

The transition of the Canadian culture from European to authentically Canadian was virtually imperceptible and paralleled the gradual settlement of the country. The bilingual, multicultural and North American elements of Canada's character have all had a bearing on the cultural fabric and on the way Canadians express themselves through the arts.

Many of the literary documents of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were journals—of explorers like David Thompson and Alexander Mackenzie or of missionaries like the Jesuits, whose *Relations* were set down between 1632 and 1679 and tell of the progress of their missions. The nineteenth century saw the development of more mature works of art and learning by the likes of Aubert de Gaspé, François-Xavier Garneau and Thomas Chandler Haliburton. At the same time, universities (The University of Toronto, McGill University in Montreal and Laval in Quebec City all began in the second quarter of the century) and literary societies were taking shape amid growing



One of Canada's oldest universities, McGill, in Montreal (*left*) contrasts with the modern Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, near Vancouver, British Columbia.