

News of the arts

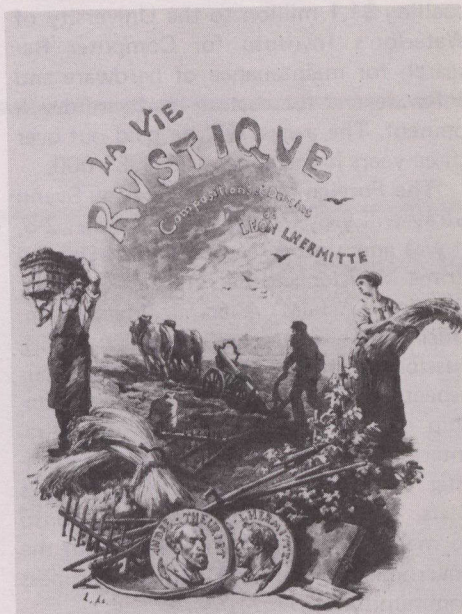
Book illustrators from Quebec and France featured in unique exhibition

A recently-opened exhibition *The Illustrated Book in Quebec and France (1900-1950)* offers visitors a unique insight into the history and importance of the Canadian illustrated book. The show is on view at the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa until November 27.

Organizer Jean-René Ostiguy, curator of Canadian art, has studied the social and cultural significance of the inexpensive mass-produced book created at the turn of the century. "This exhibition seeks to create an awareness of a heritage now familiar only to bibliophiles," he explains. "Books illustrated by talented artists deserve special attention since they trace the history of both art and bibliophilism."

This innovative exhibition regroups 50 books published between 1900 and 1950. Twenty-five Quebec publications, each paired with a French counterpart, show illustrations by well-known Canadian artists, such as Clarence Gagnon and Jean-Paul Lemieux. They also include such neglected illustrators as Henri Beaulac and Maurice Gaudreau.

The illustrations also demonstrate the revival of wood engraving in Canada and



Front piece of book *La Vie rustique* drawn by Léon Lhermitte (1844-1925).

Europe. The linocut's similar rendering of the precise black and white shapes of the linocut also made it a popular medium. The illustrator of the early 1900s also used ink drawings, lithographs, water-based paints and etchings.

Trans-Atlantic link

The Illustrated Book in Quebec and in France (1900-1950) successfully links publications from both sides of the Atlantic. Although influences are difficult to define, both sets of books share similar features. Their format, paper quality, page layout, the illustrators' style and techniques, and even their price underline the extension of European trends into Canada, specially Quebec. It is known that several important French collections such as *Le livre de demain* and *Le livre moderne illustré* were widely distributed in the province of Quebec.

The exhibition's main feature is its comparison of Canadian and French talents. The Quebec illustrators show skill and imagination in comparison with such French masters as Henri Matisse, Jean Cocteau and Edy-Legrand.

The Quebec publications were selected from the National Gallery's collection of illustrated books which now totals over 50 titles. After its Ottawa showing, the exhibit will open at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts (January 20 to February 19, 1984) and at the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery (March 1 to 25, 1984).

New orchestra for Halifax

Nearly one year after the financial collapse of the Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, the formation of a new Halifax-based symphony has been announced. Symphony Nova Scotia will have a mandate to serve the province, as well as the Halifax area.

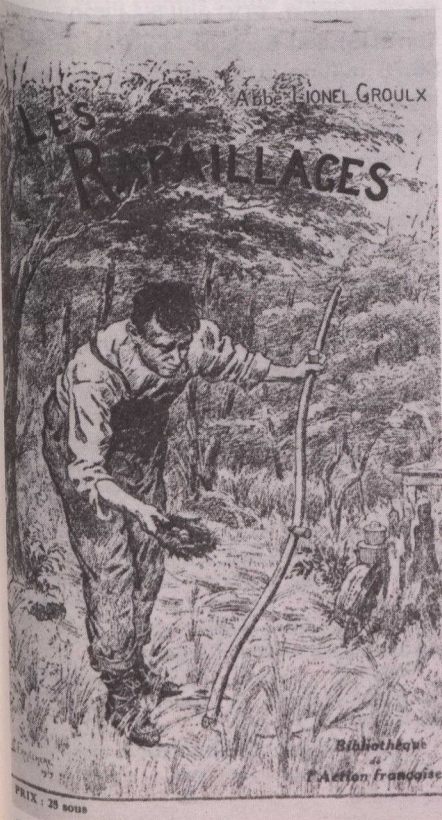
Boris Brott of Hamilton, Ontario has been named the artistic adviser of SNS. Mr. Brott, who will retain his positions as music director of the Hamilton Philharmonic and artistic director of the Stratford Summer Music Festival, said that to succeed, the SNS "must aim for excellence and appeal to all music markets".

Arts briefs

A book by a University of Toronto professor has been chosen outstanding academic book of 1983 by the American Library Association. Robert O'Driscoll's *The Celtic Consciousness*, an exploration of Celtic culture from 800 BC to the present day, has become a steady seller in the United States and Australia. Originally printed in a \$125-a-copy limited edition of 500 by Toronto publisher, McClelland and Stewart, it was later reissued in the United States in a less expensive edition and promptly received critical acclaim.

A Canadian artist, André Durand, has completed an oil portrait of Pope John Paul II, the first one to be sanctioned by His Holiness. The portrait was executed at the request of the Polish Association of the Knights of Malta and will be on display at Ontario House in London, England during November and December. It will also be shown in Toronto during the visit of the Pope to Canada next September. It will eventually be hung in a church either in Rome or in Poland. The artist was born in Ottawa in 1941. As a student, he received a Canada Council grant to tour European churches and galleries, and studied later in Italy and Greece.

As part of a new marketing approach to expand revenue, the Performing Arts Development Fund is opening a half-price ticket kiosk in downtown Toronto this month. Estimates indicate the ticket booth will bring in an additional \$550 000 in revenue during the 1983-84 season for the performing arts companies participating in the project.



Charcoal illustration by Joseph-Charles Franchère (1866-1921) for cover of book *Les Rapailles*.