

# News of the arts

## Portraits by Gilbert

*Portraits by Gilbert*, an exhibition of 25 recent colour photographs of prominent Canadians, was opened by the Chief Justice of Canada, Bora Laskin, at the Public Archives in Ottawa, May 8.

"All these portraits have been selected from a series being prepared by Mr. Al Gilbert of Toronto for the collection," said Richard Huyda, chief curator of the National Photography Collection. "Gilbert's reputation and skill have brought him the patronage of many prominent Canadians. We are very happy to announce that a selection of these portraits, fine records of distinguished Canadians by a master Canadian photographer, is now in the National Photography Collection."

Among those photographed are Liona Boyd, classical guitarist; Dr. Charles H. Best, co-discoverer of insulin; Conrad M. Black, chairman of the board of Massey Ferguson; and author-broadcaster Pierre Berton.

Al Gilbert's photographic career began in the Toronto studios which his father Nathan had established in 1920. Over the years, as fashion, interests and technology changed, Gilbert developed a unique style of portraiture that has won him national and international recognition.

Gilbert, voted Photographer of the Year in 1968, 1969 and again in 1973, by the Professional Photographers of Canada, holds the PPOC Master of Photographic Arts Award. A fellow of Britain's Royal



Public Archives of Canada

*A portrait of John H. Daniels, deputy-chairman of Cadillac Fairview Corporation, by photographer Al Gilbert.*

Photographic Society and of the Institute of Incorporated Photographers, Gilbert has received the National Award for Ontario and the Master Photographer, Craftsman degree from the Professional Photographers of America. Notably, he is the only Canadian member of the select group of Cameracraftsmen of America.

Gilbert is a popular and constant guest speaker throughout North America and Europe. He has taught at the West Coast School of Photography in California and at the Universities of Mississippi and Maryland. Gilbert has also served as Portrait Instructor in the New Trends Course of Winona, U.S.A.

## Art for youth

Outstanding art students from Ontario high schools are participating in the Art Gallery of Ontario's summer scholarship course. The course began July 1 and runs to July 28, providing 32 students with a month of concentrated art study and practical experience in the Art Gallery's Activity Centre. The curriculum also includes visits to other art institutions and commercial galleries.

Eligible secondary school students aged 16 and over were selected on the basis of artistic ability and potential development as well as geographical distribution within the province.

A grant from the Ontario government's "Outreach Ontario" program will pay all expenses for travel, accommodation, meals and studio materials.

## Former Stratford actress launches movie career

Jennifer Dale, an *ingénue* actress at the Stratford Festival for three years, has embarked on a movie career that may free her from little-girl roles forever. Last autumn the twenty-three-year-old made her film *début* as a stripper in the Canadian shock thriller, *Stone Cold Dead*. She was soon chosen over 100 actresses — almost all French-speaking — for the starring role in *Suzanne*, a \$1.5-million Canadian movie.

Based on Quebec writer Ronald Sutherland's novel, *Snow Lark*, the film tells the story of a beautiful French-Canadian girl's blossoming into womanhood in the 1950s amidst east-end Montreal poverty and cultural confusion.

Filming is scheduled to start in July.

## Inuit myth illustrated

The Inuit Sea Goddess, a spirit, who is purported to rule over the sea animals and sometimes men's destinies, is featured in an exhibition in the *Highlights of the Collection* series at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts until September 15.

The exhibition includes sculptures, prints and one painting by contemporary Inuit artists, as well as texts and explanatory charts illustrating traditional beliefs or myths surrounding the goddess.

The Sea Goddess was a central figure in the life of the traditional Inuit; she and other spirits and supernatural forces structured the people's moral and ethical codes. The Inuit believed that those who broke taboos would provoke the goddess' anger and she would then cause starvation (this resulted in her hiding the sea animals), bad weather, sickness or even death.

## Arts briefs

**Birgit Nilsson**, internationally acclaimed Swedish soprano, will appear in a gala concert presented by the Canadian Opera Company at the O'Keefe Centre, October 27. The concert marks Miss Nilsson's first North American concert engagement in five years. Her program in Toronto will be composed of selected German and Italian music.

**Monique Leyrac** has been awarded this year's \$1,000 Calixa-Lavalée music prize by Montreal's St. Jean Baptiste Society. The singer has recorded a dozen albums and pursued an acting career since the age of 14 that has included performances in theatre, television and films.

**Lambros Lambrou**, principal dancer with the Alberta Ballet Company, has been appointed resident choreographer for the 1979-80 season. Mr. Lambrou is to choreograph at least two new works for the company in the coming season.

**Jacob Two-Two and the Hooded Fang**, the film based on Mordecai Richler's children's story, recently won a special award in the Eighth Annual Los Angeles International Children's Film Festival.

**The 80-member Estonian Male Chorus**, making its first North American appearance, will be featured at the Kit-chener Oktoberfest this October. The singers are coming specifically for the annual Ontario festival, but will also sing in Ottawa and Kingston.