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1983 CANADA-BELGIUM LITERARY PRIZE AWARDED TO BELGIAN WRITER CLAIRE LEJEUNE

The Department of External Affairs and the Canada Council announced that the Belgian writer Claire Lejeune has been awarded the 1983 Canada-Belgium Literary Prize. This annual \$2,500 prize is given in alternate years to French-language writers in Canada and Belgium. The jury's decision is based on an assessment of the author's overall contribution to literature rather than on an individual work. The prize is administered by the Canada Council and Canadian financing is through the Cultural Affairs Division, Arts Promotion, of the Department of External Affairs.

The winners are selected by a jury appointed by the Ministry of the French Community of Belgium and by the Canada Council. This year the Canadian jury was composed of Marie-Claire Blais, Victor-Lévy Beaulieu, and Jacques Brault, under the chairmanship of Naim Kattan.

Born in Havré in 1926, Claire Lejeune's career as a poet and essayist spans 30 years. Her work forms part of the postwar school of philosophical poetry. In 1962 she founded Cahiers internationaux de symbolisme, and 1965, Réseaux, a journal of moral and political philosophy.

Among her literary works are Le dernier testament and Elle (1969), Mémoire de rien (1972) and L'Issue (1980). In L'Atelier, published in 1979, Claire Lejeune refers to Canada, which she has visited several times and where she formed warm relationships with Quebecois writers.

Previous Belgian prize winners are Geo Norge, who received the inaugural award in 1971, Suzanne Lilar (1973), Pierre Mertens (1975), Marcel Moreau (1977), Hubert Juin (1979) and Jacques-Gérard Linze (1981). The prize has been awarded to the Canadian writers Gaston Miron (1972), Réjean Ducharme (1974), Marie-Claire Blais (1976), Victor-Lévy Beaulieu (1980) and François Charron (1982).

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