

# News of the arts

## Music Council announces awards

The Canadian Music Council has announced the winners of its third annual media awards.

The awards for radio, television and recordings were created in 1977 to encourage excellence of musical production in these three fields. This year however, the awards were open to television productions and recordings only; the 1980 competition will be for radio only and will alternate accordingly from year to year.

The winner in the best serious music telecast category was the CBC-TV English Service for *Music East, Music West: The Toronto Symphony in China*, produced, written and directed by Norman Campbell.

The best original score for a television drama or documentary was awarded to the CBC-TV English Service for *The Massey's: Chronicles of a Canadian Family*, produced by Vincent Tovell.

The award for the best music education telecast was given to the Radio-Canada TV French Service for *Veux-tu devenir chef d'orchestre?*, featuring Mario Duschenes and produced by Evelyne Robidas.

## Federal aid for feature films

The Canadian Film Development Corporation (CFDC) invested \$6.3 million last year in 30 feature films.

Executive director Michael McCabe said that the CFDC also invested \$900,000 in 56 film projects at the pre-production or development stages, compared to \$400,000 for 40 projects in 1977.

Last year's feature films — 18 English, 12 French — had combined budgets totaling \$50 million, compared with investments of \$1.6 million in 1977 in 20 productions with total budgets of \$5.5 million.

Mr. McCabe said the CFDC concentrated last year on investment in films with international appeal.

"If it takes stories with wide appeal and international stars to reach screens around the world, then that's what we'll invest in," he said.

Among the international stars who worked in Canada last year were David Niven, Michael Douglas, Ava Gardner,

Catherine Deneuve and Tony Curtis.

On the other hand, Mr. McCabe pointed out that, while Canadian productions had attracted stars, the CFDC was also helping Canadian actors such as Helen Shaver, Monique Mercure, Hollis McLaren and Chris Wiggins to gain international attention.

## Artistic harmony

*The Great Canadian Equalizer*, a ten-by-16-foot mural made of silk-screened porcelain on steel, was christened recently at a government building in Ottawa. The 60-panel mural is the work of Ottawa artist Jerry Grey.

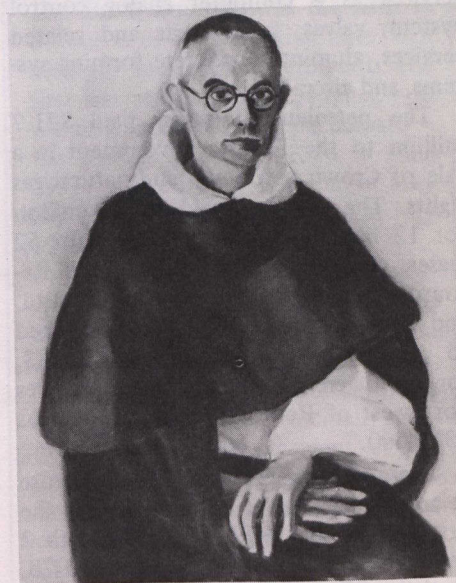
The "durable, almost indestructible work of art" gives Canada's 15 geographical areas equal time and space, stating that Canadians can live together in "rep. by pop." harmony.

Each area has been granted four panels. On one panel, 172 heads of "representative Canadians" have been reproduced. They include Grey Owl, Norman Bethune, Emily Carr, and "Rocket" Richard.

## Portraits by Louise Gadbois

The Museum of Modern Art of Montreal recently presented an exhibition of some 40 portraits painted by Louise Gadbois between 1938 and 1955.

During the Thirties, Montreal art still reflected a conservative ideology. It was



Portrait of Rev. Marie-Alain Couturier, 1941, by Louise Gadbois.

during that period that a group of artists including Louise Gadbois, rejecting conformist tendencies in painting, founded the Société d'art contemporain in May 1939, which became the proponent of "art vivant" in Quebec, with affinities to the Paris school.

The arrival of Father Marie-Alain Couturier in Montreal in 1940 strengthened the *avant-garde* movement begun by the Société d'art contemporain.

Under his influence, Louise Gadbois took inspiration from the painters of the Paris school, particularly Cézanne. When she left the Montreal art sphere, it was among these painters that she sought support.

## NFB films take seven awards

The National Film Board took top honours winning seven awards at the twenty-first annual American Film Festival held in New York recently.

The festival's blue ribbon for humour went to the Oscar-winning *Special Delivery* by NFB animators John Weldon and Eunice Macaulay.

Other blue ribbons were awarded to *Sami Herders* by Hubert Shuurman in the anthropology category and *Why Me*, directed by Janet Perlman and Derek Lamb, in the mental health category.

Bill Mason's *Song of the Paddle* tied with another NFB film, *Nature's Food Chain*, directed by Marie-Paule Henot, for a red ribbon in the nature and wildlife competition. A red ribbon also went to *Patricia's Moving Picture*, directed by Bonnie Sherr Klein, in the lifestyles category. *I Wasn't Scared*, by Gilles Walker, won an honourable mention.

## Arts briefs

Johannes Cardinal Willebrands, Primate of Holland and president of the Vatican Secretariat for Christian Unity, recently opened the Royal Ontario Museum exhibition "A Saint in the Late Roman Empire: The World of Basil of Caesarea". Cardinal Willebrands was in Toronto for a symposium on the life and teachings of St. Basil, one of the foremost leaders of the fourth century Christian church.

Sondra Gotlieb was recently named the winner of the 1979 Leacock award