

## Margaret Laurence wins Banff Centre award

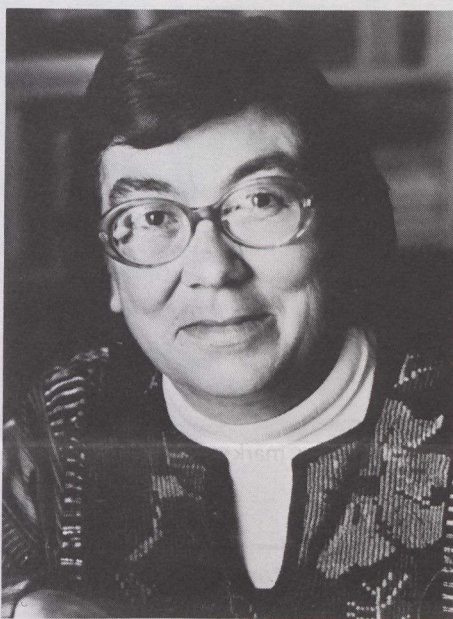
Canadian writer Margaret Laurence has been named winner of the fourth annual Banff Centre School of Fine Arts national award. The award recognizes a substantial and continuing contribution to the arts in Canada.

In making the announcement, Banff Centre President Paul Fleck remarked: "Not only is Margaret Laurence a major English-language novelist in this century, but through her work as writer-in-residence in a number of universities, she has helped new young writers learn their craft and find their way. She cares deeply about the development of Canadian writing and she has made a commitment to it."

The Banff award consists of a specially-commissioned Donald Cameron gold medal, designed by Canadian sculptor Dora de Pedery-Hunt and named in honour of the Banff Centre's director emeritus, a \$5 000-cash award, and a term appointment as writer-in-residence with the Banff Centre School of Fine Arts.

Born in 1926 in Neepawa, Manitoba, Margaret Laurence began to write seriously in the 1950s while living in Somaliland and Ghana. In 1954 the Somali government published her translation of Somali folk tales and poetry, *A Tree for Poverty*, the first collection of Somali literature ever published in English.

Margaret Laurence's writing spans a wide range. She has written two volumes of short stories — *The Tomorrow Tamer*



Award-winning writer Margaret Laurence.

and *A Bird in the House* — as well as books about her experience in Africa, and children's stories. She is best known, however, for her novels which have been acclaimed at home and abroad as major works: *The Stone Angel* in 1964, *A Jest of God* in 1966, *The Fire Dwellers* in 1969 and *The Diviners* in 1974.

In 1972, Margaret Laurence was appointed a Companion of the Order of Canada. She has been a writer-in-residence at Trent University, Peterborough, University of Toronto and University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario.

## Students discover Canadian historic material in London

Canadian scholars have uncovered a cache of some 40 000 turn-of-the-century Canadian photographs and publications stored in a warehouse of the British Library in London.

The collection of photographs, maps, sheet music and books dating from 1895 to 1924 is the most complete record of material published in Canada during the period. Comparable collections in Canada have been lost or destroyed by fire over the years.

The uncatalogued collection was rediscovered during a seminar to familiarize Canadian scholars with library resources, said a spokesman for the British Library's map department.

The 5 000 photographs include portraits of such famous Canadians as actress Mary Pickford, scenes of ordinary people at work and play and studies of Indian tribes.

## Vancouver Art Gallery re-opens

The halls which once rang with lawyers' arguments for justice will soon show off the treasures of western Canada's largest art gallery, using space-age technology against an elegant historic back-drop.

The stately gray building with doric columns and two stern granite lions that guarded the entrance to the British Columbia Supreme Court for almost 70 years reopens October 15 after a \$20-million facelift.

The gallery shows little change outside. But the interior has been rebuilt from top to bottom around a majestic rotunda and spiral staircase graced with the original marble that had to be removed and recut for the renovation. Visitors to the Robson Square gallery will be able to view Canada's largest collection of Emily Carr paintings on the first floor. The second floor has galleries almost eight metres high, equipped with mobile false walls adaptable for different exhibits.

Its permanent collection of 3 500 works, including some by Renoir, Rembrandt, Degas, Hogarth and Monet, will have 4 200 square metres of display space to share with visiting exhibits. The third floor will display contemporary works while the smaller top floor houses drawings and sketches. Storage space and laboratories for repairing works occupy the basement.

## Literary prize

*The Canada-Australia Literary Prize has been awarded this year to Australian novelist and playwright, Barry Oakley (centre) of Sydney, Australia. The prize was presented by Neil Haffey (right), Counsellor, Canadian High Commission in Canberra. Also present was the previous Canadian winner, novelist Leon Rooke (left). Mr. Oakley will undertake a lecture and reading tour of Canada in October.*

