Editorial: Pot-pourri

This issue of CCL represents what is conventionally called the Canadian mosaic. We offer the second part of an article on Yves Thériault, the late great writer of Quebecois life and legends (see #47 pp. 12-22), and our reviews report the important presence of a francophone literature for Canadian children. We add the story of Pemmican Press, a publishing house devoted to developing Native writers and illustrators, and a review later in the issue suggests the wide range of current literary uses of Native peoples' experiences. A bibliography on multicultural studies suggests the immigrant theme, and one review focuses on Joy Kowaga, a major representative of the riches of the Canadian ethnic mix. Our lead article suggests the way Canadian girls and women are presented by two women writers of children's books, and again there are reviews on those pieces of the mosaic that are coloured female. Other reviews drop in pieces on the Canadian interest in science (and science fiction), our fondness for animals, our addiction to music. The lead review is on the excellent book by Judith Saltman which reports fully on the current state of the mosaic of Canadian children's literature...

Yet the word "mosaic" suggests something hard, clear-cut, sharp-edged. We prefer to think of this issue as "pot-pourri": a mix of elements chosen for characteristic fragrance. In this Canadian winter, we stir our pot-pourri; the perfumes released remind us of garden of variety and colour, waiting beneath the snow.