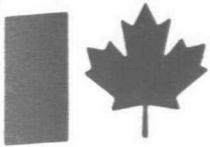


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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

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CANADA/AUSTRALIA LITERARY AWARD WINNER



It was announced jointly today by the Department of External Affairs, the Canada Council and the Australian Council that the winner of the Canada/Australia Literary Prize for 1977 is the Canadian writer Alice Munro. The prize, valued at \$2,500.00 Canadian, is intended to help make better known in Australia and Canada the work of each other's writers. This is the second year that the prize has been awarded. In 1976, Australian playwright, John Romeril, received an inaugural award. The Canada/Australia Literary Prize was established to honour English language authors and is similar to the Canada/Belgium Literary Prize which, since 1971, has been awarded to French language writers. Each year an Australian or Canadian writer is chosen by a panel of judges from the other country. This year the Canada Council submitted works by six authors to the Australian panel. Next year the procedure will be reversed.

The prize is not restricted to any particular category of writing; novelists, poets and playwrights are equally eligible. It is awarded for a writer's total output rather than for a single work. The prize is financed on the Australian side by the Australian Council and on the Canadian side by the Department of External Affairs as part of its programme of cultural relations with foreign countries. The award is administered for the Department by the Writing and Publishing Section of the Canada Council.

Alice Munro has already received two major prizes for her work. Her collection of short stories, Dance of the Happy Shades, won the Governor-General's Award in 1968 and her novel Lives of Girls and Women won the Canadian Bookseller's Award in 1972. Something I've been Meaning to Tell You, a

second collection of short stories, was published in 1974. Her works have appeared in many Canadian periodicals and two stories were included in the 1977 issues of The New Yorker. One of the most widely anthologized writers in Canada, four of Miss Munro's stories appear in Personal Fictions published recently by Oxford University Press. Most recently, Miss Munro wrote the script for 1847, a documentary drama about the Irish immigration to Canada, the third programme in a series of films called The Newcomers produced for the CBC Television Network.

Her stories are often set in small towns in rural Ontario and are compassionate studies of women, written in a style of grace and detail which has made her one of the most popular writers of fiction in Canada.

Information:

Cultural Affairs Division
Department of External Affairs
(613) 992-4349

Information Office
Canada Council
(613) 237-3400

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