

Historical exhibition reflects Chinese Canadian community

An exhibition of 185 photographs of Vancouver's Chinese Canadian community, most of which have never before been on public view, opened March 30 at the Vancouver Art Gallery and continues through June 16.

The exhibition, *Gum San*/Gold Mountain — Images of Gold Mountain 1886-1947*, was organized by gallery/curator Jo-Anne Birnie Danzker and co-sponsored by Vancouver's Chinese Cultural Centre. It was funded by grants from the Canada Council and the government of British Columbia.

Ms. Birnie Danzker said that the exhibition marks several historic firsts for a major Canadian visual arts institution, chiefly that of collaborating with one of the city's senior ethnic communities on a project which addresses the "imaging" of an ethnic minority from a historical, social, political and aesthetic perspective. "The Vancouver Art Gallery has taken a significant first step in working with one of Vancouver's senior ethnic communities, and producing a show of this magnitude and historic importance," she said.

The aim of the exhibition was to investigate photographic documentation of the Vancouver Chinese-Canadian community, and the moral and aesthetic issues surrounding documentary photography. The exhibition also considers how the photographic "frame" has contributed to, or broken down, stereotypical perceptions of the Chinese-Canadian community.

The exhibition catalogue is also un-

* Gum San which translates as Gold Mountain, was the name given to North America by early Chinese immigrants who viewed it as a land of opportunity and a land of plenty overflowing with riches.



Courtesy: Patrice Chu

Photo of child movie actress Shirley Temple (left) with Vancouver Chinatown queen Grace Kwan, taken by C.B. Wand at the Chinese carnival in 1936.

precedented said Ms. Birnie Danzker. It is the first ever published by a major gallery in Chinese and English. The essays deal with the Chinese Canadian experience from a primarily pictorial point of view. An extensive chronology of events from 1858 through 1983 relating to the community is the first such document assembled and published in both languages. A selected reading list on the Chinese in Vancouver is also included in the catalogue.

A Certain Mr. Takahashi wins major first novel prize

Ann Ireland recently won the 1985 Seal First Novel Award, the world's biggest award for debut novels, with *A Certain Mr. Takahashi*. The award consists of an outright prize of \$10 000 and a \$40 000 non-returnable advance on royalties.

A Certain Mr. Takahashi, chosen as the best from among the record 600 manuscripts submitted, will be published this fall in hardcover by McClelland and Stewart and in the fall of 1986 as a Seal paperback. Bantam Books will do an American edition next year and the British rights have been acquired by Bantam Press in London.

Seal publisher Janet Turnbull said that *A Certain Mr. Takahashi* stood out from the other submissions as the most original in both style and content. "There is nothing

typical about this book, yet it is a highly accessible novel that will find a broad audience among readers," she said.

The novel describes the relationship between two sisters in Victoria and their pursuit of an exotic new neighbour, concert pianist Yoshi Takahashi. The plot is described as an exploration of the special friendship shared by sisters and reveals the nature of a bond that is built on trust, filled with rivalry and tested by betrayal.

Miss Ireland has studied in Toronto, Mexico and British Columbia. During the 1970s, she had several short stories published in a number of west coast literary magazines. She has worked for the Writer's Union of Canada, the Canadian Book Information Centre and *Owl Magazine*.

Support for 'adult' music

Canadian Talent Library (CTL), a 23-year-old record production and distribution operation servicing about 250 radio stations and cable-casting companies, has been merged with the Foundation to Assist Canadian Talent on Records (FACTOR).

Peter Shurman, president of the radio division of Standard Broadcasting, said the new organization, Factor/Ctl, will start with a budget of more than \$1 million and guidelines for future financing are being reviewed to allow for "significant" increase in the support of 'adult' contemporary and middle-of-the-road music.

CTL is operated by Standard Broadcasting Corp. Limited of Toronto and FACTOR, a vehicle for awards and loans to artists and producers, is administered by the Canadian Independent Record Production Association on behalf of a number of major broadcasting companies, recording studios and music industry organizations.

Authentic Indian dolls



Dorita Grant of Sooke, B.C. recently had her work exhibited at the Dunlop Art Gallery in Regina, Saskatchewan. With a background in needlework and ceramics, Dorita Grant's interest in the early culture along the northwest coast has led her to make these meticulously detailed dolls with feet, hands, and heads modelled in ceramics and authentic costumes of Chilkat blankets, reed costumes made of jute, and button blankets.