

# News of the arts

## Dictionary of Canadian biography

Volume IX of the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography – Dictionnaire biographique du Canada* contains biographies of persons who died between 1861 and 1870, including James Fitz-Gibbon, soldier, Abraham Gesner, scientist, Laura Secord, heroine, Simon Fraser, explorer and Thomas Molson, brewer, distiller and merchant.

The dictionary, prepared and published with the help of a grant from the Canada Council, is one of the most ambitious works of scholarly publishing ever undertaken in Canada. Published in both languages (the French edition is expected in February) through the co-operation of the University of Toronto Press and the Presses de l'Université Laval, it represents the work of many historians, research assistants, editors and translators across Canada. It contains résumés of from 400 to 12,000 words, of biographies of the numerous politicians, explorers, educators, artists and legendary heroes who contributed significantly to Canada's history.

Volume IX is the fifth to appear since the beginning of the project in 1959. It has been preceded by volumes I, II and III (years 1000 to 1770) and X (1871-1880). Editors hope to complete the twelve volumes which make up the first stage by 1983. The second stage will deal with the twentieth century.

The \$482,564-grant, awarded this year under the Canada Council's major editorial grants program, brings to \$1,142,954 the amount awarded to the dictionary by the Canada Council during the past several years.

## Canada Council arts support doubles

The Canada Council helped bring the arts to more people in more places during 1975-76 than ever before, says the Council's nineteenth annual report, just released. During the three-year period since 1972-73, Council assistance reached more than twice as many cities, towns, and settlements.

The Council also draws attention to the growth in the range and variety of the arts over the past few years, calling it "a phenomenon of central importance which is not as widely recognized as it should be."

In the year under review, the Council spent \$30.4 million on grants and services to the arts, compared to \$25.3 million for the humanities and social sciences.

## Theatre

Among the arts disciplines, theatre received the largest subsidy, a total of \$7.2 million in support of 102 theatre organizations in 38 towns, double the numbers in 1972-73.

In music, a total of \$6.96 million was shared by 153 organizations in 52 towns (68 organizations in 20 towns in 1972-73). The grants enabled orchestras to give more concerts at home, as well as on tour. Some, such as the Atlantic Symphony and the Quebec Symphony, performed between 25 and 30 per cent of their concerts out of town, often in places not served by a resident orchestra. "Another indicator of the upsurge of interest in the arts across the country," says the report, "is that more and better amateur choirs are coming to the Council's attention." In 1975-76, close to 50 choirs received grants, four times as many as in 1972-73.

## Publications

The Council's assistance to writing, publication and translation amounted to \$5.2 million. In three of these programs alone (block and project grants to book publishers and aid to periodicals) grants were given to 149 publishers in 38 towns and cities across Canada, compared to 116 publishers in 19 centres three years ago. In addition, 135 institutions in 74 communities received grants for public readings by Canadian writers during 1975-76, compared with 37 institutions in 27 towns in 1972-73.

## Visual arts

The Council spent a total of \$3 million, including support to 62 art galleries, museums and workshops, more than twice as many as in 1972-73. In addition, the Council's Art Bank purchased \$756,000-worth of Canadian contemporary art for rental to government departments and agencies. In film and video, \$1.3 million was given in 99 grants to individuals and organizations in 27 centres.

In the field of dance, where Council assistance totalled \$4.1 million, changes in policy enabled the Council to

assist eight new organizations for the first time and to provide substantial increase to four other contemporary dance companies.

## Anglo-American libraries adopt new cataloguing rules

Representatives of the British Library, the National Library of Australia, the National Library of Canada, and the U.S. Library of Congress met at the Library of Congress recently to discuss co-operative aspects of cataloguing. One of the major topics was the impact of the impending promulgation of two major compilations of standards approaching the final stages of editing.

The first of these is the second edition of the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules (AACR II). The latest information for AACR II indicates that simultaneous publication of the unified text is unlikely to occur before mid- or late 1978.

The four libraries agreed that the minimum allowable period for "gearing-up" was six months, preferably longer. This would mean they would not be ready to implement AACR II until mid-1979 at best. The libraries further agreed it would be highly desirable to make the adoption of AACR II coincide with the cumulation patterns of their printed bibliographies and catalogues, which are based on the calendar year. They accordingly recommended machine input of new titles in conformity with AACR II should begin in late 1979, based on the lead time required to prepare and process entries appearing in the first 1980 issuances of printed and machine-readable cataloguing records.

The second compilation in progress is the nineteenth edition of Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC 19) which is scheduled to appear in 1979. The four libraries felt strongly that adoption of DDC 19 should also be targeted for January 1, 1980, for substantially the same reasons cited as for AACR II, but also because simultaneous adoption of AACR II and Dewey 10 would ease conversion efforts individually and co-operatively.

Accordingly, the four libraries announced immediately their concurrence in a joint strategy for implementing AACR II and Dewey 19 effective January 1, 1980.