

LITERARY AWARDS

Books by six Canadian writers have been chosen by the Selection Committee for the 1970 Governor General's Awards. They are the novels *The New Ancestors* by Dave Godfrey and *La femme de Loth* by Monique Bosco; four volumes of poems by bpNichol (sic); a book of prose and poetry, *The Collected Works of Billy the Kid* by Michael Ondaatje; a play, *Quand nous serons heureux* by Jacques Brault; and a collection of essays, *Les actes retrouvés* by Fernand Ouellette.

The award to bpNichol is for the collections of his poems *Beach Head*, *Still Water*, and *The True Eventual Story of Billy the Kid*, as well as for an anthology edited by him, *The cosmic chef: an evening of concrete*.

These prizes will be presented in Ottawa on May 18 by Governor-General Roland Michener. The authors will also receive cash prizes of \$2,500 each from the Canada Council.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The award-winning books were chosen by the Selection Committee from an estimated 300 literary works by Canadians published in 1970. Robert Weaver, of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and *Tamarack Review*, was head of the Committee's English-language jury, which also included the literary scholar and former Government Film Commissioner, Hugo MacPherson, and the critic Warren Tallman of the University of British Columbia. The head of the French jury was the Ottawa writer Claire Martin, and the other members were the critic André Renaud of the University of Ottawa, and the Montreal writer Jean Simard.

The Selection Committee was autonomous and self-perpetuating from the inauguration of the prizes in 1936 by the Canadian Authors Association until last year, when the Canada Council named replacements for several members whose terms had expired. The Council has looked after the financing and certain aspects of administration of the Awards since 1959.

The Canada Council will enlarge the Selection Committee to 18 for the next Governor General's Literary Awards, thereby reducing the reading task. Three sub-committees, one each for fiction, non-fiction and the combined category of poetry and drama will be formed.

ERNEST RUTHERFORD STAMP

Twenty-four million stamps honouring Sir Ernest Rutherford, a pioneer of atomic research, will be issued by the Post Office on March 24. The six-cent commemorative stamps, in orange, red and black, measure 40 mm by 24 mm.

Ernest Rutherford, a native of New Zealand, was born on August 30, 1871. After he graduated from university in New Zealand, Rutherford studied at Cambridge University in England, where his work with the well-known physicist, J.J. Thomson, led to his study of radiation.

Rutherford came to Canada in 1898 to accept an appointment as professor of physics at the Macdonald Laboratory of McGill University, Montreal, where he conducted a series of experiments from which he developed his theory of the spontaneous disintegration of atoms. His findings made McGill University the world centre of atomic research at that time and established Rutherford as a leading authority on radioactivity. So thorough was Rutherford's work in atomic research that it became the basis for developments in nuclear physics in the twentieth century.



The design for the Rutherford stamp was created by Ray Webber of Toronto, who also designed the recently-issued stamp commemorating the discovery of insulin. Commenting on this latest design, the Post Office Design Advisory Committee said: "Although none of us can see atoms, most of us have an image of them as a sort of miniature planet circling around a nucleus. Mr. Webber has caught this image with great skill and has added to it the sense of energy which is contained in the burst of light. It symbolizes the great energy that the harnessing of the atom has given to us and which, unseen, affects so much of all our lives."

CANADIAN TO UN POST

Professor Douglas V. LePan, formerly of the University of Toronto and the Department of External Affairs, has been appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations as an expert consultant to assist in the preparation of a report on the economic and social consequences of the arms race and of military expenditures. The Secretary-General's report will be compiled in accordance with a resolution that Canada co-sponsored at the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly, calling on all governments to extend their full cooperation to the Secretary-General to ensure that the study will be carried out in the most effective way and requesting that the report be transmitted to the General Assembly for consideration at its twenty-sixth session.