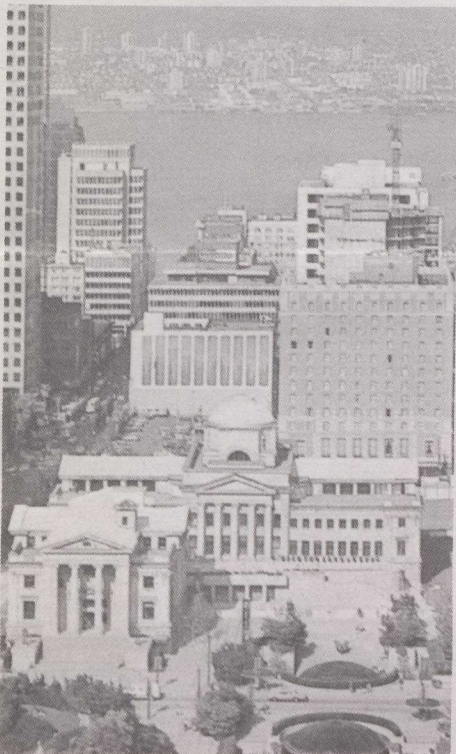


## From truth to beauty: Vancouver courthouse becomes art gallery

Three years after the start of its \$20.5-million transformation from courthouse to museum, a 1907 neo-classic building in British Columbia has emerged as the handsome new home of the Vancouver Art Gallery.



Officially opened by Governor General Edward Schreyer on October 15, the gallery is featuring an exceptional program of exhibitions and events which illuminate architect Arthur Erickson's striking display spaces.

One of the opening attractions is a newly-assembled Emily Carr exhibition, a permanent tribute to the province's great painter. There is also a collection of 27 paintings by English, Italian, Dutch and French masters loaned from the National Gallery of Canada.

But the centrepiece — the largest show the gallery has ever mounted — is *Vancouver: Art and Artists 1931-83*, which includes 600 works borrowed from public and private collectors and museums throughout Canada. The show, which runs until December 31, includes works of several major Vancouver artists, such as Jack Shadbolt, Iain and Ingrid Baxter, Michael Morris, Gordon Smith, Tony Onley and sculptor Geoffrey Smedley.

A major 440-page catalogue accompanies the exhibition with contributions from leading curators and critics.

## Glenbow director named to Commonwealth post

Duncan Cameron, director of the Glenbow Museum in Calgary, Alberta has been elected to a three-year term as president of the Commonwealth Association of Museums.

Mr. Cameron is the first Canadian president of an organization that represents 48 Commonwealth states, and his election will result in the transfer of the association's secretariat from London, England to Calgary next summer.

Described as "something like a cultural CIDA" (a reference to the Canadian International Development Agency), the association was established in 1971 to encourage the exchange of museum information and standards among Commonwealth countries.

According to Mr. Cameron, the current thrust is to foster more exchange programs for curators from African countries and to help establish a basic museum training program in third world states such as Malawi.

## Quebec author dies

Yves Thériault, an eighth-grade dropout who went on to become one of Quebec's literary giants, died recently after a brief illness. He was 67.

Mr. Thériault had more than 40 works to his credit and was translated into many languages, including English, Italian, German and Polish. His most famous novel, *Agaguk*, a raw story of Inuit life, was published in the early 1960s and established his literary reputation. It won him numerous awards but was never his favourite.

"It was the book I liked the least but which served me best," he said in an interview last fall.

Mr. Thériault, the son of a carpenter, was born in Quebec City but grew up in westend Montreal. He had a cosmopolitan childhood, speaking French and English with equal fluency.

## BBC buys National Ballet film

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) has purchased the National Ballet of Canada's television production of *Newcomers*, Brian Macdonald's ballet on the Canadian identity.

It is the first television project in

which the National Ballet served as its own production company, and the sale to the BBC marks a significant step for the company into the international television market.

Originally taped for Canada's C-Channel in December 1982, the television production was directed by Brian Macdonald and features National Ballet dancers Veronica Tennant, Raymond Smith, Vanessa Harwood, former company member Sean Boutilier, and artists of the ballet. Pat Ferns of Primedia Productions, Toronto acted as producer for the National.

*Newcomers* was originally commissioned by Imperial Oil Limited on the occasion of the company's one-hundredth anniversary in 1980.

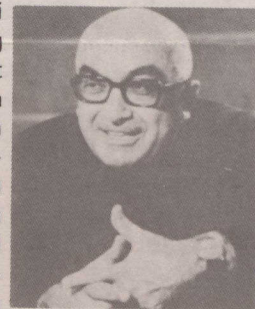
The ballet consists of four movements, each based on the music of a Canadian composer: Harry Freedman, Lothar Klein, André Prévost and John Weinzweig, with the National Ballet Orchestra under the direction of George Crum and the Vancouver Bach Choir under the direction of Bruce Pullan. Costumes were designed by Suzanne Mess and sets by Claude Girard.

The BBC plans to telecast *Newcomers* in December 1983.

## Covent Garden debut for Mansouri

Lotfi Mansouri, general director of the Canadian Opera Company since 1976, will make his directorial debut with the Royal Opera Covent Garden in London with a staging of the Massenet opera *Esclarmonde* with Dame Joan Sutherland in the title role, on November 28, 1983.

Mr. Mansouri will be staging his first Covent Garden opera with a production he originally produced for the San Francisco Opera and later staged at the Metropolitan Opera. On both occasions,



Lotfi Mansouri

the opera starred Dame Joan Sutherland.

With *Esclarmonde* at Covent Garden, Mr. Mansouri adds one more credit to his illustrious career, one which has included engagements at Teatro alla Scala, Vienna State Opera, Australian Opera, Netherlands Opera and the position of resident stage director at both the Zurich and Geneva opera houses.