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PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

The Department of External Affairs and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources announce the appointment of Dr. Arthur E. Blanchette, Director, Historical Division, Department of External Affairs, as Chairman of the Canadian National Section of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History. He succeeds Dr. S. G. Gamble, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. The new Alternate Chairman of the Section is Mr. L. M. Sebert, a senior officer of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. Biographical notes regarding Dr. Blanchette and Mr. Sebert are attached.

The Pan American Institute of Geography and History is one of the oldest specialized organizations of the Organization of American States. It was founded in 1928. Canada became a member in 1961. Its headquarters are in Mexico City. It is organized in National Sections which assist it in carrying out its programmes throughout the Americas. Its objectives are to co-ordinate, promote, and carry out studies, work, and training in the fields of history, geography, cartography, and geophysics of interest to member governments. Canada has been an active member of the Institute and the Canadian National Section has conducted several international scientific meetings of interest to member governments. It has also published a number of scientific and historical works regarding Canadian achievements in fields of concern to the Institute.

Other members of the National Section are:

- Member for Cartography -- Mr. T. H. Kihl,
Director of Map Production,
Surveys and Mapping Branch,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.
- Member for Geography -- Dr. Gordon Merrill,
Carleton University.
- Member for History -- Mr. F. J. Thorpe,
Chief, History Division,
National Museum of Man.
- Member for Geophysics -- Dr. G. J. Tanner,
Chief, Gravity Division,
Earth Physics Branch,
Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

ARTHUR BLANCHETTE

Mr. Blanchette was born in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1921 and attended the University of Ottawa (M.A., 1943, Ph. D., 1945). He served in the Wartime Information Board (later the Canadian Information Service) before joining the Department of External Affairs in 1947. He has served since then in Mexico City, Cairo, Pretoria and Lisbon, in addition to being Canadian Commissioner with the International Supervisory Commission in Cambodia. He was also Chargé d'affaires in Athens during 1966 and 1967.

At various times since 1942 he has lectured at the University of Ottawa in the field of modern history and political science. At present he holds the rank of Visiting Professor in the University's Institute for International Co-operation, where he has been lecturing since his return from Greece.

L. M. SEBERT

Mr. Sebert graduated in Engineering from the University of Toronto in 1940. On graduation he joined the Royal Canadian Dragoons and served overseas with this regiment until 1946. In 1947 he transferred to the Army Survey Establishment, the mapping agency of the Canadian Army. He retired from the Army in 1965 and joined the Surveys and Mapping Branch of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. He is at present holding the position of Head of the Mapping Program Section with this Department. He has been an officer of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History for the past ten years.