

In 1960, the Gallery entered a new era in its history when the entire national collection and the staff and equipment necessary to its maintenance were transferred to new modern quarters—the Lorne Building in downtown Ottawa—and, for the first time, the Gallery had adequate well-lighted space for hanging its permanent works of art and for displaying travelling exhibitions.

The Gallery's collections are of indisputable taste and quality. They have been built up along international lines and give the people of Canada an indication of the origins from which their national tradition is developing. The collection of Canadian art, the most extensive and important in existence, is continually being augmented by the purchase of works from the Biennials of Canadian Art and other sources. The collections of Old Masters include twelve important works acquired from the Liechtenstein collection; extensive war collections; the Massey collection presented to the Gallery during 1946-50 by the Massey Foundation; a collection of French paintings; prints and drawings; and diploma works of the Royal Canadian Academy. The prints and drawings collection, established in 1921 and the first to be organized in a Canadian art gallery, now consists of more than five thousand items.

The services of the Gallery include the operation of a reference library open to the public which contains more than 10,000 volumes and periodicals on the history of art and other related subjects; the operation of an Exhibition Extension Service which prepares and circulates travelling exhibitions, provides educational services such as lectures offered to the general public across Canada, and organizes guided tours for visitors to the Gallery at Ottawa; the production of publications, films, reproductions, didactic exhibitions and other aids to art appreciation; and assistance to Canadian artists participating in important international exhibitions such as the Biennials held in Paris, Venice and São Paulo. The Conservation and Scientific Research Division of the Gallery handles requests for technical information, investigations and restoration of paintings and other specialized problems concerning the handling of precious works of art. It is intended that the research laboratories will become the national centre for scientific research in the conservation of works of art.

Section 2.—Museums and Education

Modern museums, in Canada and elsewhere, are breaking away from the old concept of repositories and are assuming an important role as educational and cultural centres. They have an advantage over other agencies of education in that they are able to show actual, original objects rather than merely offering descriptions or pictures of such objects. Canadian museums of history and science offer many educational services to the public in addition to providing exhibits that are both interesting and informative. The following museums have staff members who are specifically charged with organizing programs in education and providing extension services:—

Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax, N.S.
McGill University Museum, Montreal, Que.
National Museum of Canada, Ottawa, Ont.
Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Ont.
Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History, Regina, Sask.

Other museums that conduct educational and extension programs using the regular curatorial and administrative staff are:—

The New Brunswick Museum, Saint John, N.B.
Museum of the Province of Quebec, Quebec, Que.
The Manitoba Museum, Winnipeg, Man.
Provincial Museum of Natural History and Anthropology, Victoria, B.C.

Direct work with schools may involve the holding of classes within the museum or visits of museum lecturers, with exhibits, to the schools. More informal are the guided tours for visiting school classes, the lending of specimens, slides, filmstrips or motion picture