

fighting vehicles and the air defence of Britain in World War I. Militaria and memorabilia continued to come from private donors and many new articles (vehicles, medals and uniforms) have been added.

The Communications Division plans and co-ordinates the interpretation and exhibition program in the permanent exhibit halls and organizes travelling exhibitions; 13 exhibitions are now in circulation, including the History of Early Domestic Lighting in Canada display for which requests have come from all across the continent, and one on Eskimo prehistory now circulating in the Northwest Territories. Plans for all permanent and temporary exhibit halls have been expanded and designs for the orientation, archaeology and ethnology halls were completed by the end of 1971 and are now being implemented and given physical form.

Since the closing of the Victoria Memorial Museum in November 1969 for extensive renovation and display redevelopment, exhibit planning and other display work for the seven major halls and for the travelling exhibition program has continued to occupy a large portion of staff time, reshaping as well as curtailing to some degree research and field work. Staff scientists attended a number of national and international conferences, lectured widely, acted as advisers for other institutions and countries, taught university courses, trained students, participated in planning exhibits in other museums and assisted with projects in other Canadian centres. The Museum's publication program has been substantially expanded, the Mercury series (in which manuscripts by Museum scientists are released in photocopy form in order to place them in the hands of students and faculty members as fast as possible) being particularly well received; and the Bulletin series of highly professional scientific writings was enlarged.

**The National Museum of Science and Technology** has the function of a cultural-educational institution, designed to bring scientific literacy to the visiting public and to familiarize them with the language, events and history of science. In the Museum, visitors are confronted with displays which, by means of artifacts and texts, demonstrate scientific principles and correlate them with the development of technology. Particular emphasis has been given to the technologies of ground transportation, aviation, agriculture, shipping and industry which have been so closely fused to the history of this nation.

The Museum displays are colourful and inventive, designed to involve people in the learning process. Visitors are asked to participate in experiments and in making things work; to explore the technological park; to ride in a double-decker bus or down a track in a gondola car; to push a button or wind a crank to learn some law of physics; or to sit in the driver's seat of a farm tractor or a giant steam locomotive. Museum collections are made available to other museums in Canada and abroad, with a view to bringing the story of science and technology to the widest audience possible. The National Aeronautical Collection, part of the Museum, is located in aircraft hangars at Rockcliffe, east of Ottawa. There are displayed some 50 of Canada's national collection of over 90 aircraft, together with engines and other artifacts relating to the development of aviation, so important in Canada and to which so many Canadian contributions have been made.

The Museum sponsors lectures on the history of science and technology. A systematic program of school tours for children in Ontario and Quebec has been developed to fit in with curriculum requirements. Broadly speaking, all programs are built around three general themes relating to national development — how man has overcome space and time in this vast land by various methods of transportation and communication; how man has changed his environment with science and technology and the tools he has built and used; and how man's living habits have changed as he moved from sod hut and log cabin existence to his present sophisticated environment. The Museum is planning publications to expand the content of its exhibits and to give popular accounts of Canadian scientific and technological achievements. The emphasis in the Museum is on being a bright, alert and lively showplace of the development and trends in modern science. New exhibits and temporary exhibits are added each year to make an approximate 20% annual change.

The National Museum of Science and Technology of Canada is in the vanguard of modern museums throughout the world which are emphasizing cultural-educational functions in lieu of traditional museum functions. Visitors to this Museum can have a meaningful experience in Canadian scientific and technological developments as well as in world advancements in these fields.