

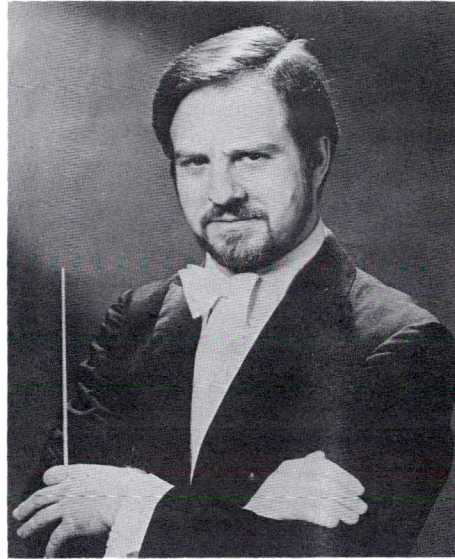
News of the arts

Canada's greatest concert

Winnipeg's Centennial Centre was a-glitter with glamour on May 28, when the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra staged what was billed as "Canada's Greatest Concert." The event was presented as a tribute to the 97-piece orchestra and its conductor, maestro Piero Gamba.

Musicians came from round the world: from Mexico – pianist Gyorgy Sandor, from Paris – flutist Jean Pierre Rampal; from Madrid – pianist Jorge Bolet, and others came from New York, Rome and Los Angeles. José Ferrer, actor, served as master of ceremonies introducing popular entertainer Harry Belafonte and dancers José Greco and Nana Lorca; as well as classical musicians: pianists Gary Graffman and Jeffrey Siegel, violinist Ruggiero Ricci and Winnipeg cellist Zara Nelsova.

The 2,000 seats were sold out to a crowd of music lovers and "star-gazers" who had paid up to \$250 for a ticket. The event, which lasted nearly four hours, concluded with Hettena's *Tot Concorto*, featuring guest soloists: Manitoba Lieutenant-Governor F.L. (Bud) Jobins, Mayor Stephen Juba of Winnipeg, Italian Ambassador to Canada Giorgio Smoquina, and Winnipeg businessmen and journalists, who played tin whistles, paper bags and



Maestro Piero Gamba, music director and conductor of the Winnipeg Symphony, won the position from a score of international candidates in 1971.

rattles.

The theatre lobby was decorated with white statues imported from Italy, and Sicilian wine was served courtesy of the Italian Embassy.

Symphony manager, Leonard Stone proclaimed the event the most exciting and most profitable of the orchestra's history. The audience proclaimed it a major success with a standing ovation to cheer their home orchestra and its conductor, maestro Gamba.

Canadian films honoured in U.S.

The National Film Board won seven awards – five first place blue ribbons and two red ribbons – at the nineteenth American Film Festival that ended in New York on May 28.

Among the winners were several of the NFB's most popular new films, including Oscar nominees *The Street* and *Volcano: An Inquiry into the Life and Death of Malcolm Lowrey*, as well as the Robert Flaherty award-winner *Los Canadienses*.

Caroline Leaf, an animator whose films have already received international awards and praise, was a double winner at the festival. In the Language Arts category, *The Street*, her 10-minute animation based on Mordecai Richler's short story, won the blue ribbon award, while *The Owl Who Married A Goose*, based on an Inuit legend, took a second place red ribbon.

Volcano, directed by Donald Brittain with John Kramer and Bob Duncan, took top honours in the feature length Arts category, and *Los Canadienses*, directed by Albert Kish, won in the International History and Culture section.

Bargain Basement, a half-hour dramatic film by John Smith, won a blue ribbon in the Fiction category, while *Face of the Earth*, directed by Bill Mason, came first in the Curriculum Films: Science section.

The Working Class on Film, Susan Schouten's film on NFB founder John Grierson, his early documentary work and philosophy, won the red ribbon in the Cinema and Television category.

André Lamy, Government Film Commissioner and NFB Chairman, and Vice-chairperson of the Film Board Mrs. Roma Franko, were among those who accepted the prizes at the awards dinner in New York.

Success elsewhere

The prizes at the American Film Festival came on the heels of the NFB's success at Cannes, with its film *J.A. Martin, photographe* winning two awards. Monique Mercure shared the best actress award for her leading role in the movie, while the film itself tied with a Swiss production for the International Ecumenical prize.

The NFB films honoured in New

Rare Jewish books donated to the National Library

Secretary of State John Roberts and Dr. Guy Sylvestre, National Librarian, have announced the acquisition by the National Library of the Lowy collection, consisting of 2,000 Hebraic and Judaic rare books with an estimated market value of close to \$2 million. The collection, considered to be one of the finest of its kind in the world, was amassed during the past 45 years by Jacob M. Lowy of Montreal.

"The Lowy collection stands as the most valuable single bequest that the National Library of Canada has received since it was created in 1953," Dr. Sylvestre said. "Scores of the individual books are literally invaluable and several are unique, no other copies being listed elsewhere among either private or institutional world library collections. The collection has immeasurable significance for world

scholarship," he added.

The acquisition of the Lowy collection increases tenfold the Library's holdings of incunabula (or cradle-books) produced before the age of printing in 1500 A.D. The Lowy collection includes over 40 incunabula in Hebrew and in Latin, several very rare bibles and editions of the Talmud and its Codices, many unique.

One of the collection's outstanding features is a group of 27 early editions of the works of the great Jewish historian Flavius Josephus, who lived during the first century of the Christian era. These editions, half of which were printed before 1600, are in English, French, Greek, Italian, Dutch, Czech, Spanish and German. The most valuable of this group is a copy of the first printed Latin edition published in Augsburg, Germany in the year 1470.