

Press release

PORTUGAL'S PREMIERE

For the first time since Expo 67, Portugal is among the 12 countries represented at Man and His World.

Although the pavilion has no established central theme, it still shows every aspect of cultural life in Portugal, and a look at the Portuguese community of Montreal. There are 50,000 Portuguese in Montreal, and 150,000 in Toronto.

Exhibitions and shows will take up a very important place in the pavilion. The most important will be the celebration of the 800th anniversary of the founding of the Cistercian Order, whose seat is the Alcobaça monastery in Portugal. This display is co-ordinated with a diorama illustrating the history of the famous monastic order.

Portuguese art in many forms -- ceramics, tapestries, paintings, embroidery, lace -- will hold forth at the pavilion, accompanied by a folk atmosphere of music and songs.

Literature, too, holds a special place with a salute to Portugal's great author Alexandra Herculano, a display of photographs and documents trace the life and political thought of this famous writer whose centenary is being celebrated this year.

In addition, exhibitions of Portugal's architectural, geographic and human richness will show other facets of this land renowned for its wines and sunshine.

The history and activities of the Portuguese in Montreal will also be highlighted. Their contribution to the life of Montreal and Canada is becoming more and more significant, and they now hold a major position in the Canadian mosaic.

A walk through the Portuguese pavilion is almost like a trip to that sunny, sea-washed land.