

*Christopher Pratt* is, with all its slickness and even glibness, a genuine attempt to show what Pratt really is like and what his pictures are about.

Silcox's preliminary essay is breezy and informative. Merike Weiler's conversational afterword 'Reflections' is a watery biographical meander with the artist. All in all, however, the book is earnest and honest and attractive to hold and look at.

### John Holmes

The second volume of John Holmes' history of Canadian Foreign Policy, *The Shaping of Peace: Canada and the search for World Order, 1943-57*, has been published by the University of Toronto Press. This review is taken from a longer review by David Stafford, a history teacher at the University of Victoria in *Books in Canada*, December 1982.

John Holmes was an officer of the Department of External Affairs from 1943 to 1960 and for much of this period was an assistant undersecretary of state with special responsibility for the United Nations. He thus speaks with knowledge and authority, but with the self-confessed bias, too, of a serving diplomat.

This second volume (the first appeared some three years ago) presents Canada's foreign policy in the 1943-57 period as a successful game played for high stakes by a group of admirable and able men. Written by an insider for insiders, it's replete with those metaphors of the mandarin that set themselves apart as a breed on their own. 'Being a middle power,' Holmes tells us—and much of this volume describes in thorough detail how Canada learned this important role—'was hard work, but it was also good sport.' Leading the play for most of this period was Lester Pearson, whom Holmes frequently describes as a quarterback, and whose personal Super Bowl came at Suez when he successfully promoted the idea of a United Nations emergency force.

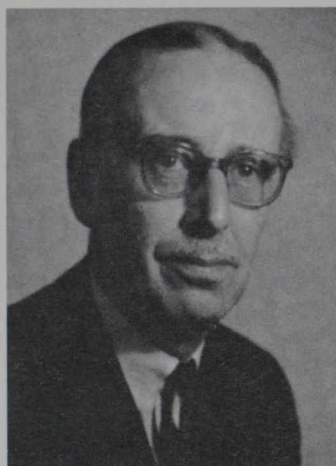
'The diplomacy and the policies of Canada in the decade after the war,' Holmes concludes, 'were designed for masters at the game.' Let us be truly Canadian and even the score by changing from an American to a British sporting

metaphor. This is Test Match cricket seen from the members' pavilion.

### Charles Ritchie

'*Charles Ritchie is a natural born diarist*'—C. P. Snow

*Diplomatic Passport* reveals that as a diarist Ritchie is second to none. It is no exaggeration to say he is a glittering ornament to Canadian literature'—Ken Adachie, *Toronto Star*.



*Diplomatic Passport, more undiplomatic diaries, 1946-1962*, first published in 1981, is now available in the United Kingdom from Macmillan London Limited. This is the latest work of the celebrated Canadian diplomat and diarist Charles Ritchie. It follows on from *The Siren Years*, his highly successful account of the wartime years, which he spent largely in London. In this latest book we follow Ritchie through his assignments in Paris, Ottawa, Bonn and at the United Nations in New York, the latter two as Ambassador. Although Charles Ritchie was one of the most senior officers of Canada's diplomatic service and played an important role in shaping Canada's postwar foreign policy, there is little in these diaries of what one would call 'official business'. Rather, they consist of acute observations of the people and the society in which he lived. John Grierson, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Nancy Mitford, Elizabeth Bowen and Dag Hammarskjöld are but a few of the personalities described with perception and wit. Ritchie hesitated before publishing these diaries, thinking the record too

personal for publication within his lifetime. Readers of this volume will be grateful that he decided to let the record stand.

### Film

#### Michael Snow

Michael Snow is widely recognized as one of Canada's leading contemporary artists. Though best known in this country as a film-maker he has worked as a painter, sculptor, musician and photographer. Among his films are *Wavelength*, one of the richest of structuralist films, *La région centrale*, an extraordinary epic of landscape and camera virtuosity, *Rameau's nephew*, an exploration of language/sound/image relations, and *A casing shelved*, not really a film at all but a single slide transformed into a movie by guiding sound.

A retrospective of the work of Michael Snow is taking place at the Canada House Cultural Centre January 9-28. This provides a rare opportunity to see and assess Snow's films as a whole, together. The retrospective features the British premieres of two recent Snow films, the controversial *Presents* and *So is this*, which, with a characteristically bald and witty gesture, is constructed entirely with words. The exhibition also provides a first opportunity to view several of Snow's slide and sound pieces and the remarkable doubled-sided screen installations *Two sides to every story*.

### Miscellaneous

#### Commonwealth Institute Exhibition



A new Canada Exhibition has opened at the Commonwealth Institute in London's Kensington High Street. The exhibition which was opened by the then High Commissioner, Mrs Jean Casselman Wadds, will dispel some of those myths about Canada being a remote, cold and uninviting part of the world. So too will it explain to the public just how sophisticated has Canadian society become. Through snowmobiles and laser sail boats to the Challenger Executive Jet and the manipulator arm for the NASA Space Shuttle, Canada demonstrates its achievements in the field of high technology. Floating above a model of the Toronto CN Tower, the tallest freestanding building in the world, is a copy of Hermes, just one in a long series of telecommunication satellites which put Canada number three in the world of space communications.

Main attraction in the exhibition is an informative illuminated map. By pressing buttons on the control console a display of Canada's natural resources, routes of pipelines, major cities and the Trans-Canada Highway, is revealed. School parties will find it invaluable when doing their geography projects.

A visit to the Commonwealth Institute could really be worthwhile if you are one of those people whose impressions of Canada were formed out of a school geography book. Additionally you will have the advantage of visiting the exhibitions for many of the other Commonwealth countries. The Commonwealth Institute is open to the public seven days a week, 10 to 5.30 Monday to Saturday, 2 to 5 on Sundays.

#### Arc on the Move

*The Arc on the Move* series which is being broadcast on BBC television from early January is the result of a co-production agreement between Primedia, a Canadian company and the BBC. Canadian producer Paula Quigley and BBC producer Alastair Brown worked together on the 13 part series which examines the rescue and breeding of endangered animal species on Madagascar, Mauritius and a number of smaller islands in the Indian Ocean. The star of the series is Gerald Durrell.