

National Library acquires noted author's papers

The National Library has acquired from one of Canada's leading authors, Gabrielle Roy, a large collection of literary documents and personal papers which reflect the evolution of her career.

The collection includes the author's manuscripts, several in different versions, and some unpublished works, as well as rare examples of feature articles and fiction which appeared years ago in periodicals. It also contains the scripts of a film made from one of Gabrielle Roy's novels, publishers' proofs, books with handwritten notes, and the foreign-language editions of some of this writer's novels and short stories. In addition, there are the medals that Ms. Roy has received throughout her career, memorabilia, personal letters, and correspondence with other writers and publishers.

Before becoming a full-time writer, Ms. Roy was a teacher in Manitoba for eight years and, from 1937 to 1945, was associated with several newspapers and magazines in Quebec and France, contributing short fiction and articles. Her career as a journalist was quite different from those of most of her female colleagues: she wrote general feature articles with a sociological focus. Writing mostly for the *Bulletin des agriculteurs*, she covered topics such as new settlement, natural resources, and working conditions in the mines.



Gabrielle Roy

She broke into the literary world in 1945 with a remarkable first novel, *Bonheur d'occasion* (translated in 1947 as *The Tin Flute*), which, by its realistic portrayal of urban life, set itself apart from the traditional French-Canadian rural novel. *Bonheur d'occasion* won an award from the Académie canadienne-française in 1946 and won the French Prix Femina in 1947; the same year, *The Tin Flute* was selected by the Literary Guild of America. The novel has been translated into many foreign languages

(Danish, Norwegian, Romanian, Russian, Slovak, Spanish, and Swedish) and has been made into a film which will soon be released in both English and French.

Gabrielle Roy is the author of many novels and short stories, set mostly in Montreal, Manitoba, and the Canadian Arctic. Her best-known works include *La Petite Poule d'Eau* (*Where Nests the Water Hen*); *Alexandre Chenevert* (*The Cashier*), *Rue Deschambault* (*Street of Riches*) and *La route d'Altamont* (*The Road Past Altamont*), which have been translated into many languages. Ms. Roy was elected to the Royal Society of Canada in 1947 and was awarded an honorary doctorate from the Université Laval; she won the Governor General's Literary Award (1955), as well as the Prix Duvernay (1956) and the Prix David (1971).

Film producer signs contract with Columbia Pictures

Canadian producer-director Norman Jewison has entered into a deal with Columbia Pictures to make seven films in the next four years.

Under the \$30-million agreement, Mr. Jewison will make three films in Canada and four in the United States.

Guy McElwaine, president of Columbia Pictures, said he had been wanting to make such an arrangement with Mr. Jewison for a long time, in the belief that "Mr. Jewison makes quality films that people go and see".

Mr. Jewison, who will direct one of the Canadian and two of the American films, has directed several pictures over the past 20 years, including *The Russians Are Coming*, *The Russians Are Coming*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and most recently, *Best Friends*. He is currently producing, with associate Patrick Palmer, director Fred Schepisi's *Ice Man*, being filmed in British Columbia.

The Canadian producer said that apart from the talent and resources pool, available in Canada, film production is also 20 per cent cheaper than in the United States, largely because of the exchange rate.

The new arrangement, which begins immediately, is not exclusive, but only gives Columbia Pictures the right of first refusal to a project. The four-year period may be extended if Mr. Jewison takes time off from the arrangement to make films for another studio.



Scene from *The Tin Flute*, taken from the book of the same name by Gabrielle Roy.

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