

# News of the arts

## The Henry Birks Collection of Canadian Silver

A silver collection, regarded by authorities as the most comprehensive of its kind in Canada, has been donated to the National Gallery of Canada.

*The Henry Birks Collection of Canadian Silver* is being presented to the gallery in celebration of the one-hundredth anniversary of the founding of Henry Birks and Sons Ltd. and the National Gallery's celebration of its own centennial this year.

The silver collection comprises approximately 12,000 objects, including Indian trade silver, military and other secular and ecclesiastical articles. It represents the work of craftsmen of Canada from the late 1600s to the present. Most of the earliest pieces in the Henry Birks collection are the products of the artisans of New France. The collection will be made available by the gallery for exhibition and research in all parts of Canada.



*An incense burner from the collection.*

## National Gallery of Canada marks hundredth anniversary

The National Gallery of Canada will celebrate its hundredth anniversary in 1980 with an exhibition program drawing heavily upon the extensive collections of the gallery. The exhibitions included in the program are:

*The Imprint of Genius: Five Centuries of Master Prints from the Collection of the National Gallery of Canada* (January 25-March 23). The first exhibition of the anniversary year surveys the history of printmaking from the mid-fifteenth century to 1940. Among the artists represented are Schoengauer, Dürer, Rembrandt, Piranesi, Goya, Delacroix, Degas, Miro, Matisse and Picasso.

*To Found a National Gallery: The Royal Canadian Academy of Arts 1880-1913* (February 29-April 27) – (Opening March 6). With this exhibition the National Gallery of Canada celebrates the one-hundredth anniversary of the first exhibition of the Royal Canadian Academy (RCA), officially opened by the Governor General, the Marquess of Lorne, on March 6, 1880. The "Diploma" works deposited with the government by the Academicians as a condition of membership in the RCA formed the basis of the National Gallery's collections. This one-hundredth anniversary includes over 100

paintings, sculptures, murals and architectural drawings from public and private collections across Canada, illustrating the Academy's role in art education, history painting, and the creation of an "official" art.

*Master Drawings from the National Gallery of Canada* (April 11-June 8). This exhibition will include some 50 drawings and watercolours from the fifteenth to the twentieth century. Among the artists represented are Rembrandt, Fragonard, Courbet, Picasso and Matisse, as well as a number of lesser known masters.

*A Decade of Gifts* (April 4-February 8, 1981). A series of exhibitions will highlight many gifts received by the National Gallery of Canada from donors during the past ten years. The series will open with the exhibition entitled *Indian Miniatures from the National Gallery of Canada* (April 4-June 1). The second exhibition, *Recent Gifts and Bequests of European and American Art 1970-1980* (June 13-August 31), includes a wide range of works given to the gallery, such as Renaissance portraits, Sèvres porcelain and Pop-art lithographs. The closing exhibition of this series, *Gifts to the Photography Collection* (October 30-February 8, 1981) will include works by major photographers.

*The Magical Eye: Definitions of Photography* (May 9-June 22). Where does the tradition of the photographer as social documentarian come from? What are the origins of photomontage in the nineteenth century and what forms does it take in the twentieth? Why are people more intrigued with the photograph than ever before? Approximately 250 original photographs drawn from the National Gallery's collection and supplemented by photographs from six other public and private collections in North America and Europe will be assembled in an attempt to answer these questions.

*Pluralities 1980 Pluralités* (July 5-September 7). Four curators have selected recent works of art by contemporary Canadian artists from across the country. This large and diverse exhibition will include works and projects by some 20 artists, which will be seen both inside and outside the gallery. Selections and catalogue texts are being prepared by Philip Fry (Ottawa), Willard Holmes (Victoria), Allan MacKay (Saskatoon), and Chantal Pontbriand (Montreal).

*Reflections in a Quiet Pool: The prints of David Milne* (November 14-January 11, 1981). This exhibition focuses on a little-known aspect of David Milne's art. All of Milne's 89 etchings, lithographs and unique colour drypoints will be shown along with paintings and watercolours directly related to the prints. Nearly half of these prints have never been exhibited before.

*Drawings by Alfred Pellán* (November 21-January 18, 1981). The National Gallery of Canada presents 80 works from all periods of Alfred Pellán's career. The scope of drawing modes included is indicative of Pellán's inventiveness with and sensitivity to a medium in which he explores subject matter such as the female nude, the adolescent, the erotic, the autobiographic, and surrealist visions.

## Canada, Wales exchange poets

Poets Miriam Waddington and Al Purdy have been selected to participate in the first Canada-Wales writers exchange, the Canada Council has announced.

Welsh writers Tony Curtis and Alan Perry have also been chosen to take part in the ten-day exchange, organized by the Council and the Welsh Academy of Writers. They will share honorarium payments for readings given by their guests.