

## Toronto's Bach 300 festival

A series of concerts and recitals by internationally acclaimed Canadian, US and European artists are being scheduled in Toronto, Ontario from March 8 to 24, 1985, to mark the three-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Johann Sebastian Bach.

Canadian participants will include: flutist Robert Aitken, the Moe Koffman quintet, mezzo-soprano Maureen Forrester, tenor Mark DuBois, harpsichordist Scott Ross, organist Mireille Lagacé, singer Ann Mortifee, the Canadian Brass and jazz pianist Oscar Peterson. Mr. Peterson will perform his own concerto for piano and orchestra commemorating the anniversary of Bach's birth on March 21.

Among the other well-known musicians invited to take part in the festival are: French flutist Jean-Pierre Rampal, British harpsichordist Trevor Pinnock and American jazz pianists Keith Jarrett and Chick Corea.

## Films win awards in Paris

Canada was the grand winner of three awards at the fifteenth l'Union internationale des associations techniques cinématographiques (UNIATEC) conference held in Paris, France in October.

One of UNIATEC's two awards for excellence went to Toronto filmmaker Wilson Markell for his film *Un essai de colorisation*. The National Film Board's *Zea*, an experimental film directed by André Leduc and Jean-Jacques Leduc, earned one of the five awards of honour and Norman McLaren received a special award for his life's work in filmmaking and for his most recent and last film *Narcissus/Narcisse*.

Members of UNIATEC include technical film associations from both eastern and western countries. Two notable members are the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE) and the British Kinematograph, Sound and Television Society (BKSTS).

## Paperback prizes

The eighth annual Author's Awards, designed to honour outstanding English-language paperback books and mass-market magazine articles and short stories, were presented recently in Montreal.

Toronto writer Timothy Findlay won first place in the fiction category for his *The Last of the Crazy People*, a disturbing account of a summer in an 11-year-old boy's life. Heather Robertson's *Willie: A*

*Romance*, a witty account of Prime Minister MacKenzie King's life, took second place.

*Intrepid's Last Case*, by William Stevenson, author of the successful *A Man Called Intrepid*, won in the non-fiction category, with Vancouver columnist Allan Fotheringham's *Look Ma ... No Hands*, a biting look at the federal Conservatives placing second.

Richard Rohmer, who has written a

number of bestsellers, was named author of the year, while Dennis Jones's *Rubicon One* was named book of the year. Both are non-financial awards designed to recognize such factors as sales and popularity.

The annual awards are sponsored by the Foundation for the Advancement of Canadian Letters in conjunction with the Periodical Distributors of Canada.

## Western Canadian printmaker honoured in exhibition

The Winnipeg Art Gallery recently commemorated the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of one of its talented and noteworthy artists with an exhibition of his works.

The exhibition, *Walter J. Phillips: Printed Works*, included a selection of etchings, colour wood blocks, wood engravings, drawings and watercolours created by the artist during his career as a printmaker when he lived in Winnipeg. The works were drawn largely from the collection of The Winnipeg Art Gallery, with selections from the collection of John P. Crabb of Winnipeg.

Walter J. Phillips was born in England in 1884. He emigrated to Winnipeg with his family in 1913 and in addition to teaching commercial and art subjects began to create etchings. In 1940, he accepted a teaching position at the Banff School of Fine Arts and in 1941 moved to Calgary, Alberta to teach at the Institute of Technology and Art. He died in Victoria, British Columbia in 1963.

### Woodblock printing technique

Etching was one of the earliest mediums that Walter Phillips worked in but he soon became dissatisfied with its black and white limitations. During his service in the First World War he discovered woodblock printing, a long-neglected European technique, experiencing a western revival under the influence of imported Japanese prints.

In woodblock printing, the artist uses a block of wood formed by cutting along the woodgrain. This surface is engraved with knives, gouges and/or chisels to produce a relief design. When the design is inked and a piece of paper laid over it and then rubbed, the design impression is transferred onto the paper.

A colour woodblock requires a separate block for each colour; each block must be carefully aligned or "registered" to ensure correct placement of the colour areas. By using various techniques and materials, such as graduated washes or colour application, different woods and specially-treated papers, the artist has a greater range at his disposal to create works.

Another technique, wood engraving, used



Monastery, St. Norbert, (1915), an etching by Walter J. Phillips in the collection of The Winnipeg Art Gallery.

by Walter Phillips later in his career, employs a block formed by cutting across the grain, which produces a much harder piece of wood and requires stronger tools.

### Landscape recorded

Walter Phillips responded to Canadian landscape from the time he immigrated to the country. He found Canada's landscape diverse in mood and season and he became a sensitive recorder of its variations. In his earliest colour woodblocks he dealt with the Lake of the Woods area; later he travelled to the Muskoka area of Ontario, the prairies, Rocky Mountains and the west coast.

By the end of his career, Walter Phillips had produced more than 160 different prints.

Over his career, his work appeared in many exhibitions both in Canada and internationally. He was active in the arts community and in 1926 he helped found the Manitoba Society of Artists and organized several exhibitions of western Canadian art.

Walter Phillips was elected an associate of The Royal Canadian Academy in 1919 and appointed a full member in 1933.