SHARON POLLOCK WINNER OF 1987

CANADA-AUSTRALIA LITERARY PRIZE

The Department of External Affairs, the Canada Council, and the Australia Council announced jointly today that the winner of the Canada-Australia Literary Prize for 1987 is the Canadian playwright Sharon Pollock. The prize consists of $3,000 and a trip to Australia. Pollock was one of six Canadian writers whose works were selected by a jury appointed by the Canada Council. A jury appointed by the Australia Council then chose the winner.

The prize is designed to make Australians and Canadians familiar with each other's writers. It is awarded annually in alternate years to an English-language Canadian writer or an Australian for the author's complete works. Writers of fiction, poets, and playwrights all are eligible. Next year an Australian writer will receive the cash award and a journey to Canada.

The award is administered in Canada by the Canada Council and in Australia by the Australia Council. Canadian funding is through the Department of External Affairs as part of its program for the promotion of Canadian literature in foreign countries. Australian funding comes through the Australia Council.

Canadian winners of the award have been Alice Munro (1977), Michael Ondaatje (1979), Leon Rooke (1981), Mavis Gallant (1983) and Jack Hodgins (1985). Australian winners have included John Romeril (1976), Thomas Shapcott (1978), Roger McDonald (1980), Barry Oakley (1982), Les A. Murray (1984) and Rodney Hall (1986).

Rodney Hall, as part of his prize, is making a tour across Canada and giving readings from his works. He will be giving a reading and will receive his prize officially at a ceremony at the National Library of Canada, Ottawa, on 16 February 1988.