

# News of the arts

## Arts projects get grants

The Canada Council has awarded 75 grants totalling \$447,553 under its explorations program. The grants were awarded for specific projects in such fields as film, theatre, research and writing, music, photography, crafts and communications.

The explorations program encourages creative projects, in or outside the traditional arts disciplines, which contribute to an understanding of Canada's cultural past and the development of its cultural future.



Doll creations by Janis Stewart.

Janis Stewart, a doll-maker from Sussex, New Brunswick and Michel Doyon, an expert in iconography from Quebec City, were two who received grants.

Ms. Stewart has created 234 dolls of many kinds over the last two years, including a large number of historical reproductions. Exhibits of her dolls have aroused great interest among artists and the public.

With her grant Ms. Stewart will create portraits of five families who lived in New Brunswick at the beginning of the century. Each family group, made up of dolls dressed in authentic costumes, will be integrated into a backdrop to form a wall hanging. The portrait collection will be exhibited at city hall in Saint John and in various arts centres in New Brunswick on the occasion of the province's bicen-

John Rag

ennial. The council's grant provides the opportunity for the historical research required for this project and production of the portraits.

Michel Doyon, who is an expert in iconography (the visual representation of a subject), has received a grant for research on the origin and rise of photography in Quebec City in the nineteenth century. The research will include examination of the different techniques which preceded invention of the photographic image, especially as practised in that city between 1775 and 1839 (camera obscura, dioramas, etc.), and will trace the subsequent development of the art of photography, from daguerrotypes to slides. Mr. Doyon, who has studied art in Quebec City and Montreal, has experience not only in historical and iconographical research but also in organizing and setting up exhibitions.

## Book prizes

Three books — a novel, a biography and a nineteenth-century diary — will share the City of Toronto Book Award for 1980.

They are *Basic Black With Pearls* by Helen Weinzwieg; *Big Daddy: Frederick G. Gardiner and the Building of Metropolitan Toronto* by Timothy J. Colton; and *Young Mr. Smith in Upper Canada* edited by Mary Larratt Smith. The two authors and the editor will share the \$5,000 award.

The trio was chosen the best of a couple of dozen books published during 1980 that dealt with some aspect of life in Toronto.

*Basic Black with Pearls* is the second novel of Helen Weinzwieg, who came to Toronto from her native Poland when she was nine. In the novel, the heroine relives her immigrant years in the Spadina district during her search for a lover.

Timothy Colton, who wrote the biography of Metropolitan Toronto's first chairman, teaches political science at the University of Toronto and is currently writing a history of Moscow.

Larratt Smith, who died almost a century ago, began his diary after he came to Toronto from England in 1833 when he was 12. It offers a fascinating look at the city's social and political life in the middle third of the nineteenth century. Editor Mary Larratt Smith, who lives in Vancouver, is the diarist's granddaughter.

## Los Angeles film screenings

The Los Angeles County Museum recently presented a retrospective of National Film Board of Canada films following the success of a similar program at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

The Los Angeles screenings were a condensed version of the New York program at the Museum of Modern Art which opened last January and continues through the summer. Part one of the two-part retrospective featured work prepared by Louise Beaudet, head of the NFB's animation department in Montreal. The second part comprised NFB documentary films.

James de B. Domville, chairman of the Film Board, addressed 300 guests invited to a special screening and reception following the opening of the retrospective. Canadian-born actors such as Lorne Greene, John Vernon and Lloyd Bochner attended the reception along with American actresses Fay Wray and Zsa Zsa Gabor.

A third retrospective of NFB classics is scheduled for the Chicago Art Institute in the fall and a similar series is planned for Washington later in the year.

## Historical look at music publishing

The National Library of Canada has published *Music Publishing in the Canadas, 1800-1867*, which outlines the historical context of pre-Confederation music publishing in Canada.

The text details the contributions of book publishers, newspaper and periodical publishers, and sheet music publishers to the production of printed music during the period. It then discusses contemporary methods of printing music and British-Canadian copyright laws of the time. Numerous illustrations of sheet music covers and printed music pages appear throughout.

Six appendices supplement the textual material. They present chronological and publisher/printer lists of music books, a list of newspapers and periodicals which include music, a directory and a synoptic chart of sheet music publishers, and a checklist of plate numbers. A bibliography and an index complete the book. It can be ordered from the Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Supply and Services Canada, Hull, Quebec, K1A 0S9.