

# News of the arts

## Canada's future in film

Canadian efforts to encourage film production may help place the country just behind the U.S. and Britain as a leading international motion picture centre, says a producer who has worked in all three countries.

Sandy Howard, who has co-produced three films in Canada and plans at least four more, says that since Canada's favourable tax system has resulted in a surge in production, creative and technical skills are "improving on a monthly basis".

"Even if the tax situation dissipates, there is no reason there shouldn't be increased production in Canada," says Mr. Howard, whose most recent Canadian co-production, *City on Fire*, was bought for television by the American network CBS for \$2.7 million.

While some major studio productions are made in Canada simply because of the country's scenery, what seems to attract American film-makers is a tax system that allows investors to defer paying taxes on money they put into a film that meets Canadian-content regulations. The Canadian Film Development Corporation (CFDC) also provides funds for Canadian film projects.

A point system is used to determine the Canadian content of a film. Canadian writers or directors are worth two points to a film producer, while each Canadian performer in a starring role is worth one.

Canadian film editors, cinematographers, art directors or film editors are each worth one point. To qualify as Canadian, a film must have a Canadian producer at six points.

There are also requirements that most of the budget be paid to Canadian film crews and that most of the film laboratory processing and recording be done in Canada.

The incentives have resulted in the production of more than a dozen big budget films. Michael McCabe, executive director of the CFDC, claims the value of 1978 Canadian production was \$60 million, compared with \$5 million in 1977.

Ontario and British Columbia are the most popular Canadian locations, industry officials say. The spring edition of *British Columbia Economic Development* estimates that six films produced in the province recently brought \$25 million into the economy.

## International talent joins the Canadian Opera Company

The Canadian Opera Company (COC) will be adding some famous international talent to its 1979-80 season. The company has announced that contralto Maureen Forrester, Wagnerian baritone Thomas Stewart, Romanian tenor Benito Maresca, French conductor Jacques Delacote and director Leon Major have been added to the coming season's production roster.

General director Lotfi Mansouri said Miss Forrester will sing the role of Brangäne in Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde*, and Mr. Maresca will make his North American *début* in the title role of Massenet's *Werther*. The *Werther* production (which

will mark Mr. Delacote's COC conducting *début*) will also include André Lortie and U.S. baritone Cary Archer Smith. Benjamin Britten's *Peter Grimes* will feature Mr. Stewart in his COC *début* in the role of Captain Balstrode.

Mr. Major, general director of Toronto Arts Productions, will stage the production of *Werther*, while Sarah Ventura (Teatro Colon, Buenos Aires; Grand Theatre, Geneva; and San Diego Opera) will direct *Madame Butterfly*. COC's John Leberg will co-direct the season's opener, *Simon Broccanegra*, with Mr. Mansouri, who will also stage the final production of *Peter Grimes*.

## A nineteenth century look at "Our Own Country Canada"

The vision of a growing nation is reflected in the major exhibition, "*Our Own Country Canada: Being An Account of the National Aspirations of the Principal Landscape Artists in Montreal and Toronto, 1860-1890*," which opened recently at the Art Gallery of Ontario, after touring the country.

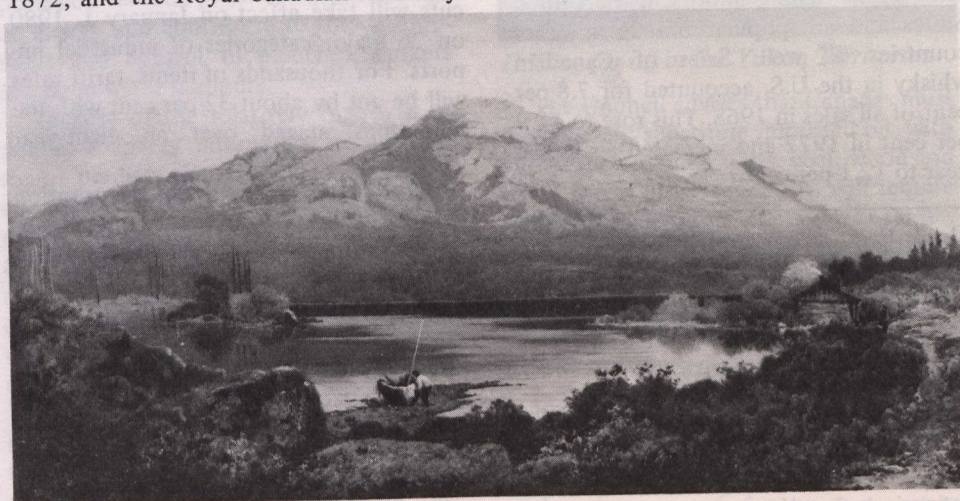
Drawing from public and private collections, the exhibition includes more than 130 oil paintings, watercolours, photographs and books depicting Canada's rivers, mountains and wilderness.

The general economic prosperity of the late nineteenth century in Canada produced an increased interest and activity in the arts. The Art Association of Montreal was founded in 1860, the Ontario Society of Artists was created in 1872, and the Royal Canadian Academy

was established in 1880. For the first time, the Federal Government, through the institution of the Governor General, moved into the area of culture.

Included in the exhibition are several works by Lucius O'Brien, the first president of the Royal Canadian Academy and John A. Fraser, the founder of the Ontario Society of Artists.

As well as showing an intense interest in Canada's national development, artists were also challenged and inspired by the new art of photography. Among the photographs in the exhibition are several by William Notman. Their tonal range, varied texture and clarity of detail inspired such paintings as *Lac-des-Deux-Montagnes*, 1860, by Otto Jacobi and *Mount Orford, Morning*, 1870, by Allan Edson.



Laurentian Splendour, a landscape by John Fraser on show at the Ontario Art Gallery.