

# Space and time and books

Thousands of Polish people have travelled to Canada, vicariously, via the novels of L.M. Montgomery. Recently, when two of *CCL*'s editors, Mary Rubio and Elizabeth Waterston, travelled in turn to Poland, they enjoyed stage performances of *Anne of Green Gables* and *The Blue Castle* in Warsaw and Cracow. As a result of this visit, Barbara Wachowicz, writer and television star in Warsaw, was invited to write for this issue of *CCL* about the effect on Polish lives of Montgomery's stories of independence, laughter, and imagination. Ms. Wachowicz's moving account of the 75-year-long love affair between Polish readers and a Canadian writer is a fine illustration of the way children's books can perform the function of transportation — over space and time.

In this issue, carrying that theme further, Pat de Vries, a Vancouver social worker, writes of the way books can help children transcend their own youth, and move imaginatively over the years into the problems of aging. Lynn Penrod, French Professor at Alberta, analyses the subtle structures of Monique Corriveau, in which imagined worlds help young readers position themselves finally, with enriched sensibilities, at home. James Harrison looks at Janet Lunn's books as experiments in space/time travel, which offer children trips to long-ago days in Canada, and consequently into pioneer values of adjustment and cooperation.

Among our reviews is an account of the discovery of a set of Québécois diaries from those early days: Henriette Dessaulles's journals, like those of L.M. Montgomery, carry us away from our own "here and now", into a different place, time, and family situation. A new book by Monica Hughes, another time-traveller, is also reviewed here; and other reviews remind us of Canadian places never visited except in books: the Arctic of James Houston, the legendary Rimouski of Robert Soulières.

The subgenres of historical fiction and time-travel appeal most strongly to early adolescent readers, and we are consequently emphasizing this age group in most reviews in this issue — adding books of comic anti-romance such as Gordon Korman's *Don't care High* and Stren's *I was a 15-year-old blimp*. Of course we add a few reviews of books for readers in other age-ranges, and we conclude with three reviews on young people's theatre.

Meantime, imaginative travel through time and space awaits every young

person who launches into a book. We are all grateful for Michele Landsberg's admirable guide to these literary carriers (also reviewed in this issue of *CCL*); "practical and passionate", she helps us all help young readers pick the right book for vicarious voyaging.



*Barbara Wachowicz, Elizabeth Waterston, Ruth Macdonald (Mrs. E.S. Macdonald, daughter-in-law of L.M.M.) and Mary Rubio signing playbills in Warsaw, Poland.*