



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

PIERRE SAVARD AWARD

Ottawa, Ontario – May 4th, 2009 – The International Council for Canadian Studies is pleased to announce that the Pierre Savard Award granted each year to the author of a research study, in French or in English, has been awarded to Ms. Cécile Vanderpelen-Diagre for her book titled *Mémoire d'y croire. Le monde catholique et la littérature au Québec (1920-1960)*, published by Nota Bene. The Pierre Savard Award will be presented in Quebec, on May 23rd, 2009, at the annual banquet held during ICCS meetings.

In her book, Ms Vanderpelen-Diagre offers a study on the relationships between Catholicism and Quebec literature from 1920 to 1960 which is, as she wrote, a blind spot embarrassing for researchers. In our secular countries, the Church had a long and enduring influence on cultural manifestations and followed ancient codes and practices that are now foreign to us. In France, the history of literature is marked by the great debates that questioned the links between religion and literature. This question was also raised by Quebec writers in unusual but very interesting terms. They have, at various degrees, incorporated religious concerns into their works. The manner used to do so rely on their personal relationship with faith, but also on the sociological and political context that surrounded them. This book based on a historical approach show their points of views and shed a new light on the relation between literature and Catholicism.

Cécile Vanderpelen-Diagre has a PhD in History from the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) and is a research fellow at ULB's Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique (FNRS-ULB). She is also the author of *Écrire en Belgique sous le regard de Dieu. La littérature catholique belge dans l'entre-deux-guerres* published in 2004 by Complexe-GEGES, and *Le Théâtre royal du Parc. Histoire d'un lieu de sociabilité bruxellois (de 1782 à nos jours)*, published in 2008 by Éditions de l'Université de Bruxelles.

The International Council for Canadian Studies is a not for profit organization of twenty-one national and multi-national Canadian Studies associations and 6 associate members in 39 countries, i.e. 7,500 teachers of university level that reach more than 150,000 students. Its mandate is to promote research, teaching and publishing on Canada around the world.

- 30 -

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