



Some people (most often Canadians) think of Canadians as unadventurous. This is not particularly true.

Many Canadians are as inconspicuous as fresh air in the Rockies, but others have their own unique pizzaz. Once there was a premier of British Columbia who bought two submarines and started the British Columbia Navy. Once there was a gent named Smith who migrated from Nova Scotia to British Columbia; he stopped in San Francisco on the way and persuaded the California legislature to change his name to Amor de Cosmos, or Lover of the World.

Today many Canadians are going their own ways with interesting results. In this issue of CANADA TODAY/D'AUJOURD'HUI we consider a dozen who have made (or are making) their marks along the corridors of time.

## Now Playing

Robertson Davies is his own finest production. He wrote the script, designed the costumes, manufactured the set and plays the lead.

He is tall, of becoming girth and dressed to suggest a nineteenth-century ancestor, with richer blood than flows in modern veins. Although born a Virgo (under the extremely strong influence of Mercury), he has a leonine head, a mane of white flowing back from his forehead and down his neck, Mephistophelean eyebrows which crackle above his penetrating eyes, and a spade-shaped beard of brown and grey.

He is marvelously recondite, rooted in the psychology of Jung and the Calendar of the Saints — a believer in miracles, an unblinking realist, an

articulate enigma, a shatterer of icons and a respecter of proprieties.

He is one of the most arresting monologists in print or person since Hamlet, and many perceptive persons believe he is the best novelist now writing in English.

His novels, particularly his trilogy — *Fifth Business*, *The Manticore* and *World of Wonders*—are rich with unexpected points of view, but his views are most arrestingly delivered in his own sonorous voice.

The trilogy begins with the throwing of a snowball by a boy, Percy Boyd Staunton, at another boy, Dunstan Ramsay. The snowball enfolds a pink stone. Dunstan ducks and it hits the wife of