

Later, expansion of the exhibition halls was handicapped by the Museum sharing its building with the National Gallery of Canada and the Geological Survey of Canada. In 1927 the Governor General in Council gave authority "to designate the museum branch of the Department of Mines as the National Museum of Canada"; it is now part of the Department of the Secretary of State. During the past 20 years, particularly after the appointment of Dr. Frederick J. Alcock as Chief Curator, the Museum has increased its research, education and exhibition staff in order to play a more important role in the cultural life of Canada and perform the tasks properly assigned to the National Museum of Canada. A new National Museum building is planned for Ottawa within the next few years.

The responsibilities of a great museum include the collection, preservation, and storage of objects related to the various disciplines that fall under its purview. The next step is the undertaking of research by specialists in those fields and the publication of their findings to increase the total knowledge of their subjects. Typically, museums exhibit items from their collections as intrinsically beautiful displays and also to teach the public the scientific background to the subjects. This leads to the educational program of museums which usually includes lectures, workshops, guided tours for children and activity groups, travelling exhibits, loans, library service, and radio and television programs. The National Museum of Canada is now organized to present all these facets for the enjoyment and education of the people of Canada. It is divided into three Branches—the Natural History Branch, the Human History Branch and the Science and Technology Branch. The Natural History Branch contains the Divisions of Zoology, the National Herbarium, and Geology and Palaeontology. The Human History Branch contains the Divisions of Archaeology, Ethnology, Folklore and History, together with the Canadian War Museum. Science and Technology includes the physical sciences and all branches of technology and incorporates the previously existing National Aviation Museum. Services common to these three Branches are concerned with exhibition, educational, technical and administrative functions. During 1966, the National Museum recorded 287,468 visitors, the Canadian War Museum 235,603, the National Aviation Museum 167,039 and the National Aeronautical Collection at Rockcliffe 96,229.

The 1966-67 staff totalled 226, including 56 administrative and professional personnel, 85 technical, operational and service personnel, 41 clerical personnel and 44 casual and prevailing rate employees.

*The Natural History Branch.*—The 1967 field research program in natural history included a number of expeditions to various parts of Canada and adjacent areas. The work included investigations of birds in southern Ontario and in the Alberta Rockies, amphibians and reptiles of the Upper Columbia and East Kootenay Valley, B.C., and Pleistocene vertebrate faunas of the Yukon Territory. Studies were also continued on the freshwater molluscs of the Hudson Bay drainage basin, on coastal marine Bryozoa of Vancouver Island, and shallow-water crustaceans of Eastern Canada.

In addition, 14 projects on the taxonomy, distribution and ecology of various invertebrate animal groups were conducted by Canadian university staff and students under contract with the Museum. These included investigations on the planktonic rotifers of Ontario, crustaceans of lakes in Newfoundland, and sea cucumbers of British Columbia, as well as freshwater molluscs of marshes in Manitoba and southeastern Ontario, and marine boring bivalves of Eastern Canada. Additional studies were made on fishes of the Milk River in Alberta, and on frogs and toads of the Calgary area. A post-doctoral research grant was awarded for a study of Pleistocene fossil mammals of the Regina area of Saskatchewan.

The Museum also participated in oceanographic cruises sponsored by the Fisheries Research Board of Canada and the Bedford Institute of Oceanography in the eastern Pacific and western Atlantic regions, and in co-operative research studies on marine faunas of New England and the Gulf coast region of the United States.