

News of the arts

France/Canada literary prize

The eighteenth France-Canada Literary Prize was awarded to André-C Bourassa on November 7 for his book *Surréalisme et littérature québécoise*, published by Les Editions l'Étincelle.

The award — worth \$250 — is given to a Quebec writer by the Quebec Department of Cultural Affairs. Mr. Bourassa's book was chosen over Jean-Paul Filion's work, *Les Murs de Montréal*, by a vote of five to three in the third round.

Pierre Emmanuel of the Académie française was chairman of the jury composed of members from France and Canada.

Mr. Bourassa's work deals with the advent of surrealism in Quebec, which is said to have occurred after the arrival of André Breton in Montreal during the Second World War. André Bourassa describes the period from 1940 to 1955, not only in literature but also in the arts.

The author is a professor of Quebec literature at the University of Ottawa.

The national poster collection

Posters, although produced in large numbers, are easily damaged and disappear more quickly than other graphic works. If dominion archivist Arthur Doughty had not kept up a systematic acquisitions campaign during the two world wars, neither the Canadian War Museum's collection nor that of the Public Archives of Canada (PAC) would exist.

The PAC now has a poster collection numbering about 9,000, comprising an international collection in which the two wars are well represented, along with election campaigns and a number of cultural events. There are also a considerable number of European lettered posters from the First World War.

Archivists have visited various institutions abroad — including the Library of Congress in Washington, the Metropolitan Museum and the New York Historical Society in New York and the poster museum in Warsaw — in order to study their cataloguing and storage methods.

The Picture Division of the Archives is in the process of preparing files of slides with the aim of presenting a history of the Canadian poster, based on the PAC collection.



National Arts Centre poster by Vittorio Fiorrucci (1975).

An important event of the acquisitions campaign was the gift in 1978 of the poster collection belonging to the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. It covers the history of the first ten years of the NAC, one of the most prolific poster-producing institutions in Canada. Approximately 850 works have been deposited in the Archives in return for colour slides and a copy of the catalogue.



Second World War propaganda poster by George Crawford Wilcox.

Among the major artists represented in the collection is Vittorio Fiorrucci of Montreal, winner of 69 national and international awards. He received two awards at *Chicago '78*, one of the most important events in the advertising art world. All 11 works submitted by Fiorrucci were accepted for the exhibition. One of his posters for the National Arts Centre won first prize in the design category. His poster *Drug Addiction*, which immediately attracted the attention of the public and the judges, won "Best of Show".

Children's magazine in time for Year of the Child

With emphasis on children likely to increase during 1979, the Year of the Child, a new children's magazine has been released, called *Chickadee*, designed for children four to eight years old. It is produced in English and designed to help youngsters learn about the world around them, improve their reading skills and stimulate their imagination.

Young readers, who previewed the first issue, identified pictures of baby raccoons and helped a dinosaur find its way through a maze, went on an imaginary flight with Archie, the magic bird, and viewed Inuit sculpture.

The highlight of the preview session was a story by Harold Town. It is the first time the painter has not only illustrated, but also written a children's story, with "fun clouds", and "cold dragon's breath".

Each issue of the magazine has a surprise insert: a puzzle, a puppet or, perhaps, a record. The first issue held a cloth chickadee with simple instructions for turning it into a stuffed toy.

Chickadee went on the news-stand on December 10, at 95 cents a copy. Subscriptions are \$7 a year (ten issues), and can be ordered from The Young Naturalist Foundation, 59 Front Street East, Toronto, Ontario M5E 1B3 Canada.

The editors of *Chickadee* also created the popular *Owl* magazine for children aged eight to 12 years old. *Owl* was exhibited at the Children's International Book Fair in Bologna, Italy, in 1977, where Italian editors liked it so much they bought some of the material from the Canadian publishers and in October 1978 started to produce a similar magazine, *L'Orsa*, for children in Italy.