



Louis Quilico and Maureen Forrester in the Canadian première of *Cendrillon* by Jules Massenet. Behind them are Gabrielle Lavigne and Michèle Boucher. Maureen Forrester chairs the Canada Council (Photo: Fernand R. Leclair)

Opera

Since the presentation in Montreal of Charles Dibdin's *The Padlock* in 1783 to the founding of what became the Canadian Opera Company in 1947, lyric theatre has known more downs than ups, with the healthy exception of Montreal in the later period. The Variétés Lyriques (1946-55), the Opera Guild (1941-69) and the Montreal Festival (1940-65) gave, at that time, this metropolis a greater share of music theatre activity than any other city.