

The Marquis of Lorne, then Governor General, had recommended and assisted the founding of the Academy and among the tasks he assigned to that institution was the establishment of a National Gallery at the seat of government. Until 1907 the National Gallery was under the direct control of a Minister of the Crown but in that year, in response to public demand, an Advisory Arts Council consisting of three laymen was appointed by the government to administer grants to the National Gallery. Three years later, the first professional curator was appointed.

In 1913, the National Gallery was incorporated by Act of Parliament (RSC 1952, c. 186) and was placed under the administration of a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor General in Council; its function was to encourage public interest in the arts and to promote the interests of art throughout the country. Under this management, the Gallery increased its collections and developed into an art institution worthy of international recognition. Today, the Gallery administration comes under the aegis of the Secretary of State. The Board of Trustees, now composed of nine members representing all sections of Canada, meets twice annually.

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 collection 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 own 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 include many Old Masters, among which are twelve acquired from the famous 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 consists of more than 5,000 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, which had been handling requests for technical information on works of art from public and private collections across Canada, was in 1964 renamed the National Conservation Research Laboratory. A major function of the Laboratory is the conservation of the national art collection. Studies are conducted also on the effects of environment on works of art, the durability of artists' materials and the scientific identification of artistic techniques. The services of the Laboratory are offered to government departments and other art museums.

Performing Arts Schools.—Music, the most widespread of the performing arts (which also include opera, drama, ballet and dance) is a degree course in a number of universities. The following offer degree courses:—

- Acadia University, Wolfville, N.S.—B.A. with music major, and Mus. B.
- University of Alberta, Calgary and Edmonton, Alta.—B.A. major and Mus. B.
- Brandon College, Brandon, Man.—B. Mus. (Education)
- University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C.—B.A. major and B. Mus.
- Laval University, Quebec, Que.—B. Mus.
- University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Man.—B.A. major and B. Mus.
- University of Montreal, Montreal, Que.—B. Mus. and D. Mus.