



*The Department of Agriculture's sixty-first annual chrysanthemum show in November attracted 3,300 visitors on opening day. The display, held at*

*the Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa, included more than 3,100 blooms and 79 varieties, 29 of them new this year.*

### **The Canada Council's interest in publishing and translation**

*Two annual prizes of \$2,500 each will be awarded by the Canada Council for the best translation of two books, one English, one French. The winning books will be chosen from Canadian works published during the preceding year.*

*In an address to the Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario last month, Assistant Director and Secretary of the Council, Claude Gauthier, described as follows the Council's interest in publishing and translation:*

Some while ago a small knot of translators was pondering how to put into French this message for railroad passengers: "Smoking is permitted in this car." After weighing the pros and cons of different versions, one of them had a bright idea. "Why put up anything at all?" he said. "A French-Canadian who feels like smoking isn't going to wait for written permission."

The point of the story may be that the translator must beware of a blind faith in the original text. The solution to certain translation problems might be not to translate at all!...

I am glad to be here with you tonight, since I have an announcement to make on the Council's behalf that is of special interest to those of you who have done or would like to do literary translation. The Council has decided to inaugurate annual prizes worth \$2,500 each for the two translations, English and French, which are judged

to be the year's best. The award-winning books will be chosen among the Canadian works published during the preceding year, and all books of literary value will be eligible for the prize: fiction, poetry, plays, essays, travel, history, biography, etc. Two 3-member juries, now being formed, will have as a first responsibility to locate and read all the literary translations published in Canada this year. We hope to be able to announce the names of the two first winners next March or April....

Through this prize the Council hopes to focus attention on the increasing importance of literary translation in Canada and also to encourage translators of exceptional talent.

There is nothing new about the Council's interest in translation. For many years now we have been making grants to publishers for the translation of works by Canadian authors. This

assistance, however, was fairly marginal, since publishers rarely had enough money to think about getting involved in translations, and the Council lacked funds to give them substantial encouragement.

### **Publishing policy**

The situation began to improve in 1972 when the Federal Government, through the Department of the Secretary of State, adopted a publishing policy to ease the crisis in Canadian publishing. The Council was asked to carry out certain parts of this new policy and with the infusion of funds was able to broaden its assistance. In 1970-71 the Council's aid to publication in the arts and literature and in the humanities and social sciences was \$800,000; in 1972-73 it had risen to more than \$2,660,000. During this period the Council extended its aid to include certain categories of book that were previously ineligible for grants and added two new aspects to its program: block grants to publishers and the purchase and free distribution of books. For the current fiscal year (1973-74) the budgets for these two projects are \$750,000 and \$550,000 respectively. A separate budget has been set up for assistance to translation (it was formerly merged with aid to publishing) and through it \$225,000 is earmarked for translation for the current fiscal year.

The new program is described in a recently published brochure called *Aid to Publication and Translation/Aide à l'éducation et à la traduction*, which you can obtain on request. According to the brochure, grants may be given for the translation of all categories of book, except textbooks, from one official language to the other. Applications must be made by majority Canadian-owned publishing houses and translators must be Canadians or landed immigrants of one year's standing. In exceptional cases the Council may also support a French or English translation of a literary work written in a foreign language but by a Canadian author. Council grants for translation have so far enabled Canadians who speak only one language to become familiar with the work of such authors as Jacques Godbout, Northrop Frye, Marshall McLuhan, Hubert Aquin, Rock Carrier, Mordecai Richler, Anne Hébert and many others....