

The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute



Members of the Shastri Institute participating in the 1977 Summer Programme are seen meeting with Prime Minister Desai at his residence.



While visiting Madras, the 1977 Shastri Institute summer students were entertained by a performance of Indian classical dancing by Miss Shobhana Vedanarayan.

The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, named in honour of the late Prime Minister of India, Lal Bahadur Shastri, was founded in 1968 by joint announcement of the Governments of India and Canada. The purpose of this Institute is to enhance mutual understanding between India and Canada by educating Canadians to an awareness of the richness of India's past and the challenges of her developing present.

The various programmes of the Institute are financed by the Government of India, the Canadian Government's Department of External Affairs, private Canadian foundations and the annual fees from member institutions. In Canada twelve universities and the National

Library are participating in the advancement of Indian Studies through the allocation of junior and senior fellowships in the humanities, social sciences, performing arts and for language training; the acquisition of Indian publications for thirteen Canadian libraries; and the operation of special educational projects for undergraduates and school teachers. In addition, since 1975, a Visiting Lectureship Programme has been set up to bring distinguished Indian scholars to Canada to assist Indian Studies programmes in Canadian universities.

For the Canadian student of Indian Culture and Society, perhaps one of the most personally rewarding aspects of the Shastri Institute's programme is the

Summer Programme in India. Each year a selected group of students travel to India for an intensive academic and cultural programme which includes visits to major cities and historical sites throughout India, meetings with national leaders, tours of industries and cultural centres and a first hand acquaintance with the people of India. In the photographs above, the group of students participating in the 1977 summer session are seen meeting with Prime Minister Morarji Desai during their stay in Delhi. While in Madras, the group members were the guests of the families of members of the Madras Indo-Canadian Friendship Association and were invited to a classical dance recital by Miss Shobhana Vedanarayan. ●

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the most modern mint in the world. It is capable of producing 700 million coins per year on a one-shift-per-day basis. This mint produces Canadian and foreign countries' circulating coins.

HISTORY OF MINT

In 1858 the first Canadian coinage was authorized and executed using the dollar and cent denomination. All Canadian coinage, from 1858 to 1907, was struck at the Royal Mint in London, England, or under its supervision.

In the closing years of the nineteenth century, the concept of establishing a mint in Canada was formulated. Since this could only be done by the Royal Mint or a branch of the Royal Mint, it

was agreed that a branch would be established in Ottawa. On May 2, 1901, a Mr. Fielding gave notice in the House of Commons of a resolution for the provision of \$75,000 as an annuity for the maintenance of a branch of the Royal Mint in Canada. Founded on this resolution, the Ottawa Mint Act was passed and received Royal Assent on May 23, 1901.

In 1905, construction began and, by 1907, the building was completed and machinery installed. The Ottawa Mint Proclamation in 1907, issued under the Imperial Coinage Act of 1870, fixed January 1, 1908, as the formal date for the establishment of the Ottawa Branch of the Royal Mint. On January 2, 1908, His Excellency the Governor General,

Earl Grey, struck the first coin.

In 1931, the Canadian Government decided it would be more advantageous to have complete administrative control of the Mint. An Act of Parliament was passed which established the Royal Canadian Mint as a branch of the Department of Finance on December 1, 1931. The staff of the Mint was transferred from the Imperial Service to the Canadian Civil Service.

A committee was appointed in 1968 to draft the legislation to establish the mint as a corporate body. Under Part X of the Government Organization Act, 1969, assented to on March 28, 1969, the Mint was formally established as a Crown Corporation on April 1, 1969. ●