

OLD FORT TO BE REFURNISHED

Jean Palardy of Montreal, the foremost Canadian authority on French-Canadian furniture, has been engaged by the National Parks Branch of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources to identify and locate in France authentic furniture and furnishings for the restoration of the Chateau St. Louis in the eighteenth century French fortress of Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. The three-storey masonry building, which is 370 feet long, was the seat of government for Ile Royale and Ile St. Jean (Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island) in the days of the *ancien régime*.

TRAINING OF AN EXPERT

Painter, interior designer and former film director for the National Film Board, M. Palardy is the author of "The Early Furniture of French Canada", published in 1963, whose preparation and publication were sponsored jointly by the Canada Council and the Quebec Ministry of Cultural Affairs. He has done research on French-Canadian folk songs with Dr. Marius Barbeau. His travels through Quebec aroused

his interest in early French-Canadian furnishings and furniture, and he developed this interest into a deep study of the origins of French-Canadian furniture designs, and the influences that formed them, the materials used and the techniques of the artisans of eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Because French design and craftsmanship were the major influences on the furniture and furnishings of New France, M. Palardy developed a thorough knowledge of the furniture of the period and its relation to the society and customs of the time.

Born in Massachusetts of a Canadian father and an American mother, M. Palardy came to Canada with his parents at the age of three. He received his early education at Sainte-Thérèse de Blainville, north of Montreal, and later carried out his artistic studies in the Saguenay region, first beginning to paint in the region of Baie-Saint-Paul. Very quickly the rustic beauty of the old furniture typical of the area attracted his attention and he decided to furnish his own home in this style. From that time on, he has been deeply interested in traditional French-Canadian furniture design.

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