Notes

Bibliographical Errata Regarding the *Cumulative List of Winners of the Governor General's Literary Awards / Liste cumulative des lauréates et des lauréats des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général*, 2011

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Several years ago a friend recommended I read E. Bennett Metcalfe's 1985 biography of Roderick Haig-Brown, *A Man of Some Importance*. Chancellor of the University of Victoria from 1970 to 1973, Haig-Brown (1908-76) was an early British Columbia environmentalist, a sometime logger, trapper and fisherman, and a long-serving magistrate of the juvenile court of Campbell River. According to his biographer, he also received the first Governor General's Medal for Juvenile Literature for his 1948 book, *Saltwater Summer*.¹ Even so, Haig-Brown's name and book appear nowhere on the official list of award-winners maintained by the Canada Council for the Arts: the *Cumulative List of Winners of the Governor General's Literary Awards / Liste cumulative des lauréates et des lauréats des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général*.²

Explaining the omission is not straightforward. The most plausible explanation is that Haig-Brown was likely the first (and to date the only) author to receive a Governor General's Citation for his work,³ rather than the then-traditional medal. In the minds of some, it

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¹ E. Bennett Metcalfe, *A Man of Some Importance: The Life of Roderick Langmere Haig-Brown* (Vancouver: James W. Wood, 1985), 202.

² Canada Council for the Arts, *Cumulative List of Winners of the Governor General's Literary Awards / Liste cumulative des lauréates et des lauréats des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général*, 2011, accessed 5 April 2012, <http://1987321654.canadacouncil.net/en/newsandevents-nouvellesetevenements.aspx>.

³ William Arthur Deacon, "Governor-General's Annual Literary Awards, Leacock Humor Medal and Juvenile Citation," *Globe and Mail*, 11 June 1949,

may have been assumed that a citation was of less importance than a medal. Even so, an award of any kind (a medal, citation, monetary prize, etc.) remains an award. As a result, it seems appropriate to conclude, along with Haig-Brown's biographer, his bibliographer,⁴ and numerous newspaper reporters of the day, that regardless of whether he received a medal or citation, he should be included on the list of official award laureates.

Established in 1936,⁵ the Governor General's Literary Awards (or GGs) today remain Canada's premier literary prize. The first awards ceremony, honouring the first two 1936 laureates (one posthumously), took place at the University of Toronto's Convocation Hall on November 24, 1937.⁶ Since then, the awards have grown to encompass fourteen categories, seven in each of Canada's official languages. The categories used today are Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, Drama, Children's Literature (Text), Children's Literature (Illustration), Translation (from French to English), Romans et nouvelles, Études et essais, Poésie, Théâtre, Littérature jeunesse (texte), Littérature jeunesse (illustrations), and Traduction (de l'anglais vers le français). Over the years at least five other award categories have been introduced and abandoned.⁷

Unfortunately, the official list (downloadable for many years from the Canada Council website) is inaccurate in several respects. This has resulted in misleading information about the awards being included

14; "Governor-General's Literary Awards Winners," *Globe and Mail*, 3 June 1950, 10.

⁴ Robert Bruce Cave, *Roderick Haig-Brown: A Descriptive Bibliography* (Citrus Heights, California: R.B. Cave, 2000), 118. I am grateful to John H. Meier, Jr for this reference.

⁵ William Arthur Deacon to Ellen Elliott, 8 May 1940 (Macmillan Company of Canada fonds CP00377, McMaster University), 4.

⁶ "Tweedsmuir Critical of Propagandist Poets," *Globe and Mail*, 25 November 1937, 4. See also Lord Tweedsmuir [John Buchan], "Return to Masterpieces," *Canadian Poetry Magazine*, 2 (December 1937); reprinted in *Canadian Occasions* (Toronto: The Musson Book Company Ltd, 1941), 229-42.

⁷ The five are General Literature (1936-41), Academic Nonfiction (1942-58), Creative Nonfiction (1942-58), Juvenile Literature (1948-58), and Autres genres littéraires (from 1959 to at least 1967). There is also the issue of whether "Poetry and Drama" and "Poésie et théâtre" should be counted as separate categories or as conjunctions of other, independently existing categories, and whether descriptive phrases such as "Fiction and Drama" (1959), "Fictional and Autobiographical Prose" (1962), "Critical and Expository Prose" (1962), "Fiction and Essays" (1968), and "Prose and Poetry" (1970) may have been used to refer to additional categories.

in several reference works⁸ and at least one doctoral dissertation.⁹ As a result, until a full, scholarly bibliography of the winning titles can be published,¹⁰ it may be helpful to draw people's attention to the following anomalies as they appear in the current list:

- *Original Award Categories*. Originally awards were given in the two categories of Fiction and General Literature,¹¹ not Fiction and Nonfiction as stated in the official list. The category of General Literature remained in use from 1936 to 1941.
- *Poetry Category*. The first new category to be introduced was Poetry (in 1937),¹² not Poetry or Drama as stated in the official list.
- *Nonfiction Categories*. Between 1942 and 1958 there were two nonfiction categories, Academic Nonfiction and Creative Nonfiction,¹³ not one combined Nonfiction category as stated in the official list.
- *Juvenile-Literature Category*. The practice of giving awards for Juvenile Literature began in the 1948 award year, not the 1949 award year as stated in the official list. The first award in this category went to Roderick Haig-Brown for his book, *Saltwater Summer*.¹⁴

⁸ For example, see Norah Story, "Appendix 5: Governor General's Awards," in *The Oxford Companion to Canadian History and Literature* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1967), 860-65; and "Governor General's Literary Awards," in *Encyclopedia of Literature in Canada*, ed. W.H. New (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2002), 66-73.

⁹ Owen Percy, "Prize Possession," (PhD diss., University of Calgary, 2010), NR64130.

¹⁰ Two such bibliographies are currently in preparation: one of the English-language Fiction Awards by John H. Meier, Jr, and one of the Governor General's Literary Awards as a whole by Andrew Irvine.

¹¹ "Tweedsmuir Critical of Propagandist Poets" and "Leacock, Pratt, Salverson Awarded Viceregal Medals," *Globe and Mail*, 5 November 1938, 9. This is also confirmed by the inscription on the 1936 General Literature medal: "C.A.A. / Governor General's / Annual / Literary Award / General Literature / T.B. Robertson. / 1936."

¹² "Leacock, Pratt, Salverson Awarded Viceregal Medals."

¹³ William Arthur Deacon, "Governor-General's Annual Literary Awards Go to Sallans, Birney, Hutchison, McInnis," *Globe and Mail*, 19 June 1943, 11; and "Governor-General's Awards," *Globe and Mail*, 19 December 1959, 18.

¹⁴ Deacon, "Governor-General's Annual Literary Awards, Leacock Humor Medal and Juvenile Citation." See also Metcalfe, *A Man of Some Importance*, 202; and Cave, *Roderick Haig-Brown*, 118.

- *Poetry-or-Drama Category.* The claim that a Poetry-or-Drama category was introduced in 1937 and continued until 1980, as stated in the official list, is supported by no known newspaper report or journal article of the 1930s, 1940s, or early 1950s. Attempting to discover exactly when this joint category may have been introduced and for how long is a challenge. The practice likely originated in 1959 when the administration of the Awards was transferred from the Canadian Authors Association (or CAA) to the Canada Council. According to one 1959 *Globe and Mail* report, the awards that year were to be given in each of Canada's two official languages in the three award categories of Poetry and Drama, Fiction and Drama, and Nonfiction,¹⁵ leading one to infer that Drama was being introduced as a sort of free-floating category that could be combined with either Poetry or Fiction if a sufficiently strong case could be made for its inclusion in any particular year. In contrast, according to a later news report, awards had been made available that year in both official languages in the categories of Fiction, Nonfiction, and Poetry (not Drama), even though in the end it was decided that no 1959 work in English-language Nonfiction or French-language Poésie was of sufficient merit to receive an award.¹⁶ According to yet a third account, 1959 was the year when four separate award categories were introduced in each official language: Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, and Drama.¹⁷
- *Original French-language Categories.* In addition to the categories of Romans et nouvelles (Fiction) and Poésie (Poetry), the third initial French-language category was Autres genres littéraires (Other Literary Genres), not Études et essais (Nonfiction) as stated in the official list. The category of Autres genres littéraires appears to have remained in use from 1959 until at least 1967, and perhaps longer.
- *1962 English-Language Categories.* In 1962, the English-language categories were reported in the *Globe and Mail* as being "Fictional and Autobiographical Prose," "Critical and

¹⁵ Deacon, "Governor-General's Awards."

¹⁶ Canadian Press, "Council Announces 4 Literature Prizes," *Globe and Mail*, 9 March 1960, 10.

¹⁷ Marie-Pier Luneau and Ruth Panofsky, "Celebrating Authorship, Prizes and Distinctions," in *History of the Book in Canada, Volume 3: 1918-1980*, ed. Carole Gerson and Jacques Michon (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007), 118.

Expository Prose,” and “Poetry and Drama.”¹⁸ According to the official Canada Council press release the categories that year were “Fiction,” “Critical and Expository Prose,” and “Poetry and Drama.” This was also the only year prior to 1981 that a book of English-language Drama, *The Killdeer and Other Plays* by James Reaney, received an award. Since Reaney received the award for this book in conjunction with his book of poetry, *Twelve Letters to a Small Town*, this confirms the existence of the Poetry-and-Drama category for at least this one year.

- *1967-1970 Categories.* Beginning in 1967, there appears to have been a short-lived attempt to abandon the use of categories for judging purposes altogether. According to a report in the *Globe and Mail*, the 1968 awards were to be given “for the three best literary works in English and the three best in French, regardless of category.”¹⁹ This seems to be borne out by the official list for 1968, since on the French-language side two authors were offered awards in the category of Romans et nouvelles (one award was declined) and one in the category of Études et essais, while no award was offered in the category of Poésie et théâtre. On the English-language side, one author is reported to have been offered an award in the category of Fiction, one in the (possibly new) category of Fiction and Essays, and one in the category of Poetry or Drama, but whether a label such as “Fiction and Essays” should be interpreted as referring to a new, independently existing category or simply to a combination of the traditional Fiction and Nonfiction categories remains less than clear. Most likely is that, for judging purposes, there was a diminished reliance upon categories from 1967 to 1970, although for the purpose of granting awards, the traditional categories remained in place.
- *Insufficient Merit.* When no prize has been awarded in a category this has been recorded in the official list in some years (such as 1996) but not in others. For example, in addition to no awards being made in some categories in 1959 and 1968, no awards appear to have been made in some categories in 1960, 1961, 1963, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1969, 1970 and 1972. Such claims

¹⁸ William French, “McLuhan, Reaney, Dobbs Win Top Literary Award,” *Globe and Mail*, 9 March 1963, 21.

¹⁹ Canadian Press, “Award Candidates Named in Advance,” *Globe and Mail*, 18 March 1969, 12.

are difficult to confirm without a reliable list of exactly which categories were in use each year.

- *Pseudonyms and Aliases*. When a winning book's author, translator, or illustrator has used a pseudonym or alias, this has been noted in the official list in some instances (for example, in the case of Ringuet's 1940 *Thirty Acres*) but not in others (for example, in the case of Wreford's 1950 *Of Time and the Lover*, Wood's 1955 *The Map-Maker* and 1957 *The Great Chief*, and Martin's 1966 *La joue droite*). Complicating matters in the case of the 1946 Creative Nonfiction winner, *In Search of Myself*, is the fact that, although the book was a purported volume of autobiography, the book's author, Frederick Philip Grove, neglected to inform his readers that he had been born Felix Paul Berthold Friedrich Greve and that he had emigrated from Europe to North America under less than honest circumstances.²⁰ Whether the book was an appropriate candidate for a Nonfiction Award remains a controversial point of discussion over sixty years later.
- *Multi-volume Awards*. In the case of multi-volume works, the official list sometimes remains ambiguous about which volume or volumes may have received awards. For example, although it normally has been the policy to make awards only for books published in a given award year,²¹ in 1963 it was reported that J.M.S. Careless won the English-language Nonfiction award for his two-volume biography, *Brown of the Globe*, even though the first volume had been published several years earlier. As William French writes, "In the non-fiction category, Professor J.M.S. Careless, chairman of the history department at the University of Toronto, was given the award for his two-volume biography

²⁰ As a young man, Greve met with significant success as a writer and translator in Germany. However, after incurring a number of large debts and serving a year in prison for fraud, he faked his own suicide and crossed the Atlantic. After a short period of farming in Kentucky, Greve, now known as Grove, established himself as a writer in Canada. Despite his literary success – in addition to his Governor General's award he was elected to the Royal Society in 1941 and received an honorary doctorate from the University of Manitoba in 1946 – he remained impoverished for much of his life. He died on 19 August 1948 and is buried in Rapid City, Manitoba. For additional information, see Douglas O. Spettigue, *Frederick Philip Grove* (Toronto: The Copp Clark Publishing Company, 1969); and Douglas O. Spettigue, *FPG: The European Years* (Ottawa: Oberon Press, 1973).

²¹ The broader issue is slightly complicated by the fact that since the early 1990s, award years no longer correspond exactly to calendar years.

of George Brown, founder of one of the antecedents of *The Globe and Mail*, called *Brown of the Globe*, published by Macmillan. ... The first volume of the study was published five years ago but the award apparently is intended to cover both volumes."²² The same year, Gustave Lanctot won the French-language award for *Autres genres littéraires* for his *Histoire du Canada*, even though the official list again fails to include information about whether he won only for the volume that appeared in 1963 or whether his award, as with *Brown of the Globe*, was intended also to recognize the first volume in the series, in this case published three years earlier in 1960. Although not noted on the official award list, in 1965 the English-language Nonfiction award was given to both Volume 1 and Volume 2 of James Eayrs' *In Defence of Canada*.

- *1943 Multiple-Edition Award*. The 1943 English-language Fiction award presents a similar challenge. According to the official awards list, the award went to both the 1939 Edinburgh edition and the 1943 Toronto edition of Thomas Raddall's *The Pied Piper of Dipper Creek and Other Tales*. (It is easy to see that these are two distinct books since, not only do they have different cover art, the Toronto edition contains an additional front note.) This appears to be contrary to the regulations of the day, which required awards to be made for the best books "published in each calendar year."²³
- *Other Multiple-Edition Awards*. Several other winning titles also are listed officially as having multiple publishers. In numerous cases this is because multiple impressions, variants, or issues²⁴ of an edition had been released concurrently or nearly concurrently. For example, Gabrielle Roy's 1947 *The Tin Flute* appeared initially with the American publisher Reynal & Hitchcock. It then appeared later the same year as a Canadian variant that included the imprints of both Reynal & Hitchcock and McClelland & Stewart on the title page. Robert MacGregor Dawson's 1949 *Democratic Government in Canada* appeared with the University of Toronto Press and as a

²² William French, "Top Literature Awards Given," *Globe and Mail*, 21 March 1964, 17.

²³ William Arthur Deacon to Ellen Elliott, 4.

²⁴ For helpful clarification of the difference, see Fredson Bowers, *Principles of Bibliographical Description* (New York: Russell & Russell Inc, 1949), especially 39, 40, 41-42, 371.

Copp Clark Co. issue of the same edition. However, in the case of four English-language Fiction winners, it is almost certain that no concurrent editions, impressions, variants or issues ever appeared: in 1938 there appears to have been no Thomas Nelson & Sons (Canada) version of Gwethalyn Graham's *Swiss Sonata*; in 1944 there appears to have been no Thomas Nelson & Sons (Canada) version of Gwethalyn Graham's *Earth and High Heaven*; in 1946 there appears to have been no Ryerson Press version of Winifred Bambrick's *Continental Review*; and in 1961 there appears to have been no Longmans, Green & Company version of Malcolm Lowry's *Hear Us O Lord from Heaven Thy Dwelling Place*. In each of these cases the Canadian companies acted only as the distributors of either a British or American edition and so should not be listed as co-publishers.²⁵ Oddly in the case of Bruce Hutchison's 1942 *The Unknown Country: Canada and Her People*, the official list includes both the original Coward-McCann edition and the re-issue by Longmans, Green & Company, even though the re-issue did not appear until a year later, in 1943. In the case of the 1991 Drama winner, *Amigo's Blue Guitar* by Joan MacLeod, the correct winning publisher was The Summerhill Season, not Blizzard.

- *Declined Awards*. Five times in the history of the Governor General's Literary Awards have offers of awards been declined. Since declined offers are not technically awards – having never actually been awarded – they should be listed separately and not included within the list of award laureates.
- *1977 Declined Award*. A related anomaly concerns the offer of the award declined by Michel Garneau in 1977. According to Garneau and one of the jury members that year, Garneau was to have been offered the award for his collection of poems, *Les petits chevaux amoureux*.²⁶ However, according to the official award announcement and at least one media report,²⁷ Garneau was offered the award for his two plays, "Les célébrations et Adidou Adidouce." Complicating the matter is the fact that his plays appeared in print, not as *Les célébrations et Adidou Adidouce*, but under the title *Les célébrations suivi de Adidou Adidouce*.

²⁵ I am grateful to Steven Temple and John H. Meier, Jr for confirming this information.

²⁶ Michel Garneau, in correspondence 11 November 2011 and 21 December 2011.

²⁷ André Dionne, "Michel Garneau et le lieu de la culture," *Lettres québécoises: la revue de l'actualité littéraire*, 11 (1978): 50-54.

- *Miscellaneous Irregularities.* In a number of other respects the official awards list remains irregular. Many winning titles have been listed in full, along with their subtitles, although in the case of the 1984 French-language winner for Études et essais, *Histoire du catholicisme québécois: Le XXe siècle*, the title and subtitle have been interchanged. Many other books are listed by title alone, without their subtitles. Still others, such as Thomas Raddall's 1943 *The Pied Piper of Dipper Creek and Other Tales* and Sharon Pollock's 1981 *Blood Relations and Other Plays*, have had their titles abbreviated, in these cases as *The Pied Piper of Dipper Creek* and *Blood Relations*. In 1966, Réjean Ducharme's *L'avalée des avalés* received the French-language award for Poésie, not for Romans et nouvelles. In the case of the 1976 French winner for Études et essais, the correct title is *Le bas Canada 1791-1840*. When winners have received awards for multiple books, sometimes the relevant titles have been listed individually, each with its own entry, for example as with bpNichol's four 1970 titles, *Still Water*, *The True Eventual Story of Billy the Kid*, *Beach Head* and *The Cosmic Chef: An Evening of Concrete*. In other cases, multiple titles have been combined into a single entry, for example as with Mordecai Richler's two 1968 titles, "Cocksure and Hunting Tigers Under Glass" and George Bowering's two 1969 titles "Rocky Mountain Foot and The Gangs of Kosmos," a practice that leaves unwary readers unable to distinguish between entries that refer to one book and those that refer to two. The column labelled "Author/Auteur" actually refers to award laureates rather than authors, listing each winning book's illustrator, translator, or author, as appropriate. The overall impression is of a haphazardly compiled document that in numerous respects remains unreliable. In its current form the official list — in contrast to its distinguished contents — remains unbefitting one of Canada's great cultural institutions.

One final, related point is that, contrary to Canada Council news releases stating that the 75th Governor General's Literary Awards were to be awarded in November of 2011,²⁸ the 75th award year was in fact

²⁸ Canada Council for the Arts, *Canada Council for the Arts Announces the Finalists for the 75th Governor General's Literary Awards*, 11 October 2011, <http://987321654.canadacouncil.net/en/newsandevents-nouvellesetevenements/>

2010 and the ceremony honouring the 75th award-year recipients, held in Ottawa on 25 November 2010, went unnoted.²⁹ For anyone wanting to check, 1936 can be seen to be the first award year from the publication dates of the winning titles, the dates on the medals struck honoring the first year's winners, and the correspondence and newspaper reports of the day.³⁰ It follows that 1937 was the 2nd award year, 1938 was the 3rd, 1939 was the 4th, 1940 was the 5th,³¹ ... and 2010 was the 75th.³²

News%20release%20-%20communiqué_11oct.aspx; and Canada Council for the Arts, *Winners of the 75th Governor General's Literary Awards Announced*, 15 November 2011, http://987321654.canadacouncil.net/en/newsandevents-nouvellesetevenements/News%20release%20-%20communiqué_15nov.aspx.

²⁹ The practice of waiting until the following year to announce each year's winners has been abandoned since 1991. That year awards ceremonies were held for both the 1990 and 1991 award years, in January and December respectively. See H.J. Kirchhoff, "Ricci's First Novel Wins Top Prize," *Globe and Mail*, 23 January 1991, C1; and Val Ross, "Mistry's Journey Reaches its Goal," *Globe and Mail*, 4 December 1991, C1; Since then, ceremonies have been held in November or December of each award year.

³⁰ For example, see "Tweedsmuir Critical of Propagandist Poets" and "Leacock, Pratt, Salverson Awarded Viceregal Medals."

³¹ The situation has not been helped by Wikipedia, which states that the fifth year of the awards took place in both 1940 and 1941. The claim that "The 1940 Governor General's Awards for Literary Merit were the fifth such awards" appears in Wikipedia, "1940 Governor General's Awards," accessed 3 December 2011, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1940_Governor_General%27s_Awards. The claim that "the 1941 Governor General's Awards for Literary Merit were the fifth such awards" appears in Wikipedia, "1941 Governor General's Awards," accessed 3 December 2011, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1941_Governor_General%27s_Awards.

³² For their advice and assistance, I am grateful to an anonymous referee of this journal as well as to the following people: Maurie Barrett, John Brooker, Stephen Clarkson, Alice Cocunubová, Jennifer Connor, Katie Eliot, Margery Fee, Michel Garneau, Carole Gerson, Catherine Hobbs, Brian Hubner, David Irvine, Joan Irvine, Lori Knoll, Brittany Lavery, Don LePan, Kathy Long, Monique Ostiguy, Jean-Pierre Marquis, Roy Miki, Diane Miljours, Laura Moss, Ira Nadel, William New, Ellen Nodwell, Wolfgang Noethlichs, Anita Purcell, Jim Rainer, Robert Reid, Nino Ricci, Wendy Roy, John Russell, Roger Seamon, Carl Spadoni, Mark Vessey, Maryse Warda, Matt Williams, Alice S.P. Wong, John Woods and Jan Zwicky. I also especially want to thank David Camp, Reny Kahlon, Ralph Stanton and Alan Twigg for their generous support, Yvonne Cuéllar, Jeffrey Morrow and Timothy Stevenson for their invaluable archival work, John H. Meier, Jr for his ongoing and reliable advice, and Steven Temple for his always judicious and instructive counsel. It is worth emphasizing that in recent years, Meier's tireless efforts at educating the public about the Governor General's Literary Awards have resulted in a greatly increased awareness of Canada's literary

SOMMAIRE

Depuis plus de 75 ans, les prix littéraires du Gouverneur général constituent les principales récompenses littéraires au Canada. Cette note dresse la liste officielle révisée des lauréats, liste qui pouvait d'ailleurs être téléchargée pendant de nombreuses années sur le site du Conseil des Arts du Canada. L'auteur procède à un inventaire des irrégularités bibliographiques de cette liste.

heritage. At the same time, Temple's work collecting as many first-edition copies of Governor-General-Award-winning titles as possible has helped resolve many otherwise unanswered questions about the awards. Without Temple's pioneering work, much information about the awards might easily have been lost to history forever.