



On the French-Canadian Literary Scene

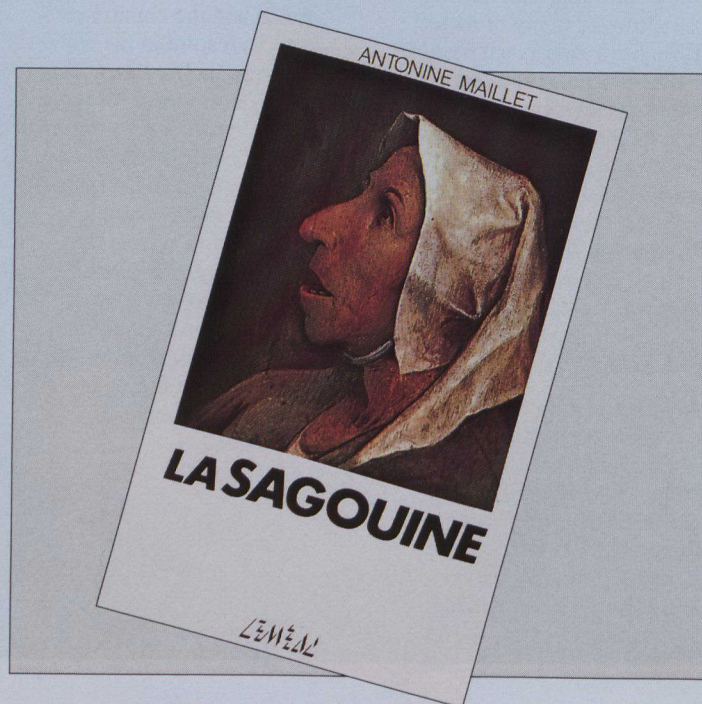
Canada boasts a flourishing French-language literature that has received world recognition. A group of remarkable writers who burst on the scene in the sixties and seventies have garnered international laurels. Marie-Claire Blais won the Prix France-Québec and the Prix Médicis for her first novel, *Une Saison dans la vie d'Emmanuel*, in 1967. Winner of the Governor General's Award and the Prix David for her total output, she has seen her work translated into Spanish, German and Czech.

Poet and novelist Anne Hébert has won many awards, including the Prix David and the Prix France-Canada. She has also received the Prix de l'Académie française for *Les Enfants du Sabbat*, the Prix de l'Académie royale de Belgique for *Kamouraska* and the Prix Prince-Pierre de Monaco in recognition of her complete works.

Antonine Maillet, chronicler of the Acadian people of New Brunswick, has received among numerous other awards the highly coveted Prix Goncourt for her novel *Pélagie-la-Charette*.

No French-Canadian author has had a bigger impact on English-language audiences than playwright Michel Tremblay, whose passionate dramas have been performed across Canada, including the prestigious Stratford Festival, and abroad.

A new generation of writers is building on their success, authors such as Yves Beauchemin, whose novel *Le Matou* has sold more than a million copies worldwide; Louis Hamelin and Francine D'Amour, recipients of the Governor General's Award; and writers from such diverse ethnic backgrounds as Danny Laferrière (Haitian), Marco Micone (Italian) and Marilu Mallet (Chilean).



distinguished himself five years ago as artist/illustrator of the bilingual ABC picture book set in Montreal, *Ah! Belle Cité! A Beautiful City*. Since that time he has put his story-telling talents into his charming, amusing accounts of the mischievous cat Joséphine. These include *Have You Seen Joséphine?*, *Can You Catch Joséphine?*, and *Could You Stop Joséphine?*

Other prominent Canadian children's writers include Janet Lunn, Marie Louise Gay, Brian Doyle and Gilles Tibo.

International Status

Aided by more aggressive marketing and promotion, Canada has established an international status as a writing and publishing nation. Aside from the skill of the writers, there appears to be a

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special quality in Canadian literature that attracts an avid following worldwide.

Whether the written response be lyric, allegorical, satiric, abstract, mythic or any combination thereof, Canadian authors are rooted in their reaction to the vastness, variety and challenge of the northern landscape, the quest for survival in an unyielding environment. The land exerts a powerful fascination on writer and reader alike, in Canada and around the world. 🍁