

lapidary restraint of Margaret Atwood, whose *Selected Poems* (1976) is her most substantial and representative selection. Other notable poets of recent decades have been Phyllis Webb, Leonard Cohen, John Newlove, Margaret Avison, Alden Nowlan, Gwendolyn MacEwen, Michael Ondaatje and George Bowering. An especially interesting trend (it is not organized enough to be called a movement) among the younger poets has been towards a renewed return to the landscape, though in much less conventional ways than the Confederation poets a century ago. The writers representing this trend — among them some of the best of younger Canadian poets — include Patrick Lane, Dale Zieroth, Sid Marty, Tom Wayman and Susan Musgrave. They are mostly from the prairie provinces and British Columbia, and they show a westward inclination that in recent years has be-

come very noticeable in Canadian writing.

The cultural forces of the country, like the political and economic ones, have been shifting radically in recent years, and the days when Montreal and Toronto were the literary centres of English-speaking Canada are already in the past. Not only the West, but the Maritime provinces of the Atlantic coast are producing many interesting new writers and new movements in theatre and other areas close to literature. Northrop Frye once remarked that, whatever its political shape, Canada is culturally decentralist, and Canadian writers have recently been proving it by their variety of approach, which is as much regional as it is personal.

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