

News of the arts

Explorer re-discovered

An all-but-forgotten Canadian explorer is the subject of a new biography published by McClelland and Stewart last month. In 1893 J.B. Tyrrell led a party of men across the Barren Lands — that massive tract of Canadian tundra lying to the west of Hudson Bay. In doing so he became the first native-born Canadian to conceive, organize and conduct a major piece of exploration. Before Tyrrell, the Barren Lands were but a white space on the map.

Northern Vagabond was written by Alex Inglis, editor of *International Perspectives*, the journal of opinion on world affairs published bi-monthly by the Department of External Affairs. Inglis, 39, worked as the late Prime Minister Pearson's research associate in the preparation of his memoirs, *Mike*. After Mr. Pearson's death he was co-editor of the second and third volumes.

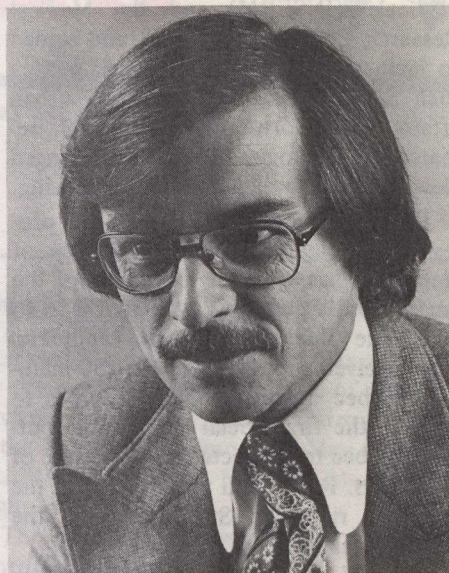
Inglis says the thing that first fascinated him about Tyrrell was when he discovered that this "forgotten Canadian" had in one week during his first solo exploration of the Canadian West, discovered the dinosaur remains in the Bad Lands of Alberta and the extensive coal deposits at Drumheller.

After an extensive career as an explorer Tyrrell left the Geological Survey of Canada for a new career in mining. He joined the Klondike gold rush and, for seven years, was one of the "men who moiled for gold". Later he set up shop as a mining consultant in northern Ontario and turned Kirkland Lake Gold Mines into a multi-million dollar operation by sinking a shaft deeper into the crust of the earth than anyone had ever done

Remarkable man honoured

In a letter to *The Citizen*, Ottawa, on May 9, H.R. Steacy, Curator, Geological Survey of Canada, points out that, in 1959, a mineral was named "in honour of this remarkable man" (J.B. Tyrrell).

The mineral, tyrrellite, is described by Mr. Steacy as "a rare compound of copper, cobalt, nickel and selenium", which was first discovered in northern Saskatchewan. The Geological Survey in Ottawa has some specimens.



Alex Inglis

before in Canada.

In addition, Tyrrell's historical writing and editing, which was done in his spare time, reinstated David Thompson to his place of honour as a Canadian explorer. Inglis's *Northern Vagabond* should do the same for J.B. Tyrrell.

Pierre Berton summed it up when he called the new biography "an important and impressive book that fills, at last, a major gap in the written history of Canada".

Manitoba travel film wins top award

A Manitoba film, *Canoe*, has been awarded the Chris Statuette Award for outstanding merit in the category of travel by the Film Council of Greater Columbia, Ohio.

The council is one of the oldest organizations of its kind in the U.S. and filmmakers round the world send entries in a variety of fields from art and culture to education and travel.

Films must conform to high standards and are judged for clarity, technical excellence and viewer interest.

Canoe, which runs for ten minutes, and captures the solitude and beauty of the wilderness of Manitoba, reveals the thoughts and observations of a young canoeist as he paddles his way by rocky shores and through rushing water.

Canoe is the second film produced by Manitoba Government Travel to win an award from the Film Council of Greater Columbus. The first was *Manitoba Moods*.

Opera workshops

For the second consecutive year, opera-conducting workshops will be held during the National Arts Centre's summer music festival, Festival Ottawa, offering training to three conductors wishing to specialize in opera.

The workshops, under the supervision of Festival artistic director Mario Bernardi and guest artist Paolo Peloso, will begin in June with the commencement of rehearsals for the 1978 Festival productions of Benjamin Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Verdi's *La Traviata* and Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, and will continue throughout the Festival, June 29 to July 29.

The workshop program will permit successful candidates to attend orchestra, staging and chorus rehearsals, as well as all dress rehearsals and performances of the three opera productions. Open discussions will follow some of the rehearsals, enabling the three workshop participants to discuss their craft with the conductors, members of the National Arts Centre Orchestra, and other artists involved in the opera productions.

Applications from outside Canada will be considered, but successful candidates who are not Canadian residents must be prepared to cover their own costs, or seek grants and/or subsidies in their countries of origin.

Arts briefs

The Canadian Opera Company will join members of the Stratford Festival and the National Ballet of Canada on June 5 in the Festival's special opening night performance — "Gala Shakespeare Revel". The evening, bringing together the three senior Canadian artistic organizations for the first time, will offer performances of works drawn from or inspired by Shakespeare.

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Education is organizing a writing competition among young French literature students, whose aim is to attract material for a book presenting French literature of Saskatchewan to the other provinces. The students, from senior French courses or designated schools, may write either poetry, short stories or novellas; drama is reserved for participants at the university level.