

Editorial: Forecast

We celebrate the issue of our fiftieth number of *Canadian Children's Literature*, not by retrospect but by emphasis on beginnings: the beginning of children's relation to books; the beginning of a centre for research on books for young people; the beginning of a new cycle of special issues for *CCL*.

Picture books, bringing delight to little children in the years before reading begins, forecast a future pleasure in books. Illustrators like Elizabeth Cleaver create a medium through which pre-literate children can begin to relate to the printed page, to story and poem and legend. This issue begins with two tributes to Elizabeth Cleaver, whose death in 1985 was a great loss to the world of children's books. Another article deals with the work of Quebec illustrator Gilles Tibo, a magician in the art of the airbrush.

Discussing the emergence of a research centre on children's literature at the University of Victoria, Danielle Thaler enumerates some of the avenues where exploration and scholarly analysis can be expected in the near future. Every year we see more new ventures in the study of children's literature: new seminars and institutes established; papers offered for the first time in sections of the Learned Societies Conference; new graduate courses opening up to feed the growing interest in the field. We can safely predict continued development in criticism as well as in writing, illustrating, and publishing for young readers.

In a shorter term forecast, we are pleased to announce an upcoming issue on the general topic of illustrators and picture books. Dr. Muriel Whitaker will act as guest-editor, up-dating our 1985 overview of innovations and traditional achievements in art-work designed for children. Another future issue will update an earlier survey of children's theatre and drama. A third will explore the topic of "Memory work and the old-time reader", while a fourth will focus on child language, translation, and linguistic facets of children's literature. We invite submissions on all of these topics.