

# Notes

Dorothy Ivens Masee, author of three award-winning children's books, died last year in New Mexico. Once a member of the late Arthur Lismer's Toronto classes for gifted children, Mrs. Masee kept her ties to Canada, despite the fact that since her marriage to American writer William E. Masee in 1948, she spent most of her time in the United States.

Almost every year she and her husband returned to the Ivens family cottage in Bolsover, Ontario. This area was immortalized not only by her paintings, but also in her books for children: *The long hike* (Viking Press, 1956); *Bozy and all the children* (Viking, 1957); and *The upside down boy* (Viking, 1958). Written and illustrated by the author, these books reflect a life-long delight in the area where she and her younger brother spent summer vacations with their parents.

Born in Toronto in 1912, Dorothy Ivens showed marked literary and artistic talent at an early age. Arthur Lismer encouraged this flair. But she grew up during the depression, and family means were limited, so she endured a period of employment with an insurance agency, until she managed to attend the Art Students' League in New York in the days of Thomas Hart Benton.

Returning to Canada just before the commencement of the Second World War, she found employment as an artist with the talented group at Eatons, surrounding the French architect and painter, Rene Cera. The group created a series of spectacular displays in decorating the windows of the College Street store, unique in North America. Cera's support and encouragement made it possible for many young artists to remain in Canada including Harold Town, Norman MacLaren, Philip Hall, Irene Heywood, Nancy Burden, Michael McCrow, and others. In 1945 The College Street Fine Art Gallery presented the work of Cera's circle.

After the group disbanded, Dorothy Ivens went to New York, began designing covers for various magazines, met and married one of the young editors of *Esquire Magazine*, Bill Masee.

As public relations consultant to the wine and spirit trade, William Masee inevitably travelled a great deal and entertained frequently. When Mrs. Masee turned to write on food she was one of the three writers who won the National Award for the best cook book in 1969: *Glorious stew* (Harper and Row). The Masee home in New York was a mecca for those who loved good food and wine and fine paintings. Encouraged by her friend Marshall McLuhan, Dorothy Masee painted a number of works inspired by the writings of James Joyce.

After a final move to New Mexico she and her husband still managed to spend several weeks each summer at the family cottage at Bolsover, on the Trent Valley canal. She died February 11th, 1991, at the age of 78.

**E. Hay Trott**

BOOKS REVIEWED IN THIS ISSUE /  
LIVRES RECENSÉS DANS CE NUMÉRO

- Åhmansson, Gabriella. *A life and its mirrors: A feminist reading of L.M. Montgomery's fiction*, p. 87
- Atwood, Margaret. *For the birds*, p. 83
- Bailey, Lydia, reteller. *Mei Ming and the dragon's daughter*, p. 97
- Baskwill, Jane. *Pass the poems please*, p. 100
- Bell, William. *Forbidden City*, p. 111
- Blakeslee, Mary. *Stampede*, p. 114
- Brouillet, Chrystine. *Le Corbeau*, p. 93; *Une plage trop chaude*, p. 95
- Campagna, Phil. *Freedom run*, p. 111
- Children of Curve Lake, The. *Giving: Ojibwa stories and legends*, p. 92
- Children of La Roche and friends, The. *Byron through the seasons*, p. 92
- Demers, Patricia. *P.L. Travers*, p. 88
- Gorman, LeRoy. *Dandelions and dreams*, p. 100
- Harris, Dorothy Joan. *Rumpelstiltskin*, p. 99
- Hébert, Marie-Francine. *Le coeur en bataille*, p. 104
- Hughes, Monica. *Beckoning lights*, p. 107
- Hunter, Bernice Thuman. *A place for Margaret, Margaret in middle, Margaret on her way*, p. 102
- Johnston, Basil H. *By canoe and moccasin: Some native place names of the Great Lakes*, p. 91
- Kushner, Donn. *The house of the good spirits*, p. 81
- Marillac, Alain. *Ovni à Matane*, p. 108
- Morton, Alexandra. *Sawiti: A whale's story*, p. 113
- Oppel, Kenneth. *The live-forever machine*, p. 106
- Paré, Roger. *Plaisirs d'animaux; Plaisirs d'hiver*, p. 85
- Pearson, Kit, reteller. *The singing basket*, p. 97
- Pelletier, Francine. *Monsieur Bizarre*, p. 110
- Petrone, Penny. *Native literature in Canada: From the oral tradition to the present*, p. 90
- Walker, Karen. *Yukon Chinook*, p. 113
- Ward, Ken. *Mrs. Kitchen's cats*, p. 100