Roch Carrier: Short stories for FSL students

Editions Soleil publishing inc. is pleased to announce the publication of Roch Carrier raconte..., an anthology of fourteen short stories selected by Anthony Mollica, professor emeritus, Faculty of Education, Brock University. The anthology contains short stories from well-known works such as Écrits du Canada français (Montreal: Éditions internationales Alain Stanké); Les enfants du bonhomme dans la lune (Montreal: Éditions internationales Alain Stanké); Ne faites pas mal à l’avenir (Montréal: Éditions Paulines); La fleur et autres personnages (Montreal: Éditions Paulines); as well as Le joueur de basket-ball (Toronto: Livres Toundra).

The anthology is accompanied by 2 cd-roms with the short stories read by the author himself. In addition, a Cahier d’activités by Anthony Mollica is also available. The Cahier provides a wealth of exercises which test the student’s comprehension as well as provide ample opportunities for conversation and discussion.

“As far as I know, this is the first time that an author reads the short stories in an anthology destined for French as a second language (FSL). It’s a publisher’s first,” said Mollica. To reach a wider audience, Mollica has provided marginal vocabulary to assist the students when reading the short stories as well as a French-English glossary. The anthology is suitable for both French as a first language as well as for FSL students enrolled in both immersion and core programs.

The short stories vary in topics and themes:

- “Le joueur de basket-ball” and “La poignée de main”, focus on basketball and hockey;
- “Un dompteur de lions” and “La chatte d’Espagne”, on idiomatic expressions and proverbs drawn from the animal world;
- “L’ouvrier modèle”, on trades and professions;
- “La religieuse qui retourna en Irlande”, nationalities and the francophone world;
- “Grand-père n’avait peur de rien ni de personne”, fears;
- “Les cartes postales”, post-card writing;
- “Nathalie et son bonheur” and “Un très joyeux Noël”, relationship between parents and children;
- “À cause d’un peu de fumée”, the dangerous effects of drugs and narcotics;
- “Les cœurs en chocolat”, on obesity, love and loneliness;
- “Une si joyeuse fête”, the loss of a dear person; and in “L’école du rêve”, on education.

Carrier is no stranger to the reading audience. His “Hockey sweater”, a short film based on his short story “Une abominable feuille d’étable sur glace”, produced by the National Film Board of Canada, is considered a classic and the opening lines of the short story in both English and French are found on the five-dollar Canadian bill.

Roch Carrier is the recipient of numerous awards and of honorary degrees granted by both Canadian and American universities.