

# News of the arts

## Publishers, film-makers meet

The Montreal International Book Fair, "a fair of the Americas and a unique centre of exchange for the film and book industries", took place April 12 to 14. Publishers representing Argentinian, Venezuelan, Brazilian and Mexican interests attended the fair, which this year focused on the growing interdependence of the film and book industries.

The fair allowed publishers and authors to promote the purchase and sale of rights for translations, paperback or special limited editions, or of secondary rights for adaptation to the theatre, television or cinema.

One of the highlights of this year's gathering was the announcement of the winner of the Seal Books First Novel Competition, on April 13. Twenty-three-year-old Aritha van Herk, an MA candidate at the University of Alberta, received \$50,000 (\$10,000 as prize and \$40,000 as non-returnable advance against royalties) for her novel, *Judith*, judged to be the best of 550 manuscripts offered for



Publishers and film producers from many countries negotiate rights for products on display at the Montreal International Book Fair.

competition. The author will be published in hard-bound edition in Canada by McClelland and Stewart, by Little Brown in the U.S. and by Andre Deutsch in

Britain. Following the hard-bound edition will be a mass market paperback published by Seal (Canada), Bantam (U.S.) and Corgi (Britain).

## Children's literature prizes

The Canada Council recently announced the winners of its 1977 Children's Literature Prizes. The English-language prize, worth \$5,000, was awarded to Jean Little of Guelph, Ontario for *Listen for the Singing* (published by Dutton and Clarke-Irwin). The French-language award was shared by two winners, who each received \$2,500: for text - Denise Houle of St-Lambert, Quebec, for *Lune de neige* (published by Guy Maheux); for illustration - Claude Lafortune of Longueuil, Quebec for *L'Evangile en papier* (written by Henriette Major and published by Fides).

The Children's Literature Prizes, established by the Canada Council in 1976, were originally awarded annually to an English-language writer and a French-language writer for a book published during the preceding calendar year. Beginning this year, they may also be awarded to an illustrator, or split between a writer and an illustrator. All books written or illustrated by Canadians for young people are eligible, whether published in Canada or abroad. Last year's prizes were awarded to Myra Paperny of

Calgary, Alberta for *The Wooden People* and Bernadette Renaud of Contrecoeur, Quebec for *Emilie, la baignoire à pattes*.

### Jean Little

*Listen for the Singing*, Jean Little's tenth novel for children, is the story of Anna, who is visually handicapped, and her family, who are German immigrants in Canada in the year 1939, when the Second World War begins.

Like Anna, Jean Little has been visually handicapped since early childhood. She worked with handicapped children in the U.S. and Canada until 1961, when she wrote her first novel, *Mine for Keeps*. Several of her books have been translated into Danish, German, Japanese and Dutch.

### Claude Lafortune

*L'Evangile en papier* (The Paper Gospel) is a collection of stories from The New Testament, written for children. Mr. Lafortune has illustrated the book with coloured photographs of three-dimensional paper cutouts representing biblical figures. His expertise in the fabrication and use of such cutouts has earned him the nickname "paper magician".

Mr. Lafortune has a weekly television

series every Sunday morning on the CBC French network, also entitled *L'Evangile en papier*, which features his animated paper "people".

### Denise Houle

*Lune de neige* (Moon of Snow) is a play about four children, a dog, a cat, and a monkey who journey to the moon for Christmas and meet well-known characters from folklore and literature.

Denise Houle has more than ten years' experience as an editor and writer of children's literature and has published stories and articles in children's magazines in Quebec, France and Lebanon. *Lune de neige* is her third book for children.

## Arts brief

Ernest Buckler, 70, Nova Scotia-born novelist, critic and columnist, has won the 1978 Leacock Award for Humour and an accompanying \$1,500 Hudson's Bay Company prize. Buckler won the annual prize for his book of poems and short stories, *Whirligig*, published by McClelland and Stewart.