

anonymously; an album of photographs of the American Civil War donated by Phyllis Lambert; and *Homage to the Square: Stepped Foliage* by Joseph Albers, donated by Ronald Longstaffe.

7.8.2 The National Museum of Natural Sciences

This museum has seven divisions: Botany, Invertebrate Zoology, Vertebrate Zoology, Mineral Sciences, Palaeontology, Interpretation and Extension, and the Canadian Aquatic Identification Centre. Thousands of specimens, originating from field trips, purchases, donations and exchanges, are added annually to the reference collections. The National Herbarium contains more than 357,000 vascular plants, 126,000 mosses and liverworts, 45,000 lichens and 14,000 algae. The zoological collection includes about 2,500,000 molluscs, 635,000 crustaceans, 662,000 other invertebrates, 214,000 fishes, 70,000 reptiles and amphibians, 62,500 birds and 41,000 mammals.

Only part of the National Mineral Collection, containing approximately 16,000 catalogued specimens of gems and minerals, is displayed in the museum. Tens of thousands of specimens of minerals, rocks and ores from many regions of the world are contained in other collections of display and study materials. During 1975 almost 70 major research projects were undertaken by museum staff members or associated scientists from universities and other outside organizations. The museum provided financial assistance, facilities and field work for several National Research Council post-doctoral fellows, and collaborated with the National Parks Service in botanical and zoological surveys. The museum's High Arctic Research Program was in turn supported by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources through the Polar Continental Shelf Project.

The Vertebrate Palaeontology Collection contains more than 12,600 fossils, which includes rare dinosaur specimens. Research was conducted on reptilian diversity and environments before extinction of the dinosaurs, the Pleistocene fauna of Saskatchewan and the unglaciated region of the Yukon Territory, and fossilized pollen and spores.

The Canadian Aquatic Identification Centre (CAIC) sorts and identifies zooplankton, fish larvae and eggs, phytoplankton and other marine life. CAIC, with some 500 species in its reference collection, serves researchers, management, and survey and environmental agencies throughout Canada. Another unit, the Zooarchaeological Identification Centre, identifies and interprets animal remains found in archaeological investigations. This service studies both natural history and human history, and can identify the species of an animal from a fragment of bone.

In the renovated Victoria Memorial Museum Building, shared by the National Museum of Natural Sciences and the National Museum of Man, two floors were opened to the public in October 1974. They featured audio-visual presentations, visitor-operated displays, drawings, models and specimens from the museum collections in four permanent exhibit halls, given to geology, palaeontology and zoology.

A gallery entitled *The Earth* presents an explanation of the tectonic plate theory and shows how natural forces shaped and continue to shape the world. In *Life Through the Ages*, drawings and specimens of early Canadian plants and animals show how some species adapted to change, whereas others died. The most impressive of these specimens are the dinosaurs of western Canada's Cretaceous Period. The *Birds in Canada* exhibit features life-like dioramas of Atlantic, Pacific, and Arctic birds. *Mammals in Canada* presents dioramas of present-day Canadian mammals in authentic settings.

The museum's newest exhibit hall, *Animal Life*, completed in October 1976, shows Canadian animals through a 500 million-year period to the present. In addition, a visitor may be guided through the story of man's effort to understand the origin and diversity of animal life, to decipher its cryptic genetic codes, and to unravel the evolutionary process which relates all animals of the world to each other. A *Special Exhibits Hall* displays temporary and travelling exhibits from the museum and other sources.