

THE CHARLES TAYLOR PRIZE FOR LITERARY NON-FICTION

TODAY the Trustees of the Charles Taylor Foundation announced the nominees for the inaugural Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Non-Fiction. The prize consists of \$25,000 for the winning author, as well as promotional support. The names of the nominees were unveiled at a press conference at the Four Seasons Hotel in Toronto.

THE CHARLES TAYLOR PRIZE FOR LITERARY NON-FICTION will be awarded on May 8, 2000 in commemoration of Charles Taylor, one of Canada's foremost essayists and a prominent member of the Canadian literary community. The Prize is for achievement in the field known variously as literary non-fiction and belles lettres. It will be awarded to the author whose book best demonstrates and combines an uncommon command of the English language, an elegance of style, and a subtlety of thought and perception.

THE NOMINEES ARE:

LOSING THE DEAD: A FAMILY MEMOIR, by Lisa Appignanesi (London, U.K.).  
Published by McArthur & Company.

A moving family memoir, LOSING THE DEAD relates the importance of reclaiming the past. In this highly personal book, LISA APPIGNANESI describes how the tragedies and traumas suffered by one generation haunt the generations that follow. Appignanesi's book evokes the story of Jews who survived the war outside the death camps, of the rites of passage of emigration, and of her own growing up in Canada as an outsider inside a closed community. It is also the story of a mother and of a daughter who finally comes to understand her parents' pain. LOSING THE DEAD is a brave and beautiful book; it is a work of remembrance and the freedom that remembrance brings.

PAPER SHADOWS: A CHINATOWN CHILDHOOD, by Wayson Choy (Toronto, ON).  
Published by Penguin Books Canada.

PAPER SHADOWS renders with great style the community that was Vancouver's Chinatown during the years of the Second World War. It does so vibrantly and with humour, irony, and rich precision of detail. Mixing the personal and the political, WAYSON CHOY offers new insights into the dignity with which obstacles were overcome by newcomers from China: the overcrowded and squalid living conditions, the struggle to learn a new language and to understand a new culture, the shameful Chinese Head Tax imposed by the Canadian government. PAPER SHADOWS is part memoir and part recovery, as WAYSON CHOY looks at a remarkable world through the eyes of his childhood self and discovers the history of his family – without this poignant journey ever diminishing his love for his extraordinary subject.

THE WARRIOR'S HONOUR: ETHNIC WAR AND THE MODERN CONSCIENCE,  
by Michael Ignatieff (London, U.K.). Published by Penguin Books Canada.

MICHAEL IGNATIEFF takes us to the front-lines of ethnic war in his brilliant study of nationalism and ethnic conflict, THE WARRIOR'S HONOUR. The book explores the dynamics of memory and moral healing in societies divided by racial, religious, and ethnic conflict. Over the "narcissism of minor difference" neighbours have become enemies in the failed states of Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, Afghanistan, Rwanda, Angola, and Burundi — their differences have resulted in the atrocities that have filled newspapers and television screens over the last ten years. With brave reportage and clear, uncluttered prose, MICHAEL IGNATIEFF deftly combines the historical, the journalistic, and the philosophical; his is a large canvas, painted with a passion that informs as it explores the events and ideas that speak to the modern conscience.

BALTIMORE'S MANSION: A MEMOIR, by Wayne Johnston (Toronto, ON).  
Published by Knopf Canada.

BALTIMORE'S MANSION is an absorbing evocation of time and place, elegantly and passionately written. In this memoir, a multi-generational story of a Newfoundland family born to the hardships of life on the eastern shore of the Avalon Peninsula, WAYNE JOHNSTON holds the very idea of what does and does not constitute a country up to a clear, remarkable light. BALTIMORE'S MANSION speaks eloquently of the loss of a way of life, and of many Newfoundlanders' failed, perhaps doomed, dreams of nationhood. It holds the reader's imagination with fabulous and beautifully wrought descriptions, with moments of high comedy and great poignance and, most importantly, with the magic of Johnston's story-telling.

A CLEARING IN THE DISTANCE: FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED AND NORTH  
AMERICA IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, by Witold Rybczynski (Philadelphia, PA).  
Published by HarperFlamingo Canada.

A book as rich as the life it explores, A CLEARING IN THE DISTANCE brings to life its subject, Frederick Law Olmsted, and the world around him — from the U.S. Civil War up to the twentieth century. WITOLD RYBCZYNSKI has given us a subject who designed Central Park in New York City and Mount Royal in Montreal, among others — a man whose powerful influence affects the way we live today, in the changing cities built around his parks and his utopian vision of the environment. Both erudite and personal, A CLEARING IN THE DISTANCE is an elegy for beauty lost and a hopeful reminder that even in the face of contemporary ugliness beauty can be preserved and cherished.

ALWAYS GIVE A PENNY TO A BLIND MAN: A MEMOIR, by Eric Wright (Toronto, ON).  
Published by Key Porter Books.

The voices in *ALWAYS GIVE A PENNY TO A BLIND MAN* are extraordinary: it is impossible not to hear the English working class accents of its characters as they spring from the pages. *ERIC WRIGHT* has crafted a delightful memoir that is a document about social class. It is a story of a life full of poverty and pain in Depression-era England, in a family of ten children and two parents: his mother, a “tailoress” and his father, a carter. Life was hard, but the family was resourceful, tenacious, and full of gusto. *ALWAYS GIVE A PENNY TO A BLIND MAN* is a moving portrait of childhood and adolescence under the restrictions of the rigid class structure in its dying days before the Second World War and young adulthood in the social revolution that followed. *ERIC WRIGHT* is a seductive story-teller, one who has taken a non-fiction subject and rendered it with the fullness of the art of fiction.

*THE CHARLES TAYLOR PRIZE* commemorates Charles Taylor’s pursuit of excellence in the craft of writing. The Prize consists of \$25,000 for the winning author, as well as promotional support to help all shortlisted books stand out in the national media, bookstores, and libraries. The publisher of the winning book will receive a citation.

Authors whose books have been shortlisted for the Prize will be brought to Toronto for the award ceremony on May 8, 2000, at the Four Seasons Hotel. Shortlisted authors will be invited to speak on Sunday, May 7, at the Nicholas Hoare-*Globe and Mail* Books & Brunch event at the King Edward Hotel.

The jurors for the inaugural prize are Neil Bissoondath (Quebec City), Eva-Marie Kröller (Vancouver), and David Macfarlane (Toronto). They have selected the nominees from the 149 books submitted by 42 publishers. Books in the genre of literary non-fiction, published between January 1, 1998 and December 31, 1999, were eligible if authored by a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant and widely available in Canada.

The Trustees of the Charles Taylor Foundation are Michael Bradley (Toronto), Robert Bringhurst (Vancouver), Judith Mappin (Montreal), David Staines (Ottawa), and Noreen Taylor (Toronto).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE NOMINEES FOR  
THE INAUGURAL CHARLES TAYLOR PRIZE FOR LITERARY NON-FICTION:

- Media in Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, please contact:  
Diane Hargrave, Carol Gordon, Donna Nopper, or Kevin Wilson at 416 467 9954
- Media in British Columbia, please contact: Patricia McLean at 604 224 8976
- Media in the Atlantic provinces, please contact: Melanie Jollymore at 902 827 3126

## BIOGRAPHY OF CHARLES TAYLOR

BEST KNOWN for *Six Journeys* (1977) and *Radical Tories: The Conservative Tradition in Canada* (1982), CHARLES TAYLOR wrote four books. He was a correspondent for *The Globe and Mail* and a member of its editorial board. Beginning with his first book, *Reporter in Red China* (1966), he displayed a remarkable talent for expressing his thoughts eloquently. His writing style, though deceptively simple, had an elegance of rhythm and music. His second book, *Snow Job: Canada, The United States and Vietnam, 1954 - 1973* (1974) about Canada's involvement in the American war in Vietnam, further exemplified these qualities. He also edited *China Hands: The Globe and Mail in Peking* (1984).

*Six Journeys: A Canadian Pattern* is the book for which he is best remembered. In this collection of biographical essays, he explored the path of six exceptional and diverse personalities driven by the desire to achieve their deeply personal goals. Their lives are described with sensitivity and their tales are told with insight, interest, and a keen intelligence.

Charles Taylor was an involved member of the arts community; he was Chairman of the Writers' Union of Canada, worked on the Harbourfront Board, was active on the 1812 Committee, and in 1997 served as a juror for the Gelber Prize. He was a major figure in the world of horse racing and breeding, where he served as Trustee and Vice-President of the Ontario Jockey Club, Chief Steward of the Jockey Club of Canada, Member of the New York Jockey Club, and Director of the Breeders Cup. As well, he was President of Windfields Farm Limited and it was during his tenure that the Taylor family home on Bayview Avenue became the Canadian Film Centre.

Charles Taylor died of cancer in 1997 and is survived by Noreen Taylor, his widow, and his two children, Nadina and Edward.

## THE JURORS

NEIL BISSOONDATH, author and broadcaster. His most recently published novel, *The Worlds Within Her*, was nominated for the Governor General's Literary Award. He was host and writer for *Vision World*, a series of international documentaries on development themes for Vision TV.

Born in Arima, Trinidad, Neil attended St. Mary's College, in Port of Spain, and York University, Toronto. After graduation, he taught English as a Second Language and French in Toronto, and in 1985 published his first book, *Digging Up the Mountains*, with Macmillan of Canada. Since then, Neil has been a full-time writer. He has published many articles in a variety of journals, magazines, and newspapers, including *The New Internationalist*, *en Route*, *Le Nouvel Observateur*, *Saturday Night*, and *The Globe and Mail*. His books include *Selling Illusions: The Cult of Multiculturalism in Canada* (1994); *The Innocence of Age* (1992); *On the Eve of Uncertain Tomorrows* (1990); and *A Casual Brutality* (1988). He has lived in Toronto and Montreal. Currently, he resides in Quebec City.

EVA-MARIE KRÖLLER, academic, editor and author. Most recently, Eva-Marie published *Pacific Encounters: The Production of Self and Other* (1997) with the UBC Institute of Asian Research. She edits *Canadian Literature* and is a professor in the Department of English at the University of British Columbia.

Eva-Marie studied at the University of Freiburg in Germany and in 1978 she received her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from the University of Alberta. From 1990 to 1995, she chaired the Programme in Comparative Literature at UBC. In 1992 she published *George Bowering: Bright Circles of Colour* with Talonbooks and in 1987 she published *Canadian Travellers in Europe, 1851-1900* with UBC Press. Eva-Marie has won a number of awards and distinctions, most notably a Killam Research Fellowship in 1995 and a Killam Teaching Prize in 1999.

DAVID MACFARLANE, author and journalist. His first novel, *Summer Gone*, was nominated for the 1999 Giller Prize. Previously, he published the family memoir, *The Danger Tree* (1991), with Macfarlane, Walter & Ross. He currently has a weekly column in *The Globe and Mail*.

David was born in Hamilton, Ontario, and now lives in Toronto. He began his career as a writer and editor with *Weekend Magazine*, and his writing has appeared regularly in *Saturday Night*, *Toronto Life*, and *Maclean's*. David has won a number of awards, including six gold and five silver National Magazine Awards as well as the Canadian Authors' Association Award in 1992 for *The Danger Tree*.

## THE TRUSTEES

MICHAEL BRADLEY is a retired lawyer and is a member of an investment advisory firm. He obtained his B.A. and M.A. from Cambridge and his law degree from the University of Toronto. A member of the Law Society of Upper Canada, he practised with the firm Fraser & Beatty from 1965 to 1998, when he retired as a Senior Tax Partner. In addition to his law practice, principally in the areas of international and corporate tax, he also represented writers in matters related to publishing. Michael is one of the founders and a principal of Quant Investment Strategies Inc. in Toronto, a firm providing investment advisory services.

ROBERT BRINGHURST is a poet, author, and cultural historian. Most recently, he published *A Story as Sharp as a Knife : The Classical Haida Mythtellers and Their World* (1999) with Douglas & McIntyre. He received a Guggenheim Fellowship for poetry and has lectured on Native American arts and oral literature at universities around the world. In addition to *A Story as Sharp as a Knife*, he published *The Black Canoe: Bill Reid and the Spirit of Haida Gwaii*, considered one of the best books on the subject of Native American art. He has also published several books of poetry, most notably two volumes of selected poems, *The Beauty of the Weapons* and *The Calling*. In addition to these accomplishments, he has written what has become a standard in the field, *The Elements of Typographic Style* (2nd Edition 1996). Robert is currently translating the epic Haida poetry of two of the West Coast's most important poets, Skaay (c.1827-c.1905) and Ghandl (c.1851 - c.1920).

JUDITH MAPPIN is the sister of the late Charles Taylor. She was born and brought up in Toronto, received a B.Sc. from McGill University, worked for a year in the Banting Institute, then married John N. Mappin and moved to Montreal, where she and her husband raised a family of five children. In 1974, with two partners, she established The Double Hook Book Shop on Greene Avenue, where she became well-known as a champion of Canadian authors and their books. Judith served a term as a Director of the Canadian Booksellers Association, was a founding member and director for nine years of the Quebec Society for the Promotion of English Language Literature (QSPELL), and has served for two years on the jury selection committee of QSPELL's successor, the Quebec Writers Federation. She is currently the President of Windfields Farm Limited and was a juror for the 1999 Giller Prize for Fiction.

DAVID STAINES is Dean of Arts and Professor of English at the University of Ottawa. Born in Toronto, he received his B.A. from the University of Toronto and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard. He is the author or editor of many books, most notably *Tennyson's Camelot: The Idylls of the King and Its Medieval Sources* and *The Complete Romances of Chrétien de Troyes*. David is a founding member of the Giller Foundation and also serves as general editor of the New Canadian Library and editor of the *Journal of Canadian Poetry*.

NOREEN TAYLOR is the Chairman of the Charles Taylor Foundation and founding voice of the Charles Taylor Prize. She is also the widow of the late Charles Taylor. Noreen is a Toronto-based painter whose works are in a number of public and private collections, and grace the covers of several literary books. She has been an arts administrator and educator, most notably as the first Artistic Program Director of the Claude Watson School for the Arts and as the Chairman of the Art Department at William Lyon MacKenzie Secondary School in Toronto. Noreen is a Member of the Jockey Club of Canada, a Member of Cancer Care Ontario Regional-Central East Committee, a Trustee of the E.P. Taylor Equine Research Fund, and Vice-President of Thoroughbred Operations of Windfields Farm.