

Varnishing day, such a homely title, reminder of housecleaning and vile, pungent odors—yet on the night of varnishing day, November 23, the 49th Exhibition of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts will open its doors in Montreal; not all the way, but just wide enough for the dazzling first-nighters to slip through. The few deb. dances and receptions preceding this date are merely heralds of an onrushing season. First Night at the Academy will be the true opening of the social year in Montreal, one that gives promise of brilliant activities.

Here will be gathered together the intelligentsia of the metropolis, the fair-haired, blue-eyed men and women from the consulates of the Scandinavian countries, the dark and dapper Italians, Venezuelans, Spaniards—artists whose work has won wall space, disapproving ones, artists' wives, and a host of fretted critics.

Lady Williams-Taylor will find a moment in her busy life for Opening Night. She is one who never allows her numberless duties to interfere with the patronage of art. Kenneth Forbes, we feel sure, will be there, and perhaps his lovely wife, though one dare not hope for a repetition of the 1925 feast of loveliness, when Mrs. Forbes faced her own portrait painted by her renowned husband, who is one of the most consistent exhibitors at the Royal Academy.

Alas, Suzor Cote will not be there to see his entries. We take these for granted, for who can visualise a Canadian exhibition without his work? He has been very ill, too ill this last year to follow his beloved art. There is a rather lovely story about him. At a party in Montreal some years ago, where the art world representation was sufficiently strong to expect Bohemianism, Suzor Cote sat back in a corner and watched the scene of animation with a twinkle in his quiet eyes. Wine flowed freely and the host, asking what could be brought to the distinguished guest, received the surprising reply "I drink only milk."

Great is the interest and the curiosity as to



—Paul Horsdale

Mrs. Harry Fleming, who before her marriage in St. Joseph's church, Ottawa, was Claire Kyte, daughter of Mr. G. W. Kyte, former Liberal Whip, and Mrs. Kyte. Dr. Harry Fleming, of Humboldt, Sask., is a son of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Fleming, Kingston

this year's entries. Who will be exhibiting and what is to be the predominant note, the particular significance of the Academy showing, the first in Montreal since 1925? One imagines that the Group of Seven and such regular exhibitors as Robert Pilot, Herbert Raine, Horne Russell and St. George Burgoyne—the backbone of Canadian art—will be well represented—but one can only conjecture. It is amusing and somewhat surprising for an outsider to learn that among Montreal artists there is group of young ones who will not exhibit in their own city—this as a protest

against the apparent conservatism of the powers that be in the Montreal art world. However, youth will be nobly represented by the works of Regina Seiden and Harold Beament. Regina Seiden has just returned from Paris and is greatly impressed with the work of *Les Independents*. It will be interesting to see how far the impression will be reflected in her already amazingly strong and simple work. Four of her portrait studies are the property of the National Gallery at Ottawa, and others were chosen for the Canadian Exhibition at Wembley. They all have a strong, almost masculine depth of beauty and a fine simplicity of line and color.

Harold Beament will enter landscapes. Deeply bitten some years ago by the Group of Seven influence, he has developed an individual treatment at once free and clean. He endows rugged subjects with the atmospheric charm that is rarely given by an artist other than Nature.

Although the exhibition of the Royal Academy is the rare jewel in the crown of events in Montreal this season, there are others that have attracted wide interest

Several hundred little gems in engraving and wood blocks were put up on the walls of the Polish consulate early in September, and in a few weeks' time the majority of them and the best found purchasers. Mr. B. Cory Kilvert led off the Art Gallery exhibitions on September 24 with a showing of overmantel decorations, paintings of ships for the most part, beautiful old galleons and reproductions of ancient maps. Mr. Charles Simpson's historical pictures will hang in the Print Room from October 15 to the end of the month, and Mrs. Munro has an exhibition of oils from November 5th to 20th of the month. All these will be in the print room of the Montreal Art Gallery. From October 15 to November, the large lecture room will have an unusually interesting exhibition conducted by the Canadian Handicrafts Guild. This year the Guild celebrates its coming of age, and for its 21st birthday party will present a remarkable range of Canadian crafts, from hand-weaving and rug making to the work of silversmiths and artists in glass and pottery. Past years have seen an exhibition of work that is Canadian in its narrow sense. This year the scope will be broadened to include the work done by the new Canadians, the foreigners who are making their way in this new country. The interest of the show will be greatly increased by this, and further contrast of great instructive value will be introduced by the presence of a fine loan exhibit of the hand crafts of foreign countries, made possible through the courtesy of various consulates in Montreal.

An interesting birth announcement comes from Victoria. To Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hall, a son. Mrs. Hall, before her marriage, was Miss Gwen McPhillips, daughter of Mr. Justice McPhillips. During previous visits of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, she was often chosen as his dancing partner. On this last visit, H.R.H. did Mr. and Mrs. Hall the honor of a personal call.



—C. P. R.

Miss Frances James, of Montreal, who sang two songs of the period of Mary, Queen of Scots, at the Highland festival at Banff, Alberta



—Neol Smith

Sir John Martin Harvey, as Andre Louis Morceau in his recently produced Scaramouche which he brings to Canada early in 1928

—Walter Mackenzie

former Miss Nanette diner is a Montreal fine reputation

ndrye, Canadian and French Canadian, ng and lore, was in New York from the been doing research ribes of this country, r and explaining why French form of the or so ago in the famous sister Eva ad for the same prot confusion and mis- by the name being d from that day, the ancient form, e. Miss Gauthier is Mr. Louis Gauthier, er, of Ottawa. Her as Dr. Gauthier, a d her mother was George, of Berthier,

te woman ventured per Esquimaux, to s of ritual in song- Stoney Indians and that twelve braves o Banff and in their nacted with her the with George Hunt, hutles, the cannibal terror of the west ir home along the r Island. George ho furnished the a the history of the He is consulted by over, and at the five is capable of of sixty five tribal