

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER GENERAL  
CANADIAN WORLD EXHIBITION, MONTREAL, 1967  
800 VICTORIA SQUARE, SUITE 2022  
MONTREAL 3, P.Q., CANADA. AREA (514) US 1-1776

THE AMERICAN SPIRIT

GENERAL

The arts and crafts which first flowered in the wilderness of the New World emerged from the inherent skill, energy, and ingenuity of a people who championed the kind of freedom that would allow them a choice as to how they would live as well as how they would worship. Commerce as well as conscience motivated them and a spirit of adventure was intermingled.

The accomplishments of our historic background are revealed in the artifacts that have been preserved, and the rich heritage of the preceding three centuries of the United States of America exists primarily because of the handskills of our forebears. The urge to build, to make, to mold, to select, to bring order (even to the simplest task) was a part of their being. They built and they created in an ancient tradition, supported by the accumulated experience of centuries but with a new freedom of thought and spirit induced by the virgin lands they had come to. These people knew intimately the beauty of natural forms; they were familiar with ancient symbols and crafts; and they loved color. The early American settlers lived, breathed, worked and played in the midst of bright and shining colors of the New World, greens of the forests, trees, and shrubs, blues of the sky and the sparkling sea, vivid sunsets and springtime galaxy of flowers. The end product of every art and skill practised was bound up with color in one way or another.