



PHOTO : PHOENIX STUDIOS

A NEW PAINTING OF KATERI

Madam Andrée Sobosca de Groot painted this new picture of Kateri last autumn at Mission Saint-François-Xavier. Miss Kateri Beauvais, an Iroquois girl, served as model. Madam de Groot is of French Polish origin; she studied art under Maurice Desvallières and Maurice Denis of the famous Ateliers d'Art Sacré of Paris; she also studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Paris, etc. Many international exhibits of her paintings have attracted considerable attention, particularly in Europe, South America and Canada. She was a member of the faculty of Fine Arts at the Universidades Bolivariana of Medellin and Xaveriana of Bogota in Columbia, South America. Several of her works have won official recognition, for instance in Paris in 1937 at the Salon d'automne as well as at the World Fair, and at Rio de Janeiro in 1940. Her specialties are composition and special techniques, especially fresco-work. Her husband, Dr. Jan de Groot, who is quite an artist himself, is a faculty member of the Arts Section of the French Canadian Université de Montréal.

Before mixing her colors for this painting, the artist carefully studied the relation of a vision which occurred on the 3rd of September, 1681. Here it is—from Father Choleneq's Life of Katherine Tegagouita, written in 1696:

"This fervent Christian (Kateri's friend, Anastasia), after everyone had gone to bed in the hut, remained alone in prayer that evening. Feeling herself overcome by sleep, she lay down upon her mat to rest, but she had hardly shut her eyes when she was awakened by a voice which called her with these words: 'Mother mine, arise'. She recognized Kateri's voice and immediately, far from being afraid, sat up and turning in the direction whence came this voice, she saw Kateri, brilliant with light standing close by. Part of her body, up to the waist, was concealed in this brightness; the other half according to this woman, shone like the sun. She held a cross in her hand which was more brilliant than all the rest, and from it proceeded so much light that I do not believe that, here on earth, it is possible to see anything more beautiful.

" 'I saw her', she went on, 'distinctly in this position, awake as I was, and she spoke these words which I also heard distinctly: Mother mine, look at this cross. Oh! how beautiful it is! It was the cause of all my happiness during my life, and I counsel you also, to make it yours' ".

H. B.