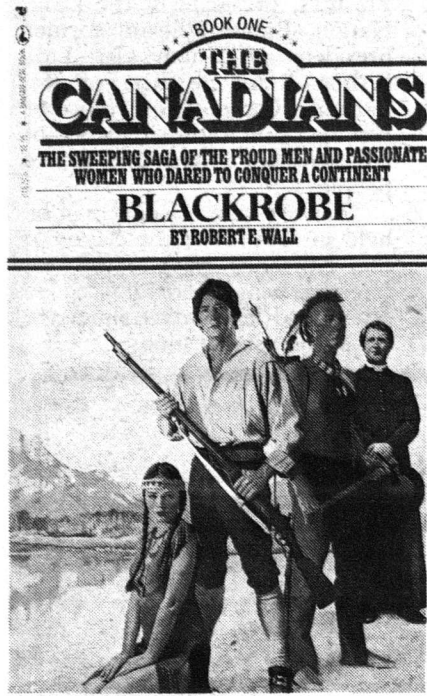


Writer's first book should be his last

The Canadians
Vol. 1 - Blackrobe
Robert E. Wall
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review by Jens Andersen

I took this historical novel to review a month ago, read a chapter and just about vomited. I whipped off a review based on the first chapter and handed it to the arts editor.

"No way," she said, "You can't judge a book on one chapter."

"That was all I could stand."

"No way."

"But one can tell from the first chapter that it's a dog. There simply aren't any people in it; it's a parade of rubber stamps... cardboard cut-outs

"No woman would do what Mrs. Nowell did in the first chapter. She is in a fix and she seeks aid from a man she has loathed and detested from the moment she first set eyes on him. She could have gone to a dozen other people for help, and she is hardly stupid. The author forces her

to do it, against the laws of nature, so he can contrive a rape scene.

"Before the man rapes her he browbeats her for a good sum of money for his help. Despite her disgust, and intelligence, despite other possible helpers, despite the fact she is described on page six as having ferocity in her character, despite the fact she probably doesn't have much money, she allows herself to get browbeaten.

"Furthermore, on page 35 she shrewdly sees through a sharp Jesuit priest. On page 36 another man slobbers over her like an engineering student in heat and she can barely figure out what is the matter with him. No woman like this could exist; it's against every principle of biology. And the Indians..."

"Well," said the arts editor, "read at least one more chapter anyway."

So I did. And a third chapter. Then I skipped to the end of the book and read

the last chapters, and dipped into the middle for a few pages.

Rot. All of it.

— Like for instance Karl, the rough, bawdy soldier, who talks in character one minute ("My mother was the best whore in the city.") and like a grade nine social studies teacher the next ("The defence of New France depends on this fortress.")

— Like the nobler than noble Mrs. Nowell.

— Like the nastier than evil Mr. Pierce and Wiggins, and the madder than deranged Father Lalonde.

— Like the saltier than salty Captain Vaughan.

— Like the allegedly deep and heartfelt love affair that springs up between the Captain and Mrs. Nowell.

— Like the consummation of this romantic love affair in a highly unromantic act of cunnilingus

— Like the melodramatic and made-

for-TV battle of Louisberg.

— Like the rumble-bumble and pish-posh that passes for dialogue.

But perhaps I complain too much. After all, one can always tell the good guys from the bad guys, which is a damn sight better than you can do in real life.

And when the author reaffirms for the six billionth time the brotherhood of man, one never has to worry about Pierce, Wiggins or Lalonde acting human enough to apply for benefits.

Or if it is written on one page that honesty is the best policy there is no danger that on the next there will be the heartbreak of some sweet but homely woman asking a man what he thinks of her hairdo.

This too is better than real life: no fuss, no muss, no ulcers or uncertainty.

In short, just what the *lumpen-proletariat* ordered. I predict that the book will be a huge success.

LBJ of Montreal to come to SUB

Le ballets jazz de Montreal is Canada's only dance company that has consistently dared to be different and managed to be good.

It has flaunted many of the more restrictive and conventional concepts of what a dance company should be and in so doing has won thousands of converts to a joyous new kind of dance artistry.

Le Ballet Jazz de Montreal is coming to perform their unique Jazz ballet at SUB Theater February 24 and 25.

It has had a number of ballets choreographed especially for it by such well-known names as Brian MacDonald, Lynn Taylor-Corbett, Herb Wilson, Buzz Miller and Rael Lamb.

It has also commissioned music from such Canadian composers as Claude Leveillee, Lee Gagnon, Paul Duplessis and Trevor Payne.



There has been a change in the SUB Theatre Guide schedule.

Ordinary People is not available for its scheduled date Feb. 22.

In its place will be the Australian film, *My Brilliant Career*, about a struggling authoress in the Australian outback at the turn of the century.



Summer Leaders Wanted!

The City of Edmonton, Parks & Recreation Department is looking for summer leaders for the following programmes:

PLAYGROUNDS

- Minimum 16 years of age
- Ability to lead children's activities in arts & crafts, games, sports, drama and music.

DAYCAMPS

- Minimum 18 years of age
- Camping experience

HANDICAPPED DAYCAMPS

- Minimum 16 years of age
- Camping experience

SPORTS CAMP

- Minimum 16 years
- Ability to lead sports activities such as basketball, volleyball, water polo.

Applications will be accepted until Wednesday, March 4, 1981 at the following locations:



District Recreation Office —

SOUTHEAST	432-0244 - 9914 - 76 Avenue
SOUTHWEST	436-4270 - 11507 - 74 Avenue
CENTRAL	428-5119 - 112 Avenue & 74 Street
WEST	484-2257 - 15625 Stony Plain Road
NORTH	428-5817 - 12304 - 107 Street

Parks & Recreation, Main Office - 428-3555 - 10004 - 104 Avenue (CN TOWER) 10th Floor
Student Manpower Centre - University of Alberta, Students Union Building - 4th Floor

THE CITY OF **Edmonton** PARKS AND RECREATION