The Governor General's Literary Awards: An Introduction

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*National greatness is impossible without
a corresponding flowering in the arts.*

William Arthur Deacon¹

In 1921, members of the Toronto Society of Authors formally dissolved their association with the intention of helping to establish a new national organization that would aid in the promotion of Canada's "national literature."² The new organization was the Canadian Authors Association, created in Montreal in December of that year.³ Among the new association's most significant initiatives was the creation of Canada's Governor General's Literary Awards.

Established in 1936⁴ at the suggestion of *Globe and Mail* literary critic William Arthur Deacon,⁵ the Governor General's Literary

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¹ William Arthur Deacon, *The Fly Leaf*, *Globe and Mail*, 9 April 1938, 15.

² William Arthur Deacon, "Authors' Convention Opens in Halifax," *Globe and Mail*, 30 June 1956, 8.

³ William Arthur Deacon, memorandum with the header "Strictly Confidential," n.d., William Arthur Deacon fonds, MS160 (hereafter "Deacon fonds"), box 35A, folder 3, Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto, 1.

⁴ Canadian Authors Association, summary of Canadian Authors Association minutes regarding the Governor General's Literary Awards, 15 February 1936 to 12 September 1942, Deacon fonds, box 35A, folder 3, 1; William Arthur Deacon, letter to Ellen Elliott, 8 May 1940, Macmillan Company of Canada fonds, box 12, file 10, William Ready Division, Archives and Research Collections, McMaster University, 1, 4.

⁵ Deacon's suggestion was made in response to a question posed by Albert Robson, the incoming president of the Toronto branch of the Canadian Authors Association in 1935, about what concrete measures might be taken to help support Canadian writers. See Franklin Davey McDowell, "Governor-General's Awards Board, Chairman's Report, Years 1949–1951, Inclusive," Deacon fonds, box 34,

Awards have served as Canada's premier literary prize for over three-quarters of a century. Like the Pulitzer Prize in the United States (which is awarded in twenty-one categories in literature, journalism, and musical composition), the prix Goncourt in France (which is awarded in five categories), and the Prime Minister's Literary Awards in Australia (which are awarded for work in half a dozen literary genres), Canada's Governor General's Literary Awards are intended to recognize creative excellence in a variety of categories. Affectionately known as the "GGs," the awards were originally named the "Governor-General's Annual Literary Awards."⁶ The name was changed to the slightly shorter "Governor General's Literary Awards" in 1959.⁷

For anyone wanting to create an accurate bibliographical record of the awards, several criteria need to be observed. First, any such bibliography needs to be *complete*. It needs to include all award-winning books from 1936 to the present. Second, it must be *sufficiently detailed*. It must identify the winning author, translator, or illustrator of each book, in addition to the book itself. Third, it must be *properly categorized*. Entries need to be organized to respect the historical categories under which each award was originally given. Finally, it must be *sound*. It must not include books that have never won awards and it must distinguish between offers of awards that have been accepted and offers of awards that have been declined. Honouring all of these criteria together requires significant historical sensitivity as well as the normal bibliographical precision.

folder 1, 1; Deacon, letter to Ellen Elliott (see note 4), 1; William Arthur Deacon, "Canadian Authors Association / 1947 Report of the Governor-General's Awards Board," 8 July 1947, Deacon fonds, box 33, folder 9, 1; William Arthur Deacon, *The Fly Leaf, Globe and Mail*, 9 July 1955, 34; Clara Thomas and John Lennox, *William Arthur Deacon: A Canadian Literary Life*, (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1982), 196.

⁶ Deacon, "1947 Report of the Governor-General's Awards Board" (see note 5), 3; McDowell, "Chairman's Report, Years 1949–1951" (see note 5), 2.

⁷ J.G. Sylvestre, "The Governor General's Literary Awards," 23 January 1962, Northrop Frye fonds 2007.7 (hereafter "Frye fonds"), box 1, file 7, E.J. Pratt Library, Victoria University, University of Toronto; cf. Canada Council, [*Press Release: Governor General's Literary Awards for 1960*], 24 February 1961, 1; Le Conseil des Arts du Canada, [*Communiqué: Prix du Gouverneur général pour la littérature 1960*], 24 février 1961, 1. Copies of all news releases from the Canada Council for the Arts relating to the Governor General's Literary Awards can be found at the Canada Council for the Arts Reference and Documentation Centre in Ottawa. In keeping with the typographical conventions of the day, accents may be missing from the titles of some French-language news releases.

To consider just one example, throughout the first few decades of the awards, only books published in the relevant award year were eligible for nomination.⁸ Following a major reorganization of the awards in 1959, in which the administration of the awards was transferred from the Canadian Authors Association to the Canada Council for the Arts, it was decided that "No award would be made for the first volume of a work to comprise two or more volumes."⁹ Instead, such works would "be considered only when the last volume is published" and the award would then be given in recognition of the series as a whole.¹⁰ As a result of this new policy, the Non-fiction award for 1963 was given for both volumes of J.M.S. Careless's two-volume biography of George Brown, *Brown of the Globe*, even though the first volume had appeared several years earlier, in 1959.¹¹

At the same time, it was also decided that such policies would function only as *guidelines*. No policy would be completely binding on future committees. As J.G. Sylvestre summarizes, committees "should always remain free to make their own decisions in the light of the circumstances then prevailing. The one rule is that there are no rules."¹²

In accordance with this decision, the 1963 award for *Autres genres littéraires* was given for Gustave Lanctôt's *Histoire du Canada*, even though by 1963 only the first two volumes of his three-volume history had appeared.¹³ (The third volume did not appear until 16 April 1964.) Something similar also happened two years later, when the 1965 Non-fiction award was given for the first two volumes of James Eayrs's *In Defence of Canada*, even though three additional volumes were still to

⁸ See Deacon, *The Fly Leaf* (see note 1).

⁹ Sylvestre, "The Governor General's Literary Awards" (see note 7), 2; cf. Northrop Frye, letter to Mary Winspear, 26 June 1962, Frye fonds, box 1, file 7, 1.

¹⁰ Sylvestre, "The Governor General's Literary Awards" (see note 7), 1.

¹¹ William French, "Top Literature Awards Given," *Globe and Mail*, 21 March 1964, 17; cf. Canada Council, [Press Release:] *Governor General's Literary Awards for 1963*, 20 March 1964, 1; Le Conseil des Arts du Canada, [Communiqué:] *Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour 1963*, 20 mars 1964, 1.

¹² Sylvestre, "The Governor General's Literary Awards" (see note 7), 1.

¹³ "Gustave Lanctôt et Gâtien Lapointe, prix du Gouverneur général," *Le Devoir*, 21 mars 1964, 11; French, "Top Literature Awards Given" (see note 11); Canada Council, [Press Release:] *Governor General's Literary Awards for 1963*; Le Conseil des Arts du Canada, [Communiqué:] *Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour 1963* (see note 11).

be published.¹⁴ A year after that, even greater flexibility was assumed when the 1966 award for *Autres genres littéraires* was given for just the second volume of Marcel Trudel's *Histoire de la Nouvelle-France*, excluding even the previously published first volume.¹⁵

Award Categories, Jury Categories, and Judging Categories

Another complicating factor relates to the categories within which awards have been conferred. Originally, it was planned that awards would be given for books in both French and English in each of the three categories of Fiction, Poetry, and General Literature.¹⁶ However, during the first year, no volume of English-language poetry was found to be of sufficiently high a standard to receive an award.¹⁷ In addition, due to a variety of organizational challenges, over twenty years would pass before awards were to be offered in French. Despite this slow start, the awards were an immediate success with the reading public. Over the decades, they also continued to evolve.

To recognize the difference between academic and more popular non-fiction writing, the General Literature category was split in 1942 into the two categories of Academic Non-fiction and Creative Non-fiction.¹⁸ Four years later, a Juvenile category was added for Citation,

¹⁴ Canada Council, *Press Release / Communiqué: Governor General's Literary Awards [for 1965]*, 1 April 1966, 1; Le Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Press Release / Communiqué: Prix Littéraires du Gouverneur général [pour 1965]*, 1 avril 1966, 1; Canada Council, *Ninth Annual Report: 1965–66* (Ottawa: Canada Council, 1966), 47.

¹⁵ Canada Council, *Press Release / Communiqué: Governor General's Literary Awards for 1966*, 23 March 1967, 1; Le Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Press Release / Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1966*, 23 mars 1967, 1; Canada Council, *10th Annual Report: 1966–67* (Ottawa: Canada Council, 1967), 61.

¹⁶ Canadian Authors Association, minutes regarding the Governor General's Literary Awards, 15 February 1936 to 12 September 1942 (see note 4), 1; "Annual Awards Established to Aid Canadian Literature," *Globe and Mail*, 27 February 1937, 12; cf. Pelham Edgar, letter to Mr. Pereira, Deacon fonds, box 29, folder 15, 1; Thomas and Lennox, *William Arthur Deacon* (see note 5), 196–97.

¹⁷ "Governor-General's Annual Literary Awards from 1936 to 1944," Deacon fonds, box 35A, folder 6, 1; McDowell, "Chairman's Report, Years 1949–1951" (see note 5), 7.

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

although no award was made in this category during its first two years of operation.¹⁹ The award was "enlarged" to that of a medal in 1949.²⁰

The largest single development occurred in 1959 when awards finally began to be offered for books in French as well as English.²¹ As part of the accompanying reorganization, two newly established juries were introduced. One became responsible for all English-language awards, the other for all French-language awards. A distinction was also introduced between *judging categories* (which determined a book's eligibility and established the relevant comparison class for each book) and *award categories* (in which the awards were given). In English, the new judging categories were Fiction/Drama, Non-fiction, and Poetry/Drama.²² In French, the corresponding categories were Romans et nouvelles/Théâtre, Autres genres littéraires, and Poésie/Théâtre. As J.G. Sylvestre reports, "Drama appears twice so that an award could be made for a play which, in the opinion of the committee, is a better literary achievement than either the best book of verse or the best work of fiction of the year."²³ Thus, although books in Drama were to be judged in comparison to books in both Fiction and Poetry, the awards themselves (to a maximum of three in each official language) were to be given in the individual categories of Fiction, Non-fiction, Poetry, Drama, Romans et nouvelles, Autres genres littéraires, Poésie, and Théâtre.

Following the 1959 reorganization, Canada Council press releases did not always distinguish clearly between judging categories and

¹⁹ McDowell, "Chairman's Report, Years 1949-1951" (see note 5), 2; Canadian Authors Association, "Governor-General's Awards Board Consults National Executive," 11 March 1949, Deacon fonds, box 35A, folder 3, 1; Deacon, "1947 Report of the Governor-General's Awards Board" (see note 5), 3; William Arthur Deacon, "Governor-General's Annual Literary Awards, Leacock Humor Medal and Juvenile Citation," *Globe and Mail*, 11 June 1949, 14.

²⁰ McDowell, "Chairman's Report, Years 1949-1951" (see note 5), 7; cf. William Arthur Deacon, "Governor-General's Literary Awards Winners," *Globe and Mail*, 3 June 1950, 10; "Governor-General's Literary Awards," *The Canadian Author & Bookman* 25, no. 2 (1949): 12-14 (14); E. Bennett Metcalfe, *A Man of Some Importance: The Life of Roderick Langmere Haig-Brown* (Vancouver: James W. Wood, 1985), 202.

²¹ Canada Council, [Press Release:] *Canada Council Announces 1959 Governor-General's Awards*, 8 March 1960, 1; Le Conseil des Arts du Canada, [Communiqué:] *Prix du Gouverneur-général 1959*, 9 mars 1960, 1.

²² William Arthur Deacon, "Governor-General's Awards," *Globe and Mail*, 19 December 1959, 18; Canada Council, *Third Annual Report: To March 31, 1960* (Ottawa: Canada Council, 1960), 18.

²³ Sylvestre, "The Governor General's Literary Awards" (see note 7), 1.

award categories. For example, in 1959 it was announced that under the new structure awards henceforth would be given in the categories of Fiction and Drama, Poetry and Drama, and Non-fiction.²⁴ However, once the awards actually began to be conferred, it turns out that they were awarded in the eight discrete categories listed above.²⁵

Discovering which categories were in place in which years is also complicated by the fact that during the 1960s several Canada Council award announcements reported the categories differently in English and in French. For example, in the 1962 award year, the English-language press release announced that Marshall McLuhan's book, *The Gutenberg Galaxy*, won in the (apparently new) category of "critical and expository prose."²⁶ In contrast, the French-language press release that same year placed the book in the traditional category of *Autres genres littéraires*, using the phrase "prose critique" as only an explanatory gloss.²⁷ Similar discrepancies occurred the same year with regard to Kildare Dobbs's book, *Running to Paradise*, and the following year with regard to *Hugh Garner's Best Stories*.²⁸ In such cases, it is safe to conclude that the new wording was merely expository. Had such glosses been meant to refer to genuinely new categories, they almost certainly would have been announced in the relevant French press releases as well as in the English. Almost certainly too, there would have been a formal announcement describing the reorganization, just as there was in 1959,²⁹ 1971,³⁰ and other years.

²⁴ Canada Council, [Press Release:] *Canada Council to Add \$1000 Cash Prize to Governor General's Awards*, 15 December 1959, 1.

²⁵ For example, for the 1959 award year see Canada Council, [Press Release:] *Canada Council Announces 1959 Governor-General's Awards*; Le Conseil des Arts du Canada, [Communiqué:] *Prix du Gouverneur-général 1959* (see note 21); for the 1960 award year, see Canada Council, [Press Release:] *Governor General's Literary Awards for 1960*; Le Conseil des Arts du Canada, [Communiqué:] *Prix du Gouverneur général pour la littérature 1960* (see note 7); etc.

²⁶ Canada Council, [Press Release:] *Governor General's Literary Awards [1962]*, 9 March 1963, 1.

²⁷ Le Conseil des Arts du Canada, [Communiqué:] *Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général [1962]*, 9 Mars 1963, 1.

²⁸ See Canada Council, [Press Release:] *Governor General's Literary Awards for 1963*; Le Conseil des Arts du Canada, [Communiqué:] *Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour 1963* (see note 11).

²⁹ Canada Council, [Press Release:] *Canada Council to Add \$1000 Cash Prize to Governor General's Awards* (see note 24).

³⁰ Canada Council, *News Release: Governor General's Literary Awards for 1971*, 22 March 1972, 1; Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1971*, 22 mars 1972, 1.

Other minor anomalies in the archival record say more about the flexibility of the award process than about the categories themselves. For example, in 1963, the English-language awards for 1962 were given to three recipients (the maximum permitted) across all four categories, with James Reaney receiving a single award split between the two categories of Poetry and Drama.³¹ Later that decade, juries also sometimes took it to be within their mandate to grant three English-language and three French-language awards solely on the basis of quality and “regardless of category,”³² a practice that led to multiple awards being made in some categories, no awards being made in others, and awards sometimes being made for writing done in other combinations of categories, as was done with the Fiction and Non-fiction awards in 1968.³³

Changes since 1970 have included the replacement of the French-language category *Autres genres littéraires* with the new category *Études et essais* in 1971,³⁴ renamed *Essais* in 2011,³⁵ and the eventual introduction of awards for children's literature and translation.³⁶ Over the years, several categories have also undergone small adjustments in

³¹ Canada Council, [Press Release:] *Governor General's Literary Awards* [1962] (see note 26); Le Conseil des Arts du Canada, [Communiqué:] *Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général* [1962] (see note 27).

³² Canadian Press, “Award Candidates Named in Advance,” *Globe and Mail*, 18 March 1969, 12; cf. William French, “Two Governor-General's Awards Go to Poetry; None to Fiction,” *Globe and Mail*, 3 May 1968, 12.

³³ Canada Council, *Press Release / Communiqué: Governor General's Literary Awards for 1967*, 2 May 1968, 1; Le Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Press Release / Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1967*, 2 mai 1968, 1; Canada Council, *Press Release / Communiqué: Governor General's Literary Awards for 1968*, 22 April 1969, 1; Le Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Press Release / Communiqué: Attribution des prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1968*, 22 avril 1969, 1; Canada Council, *Press Release / Communiqué: Governor General's Literary Awards for 1969*, 14 April 1970, 1; Le Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Press Release / Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1969*, 14 avril 1970, 1; Canada Council, *Press Release / Communiqué: Governor General's Literary Awards for 1970*, 5 March 1971, 1; Le Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Press Release / Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1970*, 5 mars 1971, 1.

³⁴ Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1971*, 22 mars 1972, 1.

³⁵ Le Conseil des arts du Canada, *Communiqués: Annonce des lauréats des 75^e [i.e., 76^e] Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général*, 15 novembre 2011, 1.

³⁶ Canada Council, *Communiqué: Winners of 1987 Governor General's Literary Awards Announced*, 11 February 1988, 1; Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour 1987*, 11 février 1988, 1.

name, the most significant of which have been noted in the footnotes below. Since 1987, awards have been made in seven categories in each of Canada's two official languages.³⁷

Between 1936 and 2013, the jury categories, judging categories, and award categories have been as follows:

Table 1. Jury Categories, Judging Categories, and Award Categories for the Governor General's Literary Awards, 1936–2013

<i>JURY CATEGORIES</i>	<i>JUDGING CATEGORIES</i>	<i>AWARD CATEGORIES</i>
1936–41		
Fiction	Fiction	Fiction
General Literature	General Literature	General Literature
Poetry	Poetry	Poetry ³⁸
1942–45		
Fiction	Fiction	Fiction
Academic Non-fiction	Academic Non-fiction	Academic Non-fiction
Creative Non-fiction	Creative Non-fiction	Creative Non-fiction
Poetry	Poetry	Poetry
1946–58		
Fiction	Fiction	Fiction
Academic Non-fiction	Academic Non-fiction	Academic Non-fiction
Creative Non-fiction	Creative Non-fiction	Creative Non-fiction
Poetry	Poetry	Poetry
Juvenile	Juvenile	Juvenile
1959–1970		
English language	Fiction/Drama Non-fiction Poetry/Drama	Fiction Non-fiction Poetry Drama

³⁷ Canada Council, *Communiqué: Winners of 1987 Governor General's Literary Awards Announced* (see note 36); Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour 1987* (see note 36).

³⁸ In Andrew David Irvine, "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," *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of Canada* 50, no.1 (2012): 51–61 (53), it was mistakenly asserted that this category did not come into existence until 1937. In fact, although the first Poetry award was not made until 1937, the category itself was created in 1936. See "Governor-General's Annual Literary Awards from 1936 to 1944" (see note 17), 1; McDowell, "Chairman's Report, Years 1949–1951" (see note 5), 7.

Table I. (continued)

<i>JURY CATEGORIES</i>	<i>JUDGING CATEGORIES</i>	<i>AWARD CATEGORIES</i>
Langue française	Romans et nouvelles/ Théâtre Autres genres littéraires Poésie/Théâtre	Romans et nouvelles ³⁹ Autres genres littéraires ⁴⁰ Poésie Théâtre
1971–1980		
Fiction Non-fiction Poetry and Drama	Fiction Non-fiction Poetry/Drama	Fiction Non-fiction Poetry Drama
Romans et nouvelles Études et essais Poésie et théâtre	Romans et nouvelles Études et essais Poésie/Théâtre	Romans et nouvelles Études et essais Poésie Théâtre
1981–1986		
Fiction Non-fiction Poetry Drama	Fiction Non-fiction Poetry Drama	Fiction Non-fiction Poetry Drama
Romans et nouvelles Études et essais Poésie Théâtre	Romans et nouvelles Études et essais Poésie Théâtre	Romans et nouvelles Études et essais Poésie Théâtre
1987–1991		
Fiction Non-fiction Poetry Drama Children's Literature Translation	Fiction Non-fiction Poetry Drama Children's Literature (Illustration) Children's Literature (Text) Translation	Fiction Non-fiction Poetry Drama Children's Literature (Illustration) Children's Literature (Text) Translation

³⁹ Between 1959 and 1970, this category was also sometimes referred to as "Romans," "Romans, nouvelles et contes," and "Romans, contes et nouvelles."

⁴⁰ Between 1965 and 1967, this category was also sometimes referred to as "Essais et autres genres littéraires."

Table 1. (continued)

<i>JURY CATEGORIES</i>	<i>JUDGING CATEGORIES</i>	<i>AWARD CATEGORIES</i>
Romans et nouvelles	Romans et nouvelles	Romans et nouvelles
Études et essais	Études et essais	Études et essais
Poésie	Poésie	Poésie
Théâtre	Théâtre	Théâtre
Littérature de jeunesse	Littérature de jeunesse (Illustration)	Littérature de jeunesse (Illustration)
	Littérature de jeunesse (Texte)	Littérature de jeunesse (Texte)
Traduction	Traduction	Traduction
1992–2013		
Fiction	Fiction	Fiction
Non-fiction	Non-fiction	Non-fiction
Poetry	Poetry	Poetry
Drama	Drama	Drama
Children's Literature (Illustration)	Children's Literature (Illustration)	Children's Literature (Illustration)
Children's Literature (Text)	Children's Literature (Text)	Children's Literature (Text)
Translation	Translation	Translation
Romans et nouvelles	Romans et nouvelles	Romans et nouvelles
Essais	Essais	Essais ⁴¹
Poésie	Poésie	Poésie
Théâtre	Théâtre	Théâtre
Littérature jeunesse (Illustration)	Littérature jeunesse (Illustration)	Littérature jeunesse ⁴² (Illustration)
Littérature jeunesse (Texte)	Littérature jeunesse (Texte)	Littérature jeunesse ⁴³ (Texte)
Traduction	Traduction	Traduction

Between 1936 and 2013, a total of 651 books received awards. The number of books receiving awards in each category has been as follows:

⁴¹ Prior to 2011 this category was referred to as "Études et essais."

⁴² Prior to 2002 this category was referred to as "Littérature de jeunesse (illustrations)"; in 2013 the category was referred to as "Littérature jeunesse (illustrations)."

⁴³ Prior to 2002 this category was referred to as "Littérature de jeunesse (texte)."

Table 2. Number of Books Receiving Governor General's Literary Awards, Per Category, 1936–2013

Academic Non-fiction	17	Autres genres littéraires	12
Children's Literature (Illustration)	27	Essais	44
Children's Literature (Text)	27	Littérature jeunesse	
Creative Non-fiction	17	(illustration)	26
Drama	34	Littérature jeunesse (texte)	27
Fiction	77	Poésie	46
General Literature	6	Romans et nouvelles	53
Juvenile	11	Théâtre	37
Non-fiction	53	Traduction (de l'anglais au	
Poetry	83	français)	27
Translation (from French to English)	27		

These numbers exclude additional cash prizes given to non-winning finalists, a practice that began in 2002.

Awards and Prizes

Although several of the original organizers preferred that monetary prizes not be included with the awards, William Deacon lobbied the general public for many years in an attempt to find donors who might be willing to fund cash prizes to accompany the awards.⁴⁴ He was largely unsuccessful.⁴⁵ He was also slightly annoyed when Carling (a beer and liquor company) beat the Canadian Authors Association to become the first organization in English Canada to support writers with a regular cash prize.⁴⁶

Initially, a suggestion had been made to give all award laureates parchments signed by the governor general.⁴⁷ Bronze medals commissioned from Birks were substituted once it was realized that signed parchments might not always be practical. In 1937, the first

⁴⁴ For example, see "Leacock, Pratt, Salverson Awarded Viceregal Medals," *Globe and Mail*, 5 November 1938, 9; William Arthur Deacon, "Three Best Canadian Books," *Globe and Mail*, 13 April 1940, 11.

⁴⁵ McDowell, "Chairman's Report, Years 1949–1951" (see note 5), 5.

⁴⁶ William Arthur Deacon, The Fly Leaf [draft], 1 July 1950, Deacon fonds, box 33, folder 2, 2; cf. William Arthur Deacon, The Fly Leaf, *Globe and Mail*, 8 July 1950, 10.

⁴⁷ Thomas and Lennox, *William Arthur Deacon* (see note 5), 197.

two medals together cost \$12.50.⁴⁸ Beginning with the 1942 award year, a switch was made to silver medals. The change represented not only the growing prestige of the awards but also an increased need to conserve bronze in support of the war effort.⁴⁹ Cash prizes, in the amount of \$1,000, followed in 1959.⁵⁰ Increases in award amounts occurred in 1965,⁵¹ 1975,⁵² 1988,⁵³ 2000,⁵⁴ and 2007.⁵⁵

It is unknown exactly when the practice of awarding medals was abandoned. In 1960, the chairman of the Governor General's Awards Board, Douglas Grant, stated that "each medal is now accompanied by a cash prize of \$1,000," implying that medals continued at least through the 1959 award year.⁵⁶ The practice likely ended in 1961 (with the 1960 award year), but may have continued for one or two additional years.

It is also unknown exactly when award laureates began receiving specially bound copies of their books, a practice that began at least as

⁴⁸ Birks-Ellis-Ryrie, invoice to Pelham Edgar, 27 November 1937, Deacon fonds, box 29, folder 15.

⁴⁹ "The 22nd Annual Meeting," *The Canadian Author & Bookman* 19, no. 3 (1943): 3-4 (4).

⁵⁰ Canada Council, [Press Release:] *Canada Council to Add \$1000 Cash Prize to Governor General's Awards* (see note 24); A.W. Trueman, "The 1959 Governor-General's Awards ...," *Canadian Author & Bookman*, 36, no. 1 (1960): 18-19; Douglas Grant, "C.A.A. Praised for Founding G-G. Awards," *Canadian Author & Bookman*, 36 no. 2 (1960): 9-10.

⁵¹ See Canada Council, *Press Release / Communiqué: Governor General's Literary Awards [for 1965]*; Le Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Press Release / Communiqué: Prix Littéraires du Gouverneur général [pour 1965]* (see note 14).

⁵² Canada Council, *News Release: Governor General's Literary Awards for 1975*, 12 April 1976, 1; Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1975*, 12 avril 1976, 1.

⁵³ Canada Council, *Communiqué: Winners of 1988 Governor General's Literary Awards Announced*, 3 March 1989, 1; Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour 1988*, 3 mars 1989, 1.

⁵⁴ Canada Council, *News Release: Governor General and the Canada Council for the Arts Present the Winners of the 2000 Governor General's Literary Awards*, 14 November 2000, 1; Conseil des arts du Canada, *Communiqués: La Gouverneure générale et le Conseil des arts du Canada présentent les lauréats des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général de 2000*, 14 novembre 2000, 1.

⁵⁵ Canada Council, *News Release: The Canada Council for the Arts Announces the Winners of the 2007 Governor General's Literary Awards*, 27 November 2007, 1; Conseil des arts du Canada, *Communiqués: Le Conseil des arts du Canada dévoile les noms des lauréates et lauréats des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général de 2007*, 27 novembre 2007, 1.

⁵⁶ Grant, "C.A.A. Praised for Founding G-G. Awards" (see note 50). The same point is made in Canada Council, *Third Annual Report* (see note 22).

Figure 1. Verso image of the 1936 Governor General's Annual Literary Award medal for General Literature, one of two medals presented during the first year of the awards. The medal remains in the Robertson family. The image appears courtesy of Kathy Long and the Thomas B. Robertson Estate.

early as 1963 (for the 1962 award year),⁵⁷ but probably as early as 1961 (for the 1960 award year). What also seems nearly certain is that the awarding of specially bound books replaced the awarding of medals, so in no year did a winner receive both a medal and a book – although,

⁵⁷ For confirmation in the case of the 1962 award year, see Canada Council, [*Press Release*.] *Governor General's Literary Awards [Ceremony]*, 29 March 1963, 1; for confirmation in the case of the 1964 award year, see Canada Council, *Eighth Annual Report: 1964-65* (Ottawa: Canada Council, 1965), 27; for confirmation in the case of the 1967 award year, see Canada Council, *Press Release / Communiqué: Governor General's Literary Awards for 1967*; Le Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Press Release / Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1967* (see note 33).

again, the official record is not completely clear.⁵⁸ The practice of awarding specially bound books continued until 2012. Images of the specially bound books produced by Pierre Ouvrard between 1973 and 1999 can be found in Jeannine Green and Merrill Distad's *Pierre Ouvrard: Master Bookbinder / Pierre Ouvrard: maître relieur*.⁵⁹ In 2005, the job of producing these commemorative volumes passed to Lise Dubois.⁶⁰ Many of the earlier bindings were done by Louis Forest, *relieur d'art*.⁶¹ In 2013, award laureates were presented with copies of their books mounted in handcrafted wooden and glass frames.⁶²

Finalists began to be announced publicly in 1979. Non-winning finalists began to receive cash prizes of \$1,000 in 2002.⁶³ Starting in 1997, the publishers of winning books began to receive formal recognition for their contributions in the form of scrolls or

⁵⁸ Statistics Canada, *Literary and Journalistic Awards in Canada, 1923–1973 / Les Prix Littérature et de Journalisme au Canada, 1923–1973* (Ottawa: Information Canada, 1976), 32.

⁵⁹ (Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 2000), 53–93. Images of the original covers of the English-language fiction titles can be seen in John H. Meier Jr., *The John H. Meier, Jr. Governor General's Literary Award for Fiction Collection, 1936–2011* (Toronto: University of Toronto Library, 2012).

⁶⁰ Canada Council, *News Release: The Canada Council for the Arts Announces the Winners of the 2005 Governor General's Literary Awards*, 16 November 2005; Conseil des arts du Canada, *Communiqués: Le Conseil des arts du Canada dévoile les noms des lauréates et lauréats des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général de 2005*, 16 novembre 2005.

⁶¹ Confirmed in private correspondence with Jean Baird on 7 January 2014 for Al Purdy's 1965 winning book, *The Cariboo Horses*, and on 3 January 2014 for George Bowering's 1969 winning books, *The Gangs of Kosmos* and *Rocky Mountain Foot*.

⁶² Fred Chartrand, "In Pictures: The Governor-General's Literary Awards," *Globe and Mail*, 28 November 2013, www.theglobeandmail.com/arts/books-and-media/in-pictures-the-governor-generals-literary-awards/article15673154.

⁶³ "Past Recipients," Canada Council, accessed 17 March 2014, canadacouncil.ca/en/council/grants/past-recipients. Beginning in 2007, these awards began to be announced in Canada Council press releases. For example, see Canada Council, *News Release: The Canada Council for the Arts Announces the Winners of the 2007 Governor General's Literary Awards* (see note 55); Conseil des arts du Canada, *Communiqués: Le Conseil des arts du Canada dévoile les noms des lauréates et lauréats des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général de 2007* (see note 55).

certificates.⁶⁴ In 2001, they also began to receive \$3,000 to aid with advertising and promotion.⁶⁵

Between 1936 and 2013, awards and prizes have been organized as follows:

Table 3. Organization of Prizes for the Governor General's Literary Awards, 1936–2013

<i>AWARD YEAR</i>	<i>LAUREATES' AWARDS</i>	<i>PUBLISHERS' AWARDS</i>	<i>FINALISTS' AWARDS</i>
1936–45	Medal	--	--
1946–48	Medal or Citation	--	--
1949–58	Medal	--	--
1959–64	\$1,000 and a Medal ⁶⁶	--	--
	\$1,000 and a specially bound Book ⁶⁷	--	--
1965–74	\$2,500 and a specially bound Book	--	--
1975–87	\$5,000 and a specially bound Book	--	--
1988–96	\$10,000 and a specially bound Book	--	--
1997–99	\$10,000 and a specially bound Book	Scroll	--
2000	\$15,000 and a specially bound Book	Certificate	--
2001	\$15,000 and a specially bound Book	Certificate and \$3,000	--
2002–06	\$15,000 and a specially bound Book	Certificate and \$3,000	\$1,000
2007–12	\$25,000 and a specially bound Book	Certificate and \$3,000	\$1,000
2013	\$25,000 and a specially mounted Book	Certificate and \$3,000	\$1,000

⁶⁴ Canada Council, *News Release: Announcement of the Winners of the 1997 Canada Council for the Arts Governor General's Literary Awards*, 18 November 1997, 1; Conseil des arts du Canada, *Communiqués: Annonce des lauréats de 1997 des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général du Conseil des arts du Canada*, 18 novembre 1997, 1.

⁶⁵ Canada Council, *News Release: The Canada Council for the Arts Announces the Winners of the 2001 Governor General's Literary Awards*, 14 November 2001, 1; Conseil des arts du Canada, *Communiqués: Le Conseil des arts du Canada annonce les lauréates et lauréats des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général de 2001*, 14 novembre 2001, 1.

⁶⁶ Medals stopped being awarded sometime during the early 1960s. The exact date is not known.

⁶⁷ Specially bound copies of award-winning books began to be presented sometime during the early 1960s. The exact date is not known.

Award Ceremonies

The first ceremony celebrating the presentation of Governor General's Literary Awards took place at the University of Toronto's Convocation Hall on 24 November 1937.⁶⁸ In attendance to present the awards was the honorary president of the Canadian Authors Association, Governor General John Buchan.⁶⁹ The ceremony's explicit purpose was to mark the start of a "permanent system of recognition"⁷⁰ for literary achievement in a country that was, as the governor general put it, "still fortunate to be in the making."⁷¹ A celebrated author himself, Buchan had been appointed Lord Tweedsmuir in 1935, the same year he adapted his spy novel, *The Thirty-Nine Steps*, into a feature film directed by Alfred Hitchcock.⁷²

Organized by members of the Canadian Authors Association⁷³ and sponsored by the *Canadian Poetry Magazine*,⁷⁴ the 1937 ceremony honoured authors whose books had been published in 1936. Subsequent ceremonies continued to be organized by the Canadian Authors Association until 1959, when the job of financing and administering the awards was transferred to the Canada Council for the Arts.⁷⁵ The autonomous and self-perpetuating Awards Board, established by the Canadian Authors Association in 1944 to do the

⁶⁸ "Tweedsmuir Critical of Propagandist Poets," *Globe and Mail*, 25 November 1937, 4; William Arthur Deacon, "Poetry Magazine Night," *The Canadian Author* 15, no. 2 (1937): 6–7.

⁶⁹ Lyn Harrington, *Syllables of Recorded Time: The Story of the Canadian Authors Association, 1921–1981* (Toronto: Simon & Pierre, 1981), 79; cf. Thomas and Lennox, *William Arthur Deacon* (see note 5), 195, 197.

⁷⁰ Deacon, letter to Ellen Elliott (see note 4), 4.

⁷¹ Lord Tweedsmuir [John Buchan], "Return to Masterpieces," in *Canadian Occasions* (Toronto: The Musson Book Company Ltd, 1941), 241. Originally printed in *Canadian Poetry Magazine* 2, no. 3 (1937).

⁷² "The 39 Steps (1935)," *Internet Movie Database* [IMDb], accessed 7 November 2013, www.imdb.com/title/tt0026029/?ref_=fn_al_tt_2. The film was remade in 1978 and again in 2008.

⁷³ William Arthur Deacon, The Fly Leaf, *Globe and Mail*, 20 November 1937, 10.

⁷⁴ William Arthur Deacon, "Poetry Night," *Globe and Mail*, 20 November 1937, 10.

⁷⁵ Canada Council, *Press Release / Communiqué: Governor General's Literary Awards for 1970* (see note 33); Le Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Press Release / Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1970* (see note 33).

judging,⁷⁶ remained in place until it was replaced by juries appointed by the Canada Council eleven years later, in 1970.⁷⁷

Prior to the 1959 award year, most ceremonies were held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting and National Convention of the Canadian Authors Association. Exceptions occurred in 1937, when the 1936 awards were given at the first special ceremony in Toronto, and in 1938, when award decisions for 1937 were made too late in the year to coincide with the 13 June 1938 convention in Ottawa. In November of that year it was reported that the 1937 medals would be presented "on the first suitable public occasion."⁷⁸ Unfortunately, no such occasion appears to have arisen.

The practice of waiting until the following calendar year to celebrate each year's winning titles continued until 1991, when ceremonies were held for both the 1990 and 1991 award years, in January⁷⁹ and December⁸⁰ respectively. Since then, each year's ceremony has been held in either November or December of the appropriate award year. In 2003, 2004, and 2005, separate ceremonies were held, first for the four winners in the children's literature categories and a day or two later for winners in the other ten categories.

Challenges associated with viceregal travel during the first half of the twentieth century meant that between 1936 and 1958 only three governors general were able to present their awards in person:

⁷⁶ McDowell, "Chairman's Report, Years 1949–1951" (see note 5), 2; Deacon, memorandum with the header "Strictly Confidential" (see note 3).

⁷⁷ Canada Council, *Press Release / Communiqué: Governor General's Literary Awards for 1970* (see note 33); Le Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Press Release / Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1970* (see note 33).

⁷⁸ Roderick S. Kennedy, "Governor-General's Literary Awards," *The Canadian Author* 16, no. 1 (1938): 12–22 (12, 22); "Leacock, Pratt, Salverson Awarded Viceregal Medals" (see note 44).

⁷⁹ H.J. Kirchhoff, "Ricci's First Novel Wins Top Prize", *Globe and Mail*, 23 January 1991, C1; Canada Council, *Communiqué: Winners of 1990 Governor General's Literary Awards Announced*, 22 January 1991, 1; Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Les Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour 1990*, 22 janvier 1991, 1.

⁸⁰ Val Ross, "Mistry's Journey Reaches its Goal," *Globe and Mail*, 4 December 1991, C1; Canada Council, *Communiqué: Winners of 1991 Governor General's Literary Awards Announced*, 3 December 1991, 1; Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Les prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour 1991*, 3 décembre 1991, 1.

Buchan in 1937,⁸¹ Alexander in 1946,⁸² and Massey in 1952.⁸³ In other years, laureates received their awards from the lieutenant governor of the province in which the ceremony was held or from some other comparable dignitary of the day.

Early in the history of the awards, public announcements of each year's award winners often preceded the award ceremonies. This practice was re-established in 2002. Between 1936 and 2013, the award ceremonies have been held as follows:

Table 4. Ceremonies for the Governor General's Literary Awards, 1936–2013

<i>Award Year</i>	<i>Ceremony Date</i>	<i>Ceremony Location</i>	<i>Governor General</i>
1. 1936 ⁸⁴	24 November 1937	Toronto	Lord Tweedsmuir
2. 1937 ⁸⁵	--	--	Lord Tweedsmuir
3. 1938 ⁸⁶	5 July 1939	Halifax	Lord Tweedsmuir
4. 1939 ⁸⁷	26 August 1940	Montreal	The Earl of Athlone
5. 1940 ⁸⁸	26 August 1941	Victoria	The Earl of Athlone
6. 1941 ⁸⁹	12 September 1942	Montreal	The Earl of Athlone
7. 1942 ⁹⁰	10 September 1943	Toronto	The Earl of Athlone

⁸¹ "Tweedsmuir Critical of Propagandist Poets" (see note 68).

⁸² "Governor-General and Lady Margaret on Second Toronto Visit," *Globe and Mail*, 1 July 1946, 3.

⁸³ Pierce Lotta and H. Gordon Green, "The London Convention," *Canadian Author & Bookman* 28, no. 2 (1952): 6–15; William Arthur Deacon, "Toronto Writers are Well Represented in 1951 Canadian Literary Awards Announcement," *Globe and Mail*, 14 June 1952, 7.

⁸⁴ "Tweedsmuir Critical of Propagandist Poets" (see note 68).

⁸⁵ In November of 1938 it was reported that the 1937 awards would be presented "on the first suitable public occasion," but the ceremony appears never to have taken place. See Kennedy, "Governor-General's Literary Awards" (see note 78); "Leacock, Pratt, Salverson Awarded Viceregal Medals" (see note 44).

⁸⁶ "The National Convention," *The Canadian Author* 16, no. 3 (1939): 5–35 (5, 32).

⁸⁷ William Arthur Deacon, "Authors at Work and Play," *Globe and Mail*, 31 August 1940, 11; William Arthur Deacon, The Fly Leaf, *Globe and Mail*, 7 September 1940, 12.

⁸⁸ Canadian Authors Association, *Programme: Twentieth Annual Meeting and National Convention*, Vancouver and Victoria: 21–26 August 1941, PAM 1941–80, City of Vancouver Archives, 1.

⁸⁹ "Conclave in Montreal," *The Canadian Author & Bookman* 18, nos. 2, 3, 4 (1942): 16–17 (17).

⁹⁰ William Arthur Deacon, The Fly Leaf, *Globe and Mail*, 28 August 1943, 8.

8.	1943 ⁹¹	2 September 1944	Hamilton	The Earl of Athlone
9.	1944 ⁹²	1 December 1945	Montreal	The Earl of Athlone
10.	1945 ⁹³	29 June 1946	Toronto	The Viscount Alexander of Tunis
11.	1946 ⁹⁴	11 July 1947	Vancouver	The Viscount Alexander of Tunis
12.	1947 ⁹⁵	12 June 1948	Ottawa	The Viscount Alexander of Tunis
13.	1948 ⁹⁶	8 July 1949	Halifax	The Viscount Alexander of Tunis
14.	1949 ⁹⁷	30 June 1950	Montreal	The Viscount Alexander of Tunis
15.	1950 ⁹⁸	6 July 1951	Banff	The Viscount Alexander of Tunis
16.	1951 ⁹⁹	27 June 1952	London	The Rt Hon. Vincent Massey
17.	1952 ¹⁰⁰	25 June 1953	Toronto	The Rt Hon. Vincent Massey
18.	1953 ¹⁰¹	2 July 1954	Banff	The Rt Hon. Vincent Massey
19.	1954 ¹⁰²	29 June 1955	Kingston	The Rt Hon. Vincent Massey
20.	1955 ¹⁰³	28 June 1956	Halifax	The Rt Hon. Vincent Massey
21.	1956 ¹⁰⁴	27 June 1957	Winnipeg	The Rt Hon. Vincent Massey
22.	1957 ¹⁰⁵	6 June 1958	Montreal	The Rt Hon. Vincent Massey
23.	1958 ¹⁰⁶	25 June 1959	Windsor	The Rt Hon. Vincent Massey

⁹¹ "Annual Meeting 1944," *The Canadian Author & Bookman* 20, no. 3 (1944), 5–6 (5).

⁹² William Arthur Deacon, The Fly Leaf, *Globe and Mail*, 1 December 1945, 9.

⁹³ "Governor-General and Lady Margaret on Second Toronto Visit" (see note 82).

⁹⁴ William Arthur Deacon, "Canadian Authors' 26th Convention," *Globe and Mail*, 19 July 1947, 11.

⁹⁵ William Arthur Deacon, "Governor-General's Awards Reveal Variety of Talent in 1947," *Globe and Mail*, 22 May 1948, 12.

⁹⁶ Deacon, "Governor-General's Annual Literary Awards, Leacock Humor Medal and Juvenile Citation" (see note 19).

⁹⁷ Deacon, "Governor-General's Literary Awards Winners" (see note 20).

⁹⁸ William Arthur Deacon, "News of Authors at Banff," *Globe and Mail*, 7 July 1951, 12.

⁹⁹ Deacon, "Toronto Writers are Well Represented in 1951 Canadian Literary Awards Announcement" (see note 83).

¹⁰⁰ "Sandwell Massey Deputy at Dinner for Authors," *Globe and Mail*, 26 June 1953, 5.

¹⁰¹ William Arthur Deacon, "Winners 1953 President's Medals," *Globe and Mail*, 12 June 1954, 14; William Arthur Deacon, The Fly Leaf, *Globe and Mail*, 10 July 1954, 10.

¹⁰² Helen Milton, "1955 Convention Report," *Canadian Author & Bookman* 32, no. 1 [i.e., 31, no. 2], (1955): 5–9 (4).

¹⁰³ Frank Power, "Thursday – The 28th," *Canadian Author & Bookman* 32, no. 2 (1956): 8.

¹⁰⁴ William Arthur Deacon, "Winnipeg Convention Symbolizes Canadian Literature's Stamina," *Globe and Mail*, 29 June 1957, 23.

¹⁰⁵ William Arthur Deacon, "Governor-General's Awards," *Globe and Mail*, 3 May 1958, 16.

¹⁰⁶ William Arthur Deacon, "Bookfolk's Convention Time," *Globe and Mail*, 16 May 1959, 16.

24.	1959 ¹⁰⁷	28 March 1960	Ottawa	General The Rt Hon. Georges P. Vanier
25.	1960 ¹⁰⁸	17 April 1961	Ottawa	General The Rt Hon. Georges P. Vanier
26.	1961 ¹⁰⁹	2 April 1962	Ottawa	General The Rt Hon. Georges P. Vanier
27.	1962 ¹¹⁰	29 March 1963	Ottawa	General The Rt Hon. Georges P. Vanier
28.	1963 ¹¹¹	24 April 1964	Ottawa	General The Rt Hon. Georges P. Vanier
29.	1964 ¹¹²	26 April 1965	Ottawa	General The Rt Hon. Georges P. Vanier
30.	1965 ¹¹³	31 May 1966	Ottawa	General The Rt Hon. Georges P. Vanier
31.	1966 ¹¹⁴	2 June 1967	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Roland Michener
32.	1967 ¹¹⁵	2 May 1968	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Roland Michener
33.	1968 ¹¹⁶	13 May 1969	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Roland Michener
34.	1969 ¹¹⁷	11 May 1970	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Roland Michener
35.	1970 ¹¹⁸	18 May 1971	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Roland Michener
36.	1971 ¹¹⁹	5 May 1972	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Roland Michener

¹⁰⁷ Canada Council, *Third Annual Report* (see note 22).

¹⁰⁸ Canada Council, *The Canada Council Fourth Annual Report for 1960-61 / Le Conseil des Arts du Canada quatrième rapport annuel 1960-61* (Ottawa: Canada Council, 1961), 68.

¹⁰⁹ Canada Council, *The Canada Council Annual Report 1961-62 / Le Conseil des Arts du Canada rapport annuel 1961-62* (Ottawa: Canada Council, 1962), 66.

¹¹⁰ Canada Council, *The Canada Council Annual Report 1962-63 / Le Conseil des Arts du Canada rapport annuel 1962-63* (Ottawa: Canada Council, 1963), 39.

¹¹¹ "Culture Seen as Inverted Propaganda," *Globe and Mail*, 25 April 1964, 20.

¹¹² Canada Council, *Press Release / Communiqué: Governor General's Literary Awards for 1964*, 27 March 1965, 2; Le Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Press Release / Communiqué: Prix du Gouverneur général à Pierre Perrault, J.-P. Pinsonneault et Réjean Robicoux*, 27 mars 1965, 2.

¹¹³ Canada Council, *Press Release / Communiqué: Governor General's Awards Presented*, 31 May 1966, 1.

¹¹⁴ Canada Council, *Press Release / Communiqué: Governor General's Literary Awards for 1966*, 2 June 1967, 1; Le Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Press Release / Communiqué: Présentation des Prix Gouverneur Général*, 2 June 1967, 1.

¹¹⁵ Canada Council, *Press Release / Communiqué: Governor General's Literary Awards for 1967* (see note 33); Le Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Press Release / Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1967* (see note 33).

¹¹⁶ Canada Council, *Press Release / Communiqué: Governor General's Literary Awards for 1968* (see note 33); Le Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Press Release / Communiqué: Attribution des prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1968* (see note 33).

¹¹⁷ Canada Council, *Press Release / Communiqué: Governor General's Literary Awards for 1969* (see note 33); Le Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Press Release / Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1969* (see note 33).

¹¹⁸ Canada Council, *Press Release / Communiqué: Governor General's Literary Awards for 1970* (see note 33); Le Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Press Release / Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1970* (see note 33).

¹¹⁹ Canada Council, *News Release: Governor General's Literary Awards for 1971* (see note 30); Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1971* (see note 30).

37. 1972 ¹²⁰	16 May 1973	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Roland Michener
38. 1973 ¹²¹	24 May 1974	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Jules Léger
39. 1974 ¹²²	22 May 1975	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Jules Léger
40. 1975 ¹²³	29 April 1976	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Jules Léger
41. 1976 ¹²⁴	17 May 1977	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Jules Léger
42. 1977 ¹²⁵	18 May 1978	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Jules Léger
43. 1978 ¹²⁶	4 April 1979	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Edward Schreyer
44. 1979 ¹²⁷	6 May 1980	Vancouver	The Rt Hon. Edward Schreyer
45. 1980 ¹²⁸	11 May 1981	Moncton	The Rt Hon. Edward Schreyer
46. 1981 ¹²⁹	1 June 1982	Winnipeg	The Rt Hon. Edward Schreyer
47. 1982 ¹³⁰	29 September 1983	Quebec City	The Rt Hon. Edward Schreyer
48. 1983 ¹³¹	25 September 1984	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Jeanne Sauvé

¹²⁰ Canada Council, *News Release: Governor General's Literary Awards for 1972*, 17 April 1973, 1; Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1972*, 17 avril 1973, 1.

¹²¹ Canada Council, *News Release: Governor General's Literary Awards for 1973*, 17 May 1974, 1; Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1973*, 17 mai 1974, 1.

¹²² Canada Council, *News Release: The Governor General's Literary Awards for 1974*, 3 May 1975, 1; Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1974*, 3 mai 1975, 1.

¹²³ Canada Council, *News Release: Governor General's Literary Awards for 1975* (see note 52); Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1975* (see note 52).

¹²⁴ Canada Council, *News Release: Governor General's Literary Awards for 1976*, 27 April 1977, 1; Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1976*, 27 avril 1977, 1.

¹²⁵ Canada Council, *News Release: Governor General's Literary Awards for 1977*, 2 May 1978, 1; Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1977*, 2 mai 1978, 1.

¹²⁶ Canada Council, *News Release: Governor General's Literary Awards for 1978*, 21 March 1979, 1; Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1978*, 21 mars 1979, 1.

¹²⁷ Canada Council, *News Release: Governor General's Literary Awards for 1979*, 21 April 1980, 1; Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur-général pour l'année 1979*, 21 avril 1980, 1.

¹²⁸ Canada Council, *News Release: Winners of Governor General's Literary Awards Announced [for 1980]*, 24 April 1981, 1; Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur-général pour l'année 1980*, 24 avril 1981, 1.

¹²⁹ Canada Council, *News Release / Communiqué: Winners of Governor General's Literary Awards Announced [for 1981]*, 17 May 1982, 1; Conseil des Arts du Canada, *News Release / Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur-général pour l'année 1981*, 17 mai 1982, 1.

¹³⁰ Canadian Press, "Governor-General Schreyer Delivers Top Literary Awards," *Globe and Mail*, 1 October 1983, E9.

¹³¹ Canadian Press, "Sauvé Set for Awards," *Globe and Mail*, 11 September 1984, M9.

49.	1984 ¹³²	7 June 1985	Toronto	The Rt Hon. Jeanne Sauvé
50.	1985 ¹³³	3 June 1986	Montreal	The Rt Hon. Jeanne Sauvé
51.	1986 ¹³⁴	27 May 1987	Toronto	The Rt Hon. Jeanne Sauvé
52.	1987 ¹³⁵	11 February 1988	Calgary	The Rt Hon. Jeanne Sauvé
53.	1988 ¹³⁶	3 March 1989	Montreal	The Rt Hon. Jeanne Sauvé
54.	1989 ¹³⁷	8 March 1990	Toronto	The Rt Hon. Ramon John Hnatyshyn
55.	1990 ¹³⁸	22 January 1991	Montreal	The Rt Hon. Ramon John Hnatyshyn
56.	1991 ¹³⁹	3 December 1991	Toronto	The Rt Hon. Ramon John Hnatyshyn
57.	1992 ¹⁴⁰	30 November 1992	Montreal	The Rt Hon. Ramon John Hnatyshyn
58.	1993 ¹⁴¹	16 November 1993	Toronto	The Rt Hon. Ramon John Hnatyshyn
59.	1994 ¹⁴²	15 November 1994	Montreal	The Rt Hon. Ramon John Hnatyshyn

¹³² Canada Council, *News Release / Communiqué: Winners of Governor General's Literary Awards Announced [for 1984]*, 6 June 1985, 1; Conseil des Arts du Canada, *News Release / Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1984*, 6 juin 1985, 1.

¹³³ Canada Council, *Communiqué: Winners of 1985 Governor General's Literary Awards Announced*, 3 June 1986, 1; Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1985*, 3 juin 1986, 1.

¹³⁴ Canada Council, *Communiqué: Winners of 1986 Governor General's Literary Awards Announced*, 27 May 1987, 1; Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour l'année 1986*, 27 mai 1987, 1.

¹³⁵ Canada Council, *Communiqué: Winners of 1987 Governor General's Literary Awards Announced* (see note 36); Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour 1987* (see note 36).

¹³⁶ Canada Council, *Communiqué: Winners of 1988 Governor General's Literary Awards Announced* (see note 53); Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour 1988* (see note 53).

¹³⁷ Canada Council, *Communiqué: Winners of 1989 Governor General's Literary Awards Announced*, 8 March 1990, 1; Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour 1989*, 8 mars 1990, 1.

¹³⁸ Canada Council, *Communiqué: Winners of 1990 Governor General's Literary Awards Announced* (see note 79); Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Les Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour 1990* (see note 79).

¹³⁹ Canada Council, *Communiqué: Winners of 1991 Governor General's Literary Awards Announced* (see note 80); Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Les prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour 1991* (see note 80).

¹⁴⁰ Canada Council, *Communiqué: Winners of 1992 Governor General's Literary Awards Announced*, 30 November 1992, 1; Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Les prix littéraires du Gouverneur général pour 1992*, 30 novembre 1992, 1.

¹⁴¹ Canada Council, *Communiqué: Winners of 1993 Governor General's Literary Awards Announced*, 16 November 1993, 1; Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Les prix littéraires du Gouverneur général de 1993*, 16 novembre 1993, 1.

¹⁴² Canada Council, *Communiqué: \$140,000 Presented to Winners of 1994 Governor General's Literary Awards*, 15 November 1994, 1; Conseil des Arts du Canada,

60. 1995 ¹⁴³	14 November 1995	Toronto	The Rt Hon. Roméo LeBlanc
61. 1996 ¹⁴⁴	12 November 1996	Montreal	The Rt Hon. Roméo LeBlanc
62. 1997 ¹⁴⁵	18 November 1997	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Roméo LeBlanc
63. 1998 ¹⁴⁶	17 November 1998	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Roméo LeBlanc
64. 1999 ¹⁴⁷	16 November 1999	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Adrienne Clarkson
65. 2000 ¹⁴⁸	14 November 2000	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Adrienne Clarkson
66. 2001 ¹⁴⁹	14 November 2001	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Adrienne Clarkson
67. 2002 ¹⁵⁰	19 November 2002	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Adrienne Clarkson

Communiqué: Remise d'une somme de 140 000 \$ aux lauréats des prix littéraires du Gouverneur général de 1994, 15 novembre 1994, 1.

¹⁴³ Canada Council, *Communiqué: \$140,000 Presented to Winners of 1995 Governor General's Literary Awards*, 14 November 1995, 1; Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Remise d'une somme de 140 000 \$ aux lauréats des prix littéraires du Gouverneur général de 1995*, 14 novembre 1995, 1.

¹⁴⁴ Canada Council, *Communiqué: Winners of 1996 Governor General's Literary Awards Announced*, 12 November 1996, 1; Conseil des Arts du Canada, *Communiqué: Lauréats des prix littéraires du Gouverneur général de 1996*, 12 novembre 1996, 1.

¹⁴⁵ Canada Council, *News Release: Announcement of the Winners of the 1997 Canada Council for the Arts Governor General's Literary Awards* (see note 64); Conseil des arts du Canada, *Communiqués: Annonce des lauréats de 1997 des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général du Conseil des arts du Canada* (see note 64).

¹⁴⁶ Canada Council, *News Release: Announcement of the Winners of the 1998 Canada Council for the Arts Governor General's Literary Awards*, 17 November 1998, 1; Conseil des arts du Canada, *Communiqués: Annonce des lauréats de 1998 des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général du Conseil des arts du Canada*, 17 novembre 1998, 1.

¹⁴⁷ Canada Council, *News Release: The Canada Council for the Arts Announces the Winners of the 1999 Governor General's Literary Awards*, 16 November 1999, 1; Conseil des arts du Canada, *Communiqués: Le Conseil des arts du Canada annonce les noms des lauréats des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général de 1999*, 16 novembre 1999, 1.

¹⁴⁸ Canada Council, *News Release: Governor General and the Canada Council for the Arts Present the Winners of the 2000 Governor General's Literary Awards* (see note 54); Conseil des arts du Canada, *Communiqués: La Gouverneure générale et le Conseil des arts du Canada présentent les lauréats des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général de 2000* (see note 54).

¹⁴⁹ Canada Council, *News Release: The Canada Council for the Arts Announces the Winners of the 2001 Governor General's Literary Awards* (see note 65); Conseil des arts du Canada, *Communiqués: Le Conseil des arts du Canada annonce les lauréates et lauréats des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général de 2001* (see note 65).

¹⁵⁰ Canada Council, *News Release: The Canada Council for the Arts Announces the Winners of the 2002 Governor General's Literary Awards*, 12 November 2002, 1; Conseil des arts du Canada, *Communiqués: Le Conseil des arts du Canada dévoile les noms des lauréates et lauréats des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général de 2002*, 12 novembre 2002, 1.

68.	2003 ¹⁵¹	10, 12 November 2003	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Adrienne Clarkson
69.	2004 ¹⁵²	15, 16 November 2004	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Adrienne Clarkson
70.	2005 ¹⁵³	22, 23 November 2005	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Michaëlle Jean
71.	2006 ¹⁵⁴	13 December 2006	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Michaëlle Jean
72.	2007 ¹⁵⁵	13 December 2007	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Michaëlle Jean
73.	2008 ¹⁵⁶	10 December 2008	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Michaëlle Jean

¹⁵¹ Canada Council, *News Release: The Canada Council for the Arts announces the winners of the 2003 Governor General's Literary Awards (children's literature)*, 10 November 2003, 1; Conseil des arts du Canada, *Communiqués: Le Conseil des arts du Canada dévoile les noms des lauréates et lauréats des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général de 2003 (littérature jeunesse)*, 10 novembre 2003, 1; Canada Council, *News Release: The Canada Council for the Arts Announces the Winners of the 2003 Governor General's Literary Awards (Fiction, Poetry, Drama, Nonfiction and Translation)*, 12 November 2003, 1; Conseil des arts du Canada, *Communiqués: Le Conseil des arts du Canada dévoile les noms des lauréates et lauréats des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général de 2003 (romans et nouvelles, poésie, théâtre, études et essais, et traduction)*, 12 novembre 2003, 1.

¹⁵² Canada Council, *News Release: The Canada Council for the Arts announces the winners of the 2004 Governor General's Literary Awards (children's literature)*, 15 November 2004, 1; Conseil des arts du Canada, *Communiqués: Le Conseil des arts du Canada dévoile les noms des lauréates et lauréats des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général de 2004 (littérature jeunesse)*, 15 novembre 2004, 1; Canada Council, *News Release: The Canada Council for the Arts Announces the Winners of the 2004 Governor General's Literary Awards (Fiction, Poetry, Drama, Nonfiction and Translation)*, 16 November 2004, 1; Conseil des arts du Canada, *Communiqués: Le Conseil des arts du Canada dévoile les noms des lauréates et lauréats des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général de 2004 (romans et nouvelles, poésie, théâtre, études et essais, et traduction)*, 16 novembre 2004, 1.

¹⁵³ Canada Council, *News Release: The Canada Council for the Arts Announces the Winners of the 2005 Governor General's Literary Awards* (see note 60); Conseil des arts du Canada, *Communiqués: Le Conseil des arts du Canada dévoile les noms des lauréates et lauréats des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général de 2005* (see note 60).

¹⁵⁴ Canada Council, *News Release: The Canada Council for the Arts Announces the Winners of the 2006 Governor General's Literary Awards*, 21 November 2006, 1; Conseil des arts du Canada, *Communiqués: Le Conseil des arts du Canada dévoile les noms des lauréates et lauréats des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général de 2006*, 21 novembre 2006, 1.

¹⁵⁵ Canada Council, *News Release: The Canada Council for the Arts Announces the Winners of the 2007 Governor General's Literary Awards* (see note 55); Conseil des arts du Canada, *Communiqués: Le Conseil des arts du Canada dévoile les noms des lauréates et lauréats des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général de 2007* (see note 55).

¹⁵⁶ Canada Council, *News Release: Winners of 2008 Governor General's Literary Awards Announced*, 18 November 2008, 1; Conseil des arts du Canada, *Communiqués: Annonce des lauréates et lauréats des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général de 2008*, 18 novembre 2008, 1.

74.	2009 ¹⁵⁷	26 November 2009	Ottawa	The Rt Hon. Michaëlle Jean
75.	2010 ¹⁵⁸	25 November 2010	Ottawa	His Excellency The Rt Hon. David Johnston
76.	2011 ¹⁵⁹	24 November 2011	Ottawa	His Excellency The Rt Hon. David Johnston
77.	2012 ¹⁶⁰	28 November 2012	Ottawa	His Excellency The Rt Hon. David Johnston
78.	2013 ¹⁶¹	28 November 2013	Ottawa	His Excellency The Rt Hon. David Johnston

It is hoped that this series of articles will provide readers with a helpful guide to one of Canada's oldest and most significant cultural institutions.¹⁶²

¹⁵⁷ Canada Council, *News Release: Winners of 2009 Governor General's Literary Awards Announced by the Canada Council for the Arts*, 17 November 2009, 1; Conseil des arts du Canada, *Communiqués: Le Conseil des arts du Canada dévoile les lauréates et lauréats des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général de 2009*, 17 novembre 2009, 1.

¹⁵⁸ Canada Council, *News Release: Winners of 2010 Governor General's Literary Awards Announced*, 16 November 2010, 1; Conseil des arts du Canada, *Communiqués: Annonce des lauréates et lauréats des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général 2010*, 16 novembre 2010, 1.

¹⁵⁹ Canada Council, *News Releases—2011: Winners of the 75th [i.e., 76th] Governor General's Literary Awards Announced*, 15 November 2011, 1; Le Conseil des arts du Canada, *Communiqués—2011: Annonce des lauréats des 75^e [i.e., 76^e] Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général* (see note 35).

¹⁶⁰ Canada Council, *News Releases—2012: The Canada Council for the Arts announces 2012 Governor General's Literary Award winners*, 13 November 2012, 6; Conseil des arts du Canada, *Communiqués—2012: Le Conseil des arts du Canada dévoile les lauréates et lauréats des Prix littéraires du Gouverneur général*, 13 novembre 2012, 6.

¹⁶¹ Canada Council, [*News Release*.] *The GGreat Books of 2013*, 13 November 2013; Conseil des arts du Canada, [*Communiqué*.] *Les GGrands livres de 2013*, 13 novembre 2013.

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SOMMAIRE

Depuis maintenant plus de soixante-quinze ans, les prix littéraires du Gouverneur général (ou GG) sont considérés comme étant les prix littéraires par excellence du Canada. Cet article présente ces prix en offrant une vue d'ensemble sur leur histoire et leur structure.

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