

# News of the arts

## Historic ship exhibition

Sailing ships and steamers that once plied Canadian waters are featured in a new exhibition at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto until April 6.

Approximately 60 "ship portraits" are on view and each of the vessels is identified by name to provide an intriguing record of Canada's maritime history from the mid-eighteenth to the early twentieth century.

The ships were involved in many aspects of Canada's past exploration, military life, commerce and immigration. One of the earliest oil paintings in the exhibition, signed by Francis Swaine and dated 1760, is of *H.M.S. Vanguard* of Percé Rock. This ship, involved in sieges off Louisbourg in 1758 and Quebec in 1759, returned to Quebec in 1760 under the command of Robert Swanton as the flagship in the final siege that secured Canada for the British.

The War of 1812 stimulated the ship-building trade in Canada. One of the fascinating watercolours in *Sailing Canadian Waters* depicts the launching of the massive *St. Lawrence* from the Kingston naval yard. The ship carried 112 guns and, in 1815, was the largest vessel on the Great Lakes.

### First steamer across Atlantic

The first vessel to cross the Atlantic under continuous steam power in 1831 was the Canadian built *Royal William*. Early Canadian steamers were plagued, however, with technical problems and



The Nancy, a fur-trading vessel.

sailing ships, therefore, remained popular throughout the better part of the century. *Sailing Canadian Waters* records the mid-nineteenth century sail-ship building boom with pictures of the Nova Scotia built *Lydia X* and the *Magnolia Y*, both bound for Liverpool.

Better navigational methods and improved engines facilitated the transition to steam in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Among the steamship magnates competing to establish a Canadian Atlantic mail service was Sir Hugh Allan. A watercolour of the powerful *S.S. Sarmation* of the Allan Steamship Lines, in service from 1871 to 1908, reflects this quest for faster and cheaper transportation.



The Emmanuel Swedenburg was engaged in world-wide shipping during the 1800s.

## Revised publishing program

A revised program of assistance to the Canadian publishing industry has been approved by Treasury Board.

The new policy retains the funding level of \$5.4 million for this fiscal year as previously announced but revises the former criteria to encourage a more business-like approach to publishing decisions. Publishers must now concentrate on generating greater sales of their books to qualify for assistance, in contrast to the previous emphasis on simply producing new titles regardless of their marketability. In addition, the revised policy increases the weighting factor for regional publishers in recognition of the smaller markets and higher business costs which hamper their commercial viability.

The publishing program will be effective for three years, by which time it is expected that government and industry will have agreed on a long-term package of structural reforms and incentives for publishing. As well as marketing assistance, the program offers aid to publishers in improving their business and technological efficiency.

## National Gallery sends exhibitions on tour

The National Gallery will send 11 exhibitions to regional and local art galleries next year as part of its one-hundredth anniversary program.

Included will be works by charter members of the Royal Canadian Academy, donated when the academy and the gallery were both founded in 1880 by the Marquis of Lorne, then the Governor General.

Twenty-four communities from Newfoundland to British Columbia will receive displays.

Although the gallery has had a touring program for a number of years, this marks a new effort to have at least part of every show mounted in the National Gallery seen in other parts of Canada.

A private collection of South Asian sculpture given to the National Gallery by Max Tanenbaum of Toronto as a one-hundredth birthday present will tour during 1980 and 1981. Thirty-five works covering more than 1,000 years will be shown next year in Halifax, Edmonton, Saskatoon and London, Ontario.