

## Canadian Literature at 40

**C**anada in 1959: the St. Lawrence Seaway is opened by Queen Elizabeth II and President Eisenhower; Diefenbaker's government cancels production of the Avro Arrow; Maurice Duplessis dies. In Vancouver, a vibrant arts scene begins to establish itself, with Jack Shadbolt winning the Guggenheim International Award that year, and Geoffrey Massey and Arthur Erickson receiving the Massey Silver Medal for Contemporary Architecture (the Gold Medal having gone to the Stratford Festival Theatre Design). UBC's Museum of Anthropology acquires "the earliest piece of Pacific Northwest Coast woodcarving known, a 15.5 inch unique specimen of the prehistoric spear throwers widely used up and down the Northwest Pacific Coast." *Canadian Literature* is launched.

It is hard not to evoke the cliché of "the dawning of a new era" for 1959, and even more difficult to assess the exact place of this journal within that historical moment. Nor is a (partisan) editorial the best place even to make such an attempt. Suffice it to say that the journal's current editorial team is proud to build on the tradition established in the forty years of its existence. We are also aware of the daunting challenges posed by the changes in both "Canadian" and "literature," by the electronic revolution in publishing, and by growing budgetary constraints university-wide.

This issue is offered as our thanks to all those who have, for four decades, made *Canadian Literature* a success: its contributors, referees, editorial board members, fund-givers, and, above all, its readers.

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