award for the latter in 1975. His other major works include two novels — *The Last of the Crazy People* and *The Butterfly Plague* and a play, *Can You See Me Yet?*

Frank Scott

The essays and papers which make up *Essays on the Constitution* were selected from among those published by Dr. Scott during his more than 40 years (1928-1971) of teaching law at McGill University in Montreal.

Frank Scott has served as editor of both scholarly journals and general reviews, and has published a number of works on constitutional law and politics and several books of poetry, including translations of works by Quebec poets Anne Hébert and St-Denis Garneau. Dr. Scott is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, a Companion of the Order of Canada, and holds honorary degrees from more than a dozen universities. He won the Canada Council's Molson Prize in 1965.

D.G. Jones

Under the Thunder the Flowers Light up the Earth is the first major collection of poetry by D.G. Jones in ten years. Jones, a completely bilingual poet, has included some poems in French.

A teacher of English for more than 20 years, he was one of the founding editors, in 1969, of *Ellipse*, a review presenting