

# News of the arts

## Book sets records

Pierre Berton's newest book, *The Invasion of Canada*, set printing records even before its publication, the book's publisher says. Jack McClelland says *Invasion's* first Canadian printing was in excess of 100,000 copies — the largest first printing of any hard-cover book in the 75-year history of McClelland and Stewart Ltd.

The figure represents retail sales in Canada of more than \$2 million, excluding book club sales.

*The Invasion of Canada* is the first of two books planned by Berton about the War of 1812. Berton has worked on the book for more than two years and has already signed a contract for U.S. publishing rights with Atlantic-Little Brown, McClelland said.

## Throat singers imitate nature

Lucy Amarualik and Alaci Tulaugak do not know how old they were when they first learned to throat sing. "They do not remember how old they were," explains their Inuktitut interpreter, "because they didn't know anything about ages then."

The two Inuit women — Mrs. Amarualik is 45 and Mrs. Tulaugak is 48 — come from the peninsula community of Povungnituk in northern Quebec.

The community of 800 has developed an awareness of its past and of its culture and the loss of that culture. About 18 years ago an Inuit priest in the town encouraged the women of the community to preserve a tradition known as throat singing. Actually a game, the custom as practised in Povungnituk takes at least two to play. A pair or a quartet of women stand inches away from each other, they breathe rhythmically in and out, producing a raw, guttural sound with a melody that haunts with its primitive beauty.

"In the past there was no traffic, no noise at all," explains Mrs. Amarualik. "The ancestors decided to imitate the sounds around them. When you hear a river, you sing what the river sounds like." The titles of their songs clearly reflect the connection to their environment and everyday practices: *Song of a River*, *Sound of Panting Dogs*, *Song of Seaweed*, *Song of Cooking Seal Flippers* and *Song About a Thumb*.

Men used to throat sing, but as western southern influences encroached, they began to see the practice as not true singing; they now insist that they "really know how to sing". As time passed throat singing took on effeminate connotations, and now only the women engage in the tradition.

Mrs. Amarualik and Mrs. Tulaugak have become its emissaries. Since 1972, they have travelled outside the isolated community to Montreal, Toronto's Mariposa Folk Festival and Pete Seeger's Great Hudson River Revival Project in Lagrangeville, New York.

## Canada at the Dinard Festival

A delegation from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland represented Canada at the eleventh International Festival of Youth and Sea held this autumn in Dinard, France.

The Atlantic provinces provided a display which included three exhibitions: *The Drover Exhibition*, a collection of prints depicting Newfoundland inshore boats of the nineteenth century; *The Inuit*, photographs of Canadian Arctic Inuit; and an exhibit by Nova Scotia on recreation and education. Three Canadian films were also screened: *Games of the XXI Olympiad*, *Who Has Seen the Wind?*, and a short, entitled *Mers canadiennes*.



Eighty-one-year-old fiddler Rufus Guinard (left) of Newfoundland meets France's Minister of Defence and the Mayor of Dinard Yvon Bourges (right), while Deputy Mayor Marc Bonnel (centre) looks on.

Canadian pianist Hélène Mercier gave a recital of classical music and the Acadian folk-rock group 1755 performed for festival-goers. Newfoundlanders Rufus Guinard and Kelly Russel, fiddlers and master dancers of the jig performed. Mime Brian Staveohny also participated in the festival.

The Canadian program also included two lectures, one on Arctic ecology given by Michèle Therrien, a researcher at the Centre d'études arctiques (the Centre for Arctic Studies) in Paris, and the other given by New Brunswick's Minister of Fisheries Jean Gauvin. During his visit to France, Mr. Gauvin met with François Essig, Director General of the Merchant Marine in the Ministry of Transport. Canada's Ambassador Gérard Pelletier hosted a reception during the festival attended by French officials including the Minister of Defence Yvon Bourges and the Minister of Recreation and Sports Jacques Soisson.

## World theatre festival

Canada will be the host country for the 1983 World Congress of Amateur Theatre and International Theatre festival, according to John Ytteborg, secretary-general of the International Amateur Theatre Association.

Countries from around the world participate in the event, which is considered the theatrical equivalent of the Olympic Games. The host city in Canada has yet to be determined by the National Multicultural Theatre Association.

## Arts briefs

British-born Peter Stevens has been appointed executive director of the Stratford Festival, the festival board has announced. Stevens, who comes to the festival from the Schubert organization in New York will be the festival's chief operating officer and will report directly to the board.

David, a half-hour documentary about a courageous youth with Down's syndrome, has won its fourth international honour. Telecast last season by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, the documentary was recently named best film on developmental disabilities at the tenth Annual Film Festival on the Exceptional Individual, held in California.