

Arms Display first in Edmonton

The most extensive collection of late medieval armaments and suits of plate armour ever shown in Edmonton opened this week at the Provincial Museum.

A display titled "Arms and Armour: the Age of Chivalry" has been designed and installed at the museum for display until the end of February. It is the property of the Riveredge Foundation of the Devonian Group in Calgary,

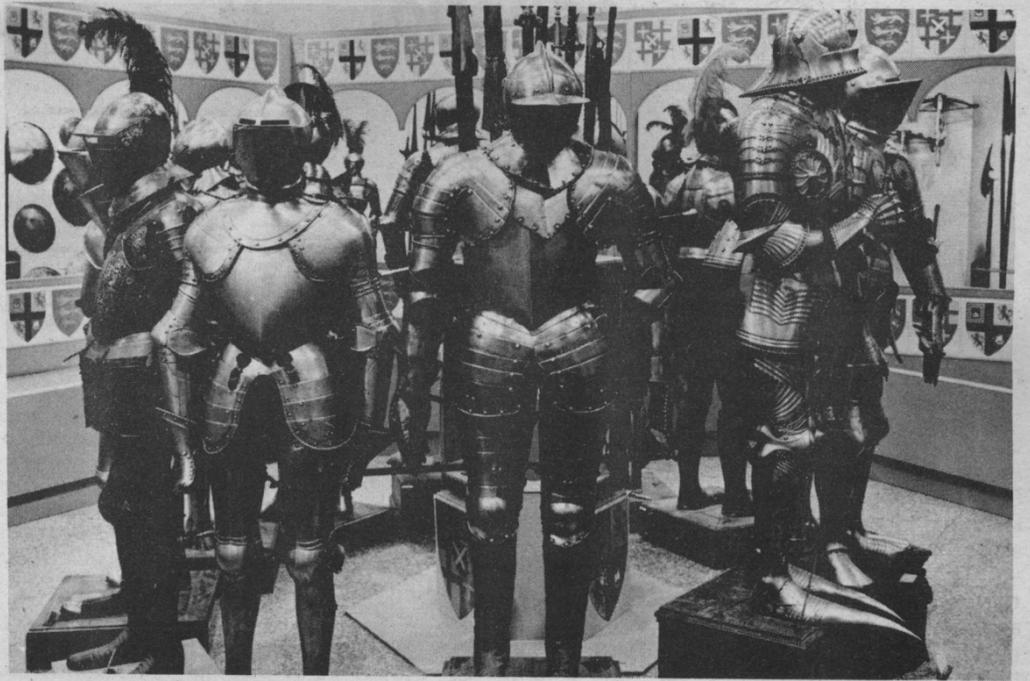
Prisoners return to cells

(ENS) - A Canadian experiment to let prison inmates go home for a few days at Christmas has paid off. Of the more than 1000 federal prisoners given three days out for the holidays, only 13 failed to return on time. Of those, eight were either captured or came back late on their own. All 54 convicts serving life sentences who were allowed to go home came back on schedule.

and was acquired by them from an American armour collector.

Twenty suits of armour are shown, from the era of the full flowering of plate armour, with tournament suits for the joust, foot soldiers' and cavalry suits of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. Most armour of that period was German and Italian, and this collection is typical of private armour collections around the world. Among the suits of armour are two with fluted surfaces in the Maximilian style, one English suit of a russet brown due to special oxidation, and several elaborately decorated suits of the German Gothic and Italian Pisan Styles.

In addition to authentic armour, the exhibition displays several varieties of swords, from huge two-handed swords to small courtly ones. Rapiers of the era of "the three musketeers" are displayed. Crossbows which propelled arrows or pellets with great force are included in the exhibition. One hundred different pole-arms are exhibited, from the pikes of foot-soldiers to highly decorated ceremonial pieces. Miniatures, including model



soldiers of medieval times, are also on exhibit. A unique statuette of Robert the Bruce of Scotland reveals the look of the knights of the crusades period. Eight metal models of knights will appeal to all ages. "Arms and Armour" will be accompanied by special programs at the Museum to set

the mood of late medieval and renaissance Europe. Special films during the holidays and January include full-length

Hollywood features, and such handicrafts as canvas stitchery and spinning will be demonstrated regularly.

University growth "mindless"

Halifax (CUP) - A Nova Scotia Royal Commission has sharply criticized "the mindless fashion in which many universities have been growing."

The report which covers a wide range of problems in provincial-municipal relations and public services argues that universities have moved away from their proper function in a search for larger enrolments and more money.

The overselling of education in the 1960s, led by the Economic Council of Canada, was based on what the commission calls "overstated and damaging arguments" which emphasized the amount of money a university degree would be worth to a person.

"By passively responding to higher and higher enrolment projections... without considering whether vastly increased numbers of university-educated people are needed, whether there are jobs for them or whether all of the prospective students want or can benefit from a university education, the universities have abandoned one of their primary responsibilities."

The commission, headed by Dalhousie University economist John Graham, also blames society as a whole for part of the universities' problems because of its "misplaced preoccupation with academic credentials."

Even though a student's course of studies might be totally unrelated to the job he was seeking, employers look on university degrees as the only acceptable form of credentials.

As a result, students are going to university not so much for a higher education as for "the certificates that would make them employable."

A better alternative for young people looking for credentials, the commission suggests, might in many cases be other post-secondary institutions or even on-the-job

training.

"The function of the universities is, or should be, primarily to provide an opportunity for higher intellectual study to those both able to pursue and interested in pursuing it, and, in some instances, to prepare people for the intellectually demanding professions."

The arguments of the 1960s that society benefits in economic terms for the universities have also been shown to be extravagant, says the commission.

If society is not reaping

tremendous benefits from those universities, the commission asks, why should it subsidize them so heavily?

The people who benefit most in money terms from a university education are the graduates themselves. Since they get the rewards, the commission argues, they should pay a heavier share of the cost.

Graham and his colleagues couple that suggestion with a strong recommendation for generous student assistance in both grants and interest-free loans. That, they say, would keep universities from being restricted to an economic elite.



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