

Speed Dating Through the Genres

RA in a Day

Hosted by the BCLA Readers Advisory Interest Group

October 18, 2016 – VPL Central

Fiction in Translation: French-Canadian

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Description

Canada has two major languages, but anglophones encounter French literature through English translations. While the majority of writers work or live in Québec there are also unique French Canadian groups in the Maritimes (Acadian), Ontario, and the West of Canada. French Canadian literature is informed by a strong sense of place and francophone culture.

History

The French Canadian literature is tied to the history of colonization and conquest in the east of Canada, limited early on by the lack of a printing press. While traditionally influenced by France, a nationalist literature started in the 1860s in Quebec. After British conquest translations were dominated by government and business needs, while newspapers drove translations of literary works. In 1960s the Canada Council began encouraging translations and in 1972 funding for translation became available. The aftermath of the World Wars and the 1960 Quiet Revolution led to a more self-conscious 'Quebecoise' literature. The history of translated works is and remains dominated by english-french vs french-english translations.

Important titles and authors

Classic

The Tin Flute, Gabrielle Roy (1945)
Kamouraska, Anne Hébert (1970)
Volkswagen Blues, Jacques Poulin (1984)
How To Make Love To A Negro Without
Getting Tired, Dany Laferrière (1991)

Graphic

Paul Joins the Scouts, Michel Rabagliati
(2011)

Contemporary

Mile End, Lise Tremblay (1999)
The Heart Is An Involuntary Muscle,
Monique Proulx (2002)
Sugar Thieves, Eric Dupont (2004)
The Return, Dany Laferrière (2009)
Ru, Kim Thúy (2009)
And the Birds Rained Down, Jocelyne
Saucier (2011)
Eucalyptus, Mauricio Segura (2013)
The Party Wall, Catherine Laroux (2013)
The Goddess of Fireflies, Geneviève
Pettersen (2013)

Authors

Anne Hebert
Dany Laferrière
Élise Turcotte
France Daigle
Gabrielle Roy

Kim Thúy
Marie-Claire Blais
Michel Tremblay
Monique Proulx
Nelly Arcan

Nicolas Dickner
Nicole Brossard
Roch Carrier
Samuel Archibald
Ying Chen

Awards

The Governor General Awards - French to English translation award since 1987

ggbooks.ca/~media/ggbooks/2015/documents/ggbooks-cumulative-winners-2015.pdf?mw=1382

Resources

10 Acclaimed French-Canadian Writers - The Culture Trip

theculturetrip.com/north-america/canada/articles/10-acclaimed-french-canadian-writers

10 Books in Translation to Read This Fall - 49th Shelf

49thshelf.com/Blog/2016/09/29/10-Books-in-Translation-to-Read-This-Fall

15 translated books that are essential to Canada - CBC Books

www.cbc.ca/books/Translationlist_CBCBooks.pdf

Ambos (Magazine of Québec translated literature aimed at English audiences)

ambos.ca

GoodReads

Quebec www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/quebec

French-Canadian www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/french-canadian

Literature in French - The Canadian Encyclopedia

www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/literature-in-french/

Québec Reads (Current reviews of Québec literature)

quebecreads.com