MADAME PAULINE BOUTAL

Madame Pauline Boutal was born on September 8th, 1894, in Brittany, France. She came to Canada in 1907 with her family, who first settled in Saint-Laurent, Manitoba, and later moved to Saint-Boniface.

Pauline LeGoff's father and grandfather, painters and artists in stained glass, encouraged her very early in life to develop her artistic abilities. Drawing soon became her favorite pastime, and as a young adult she did some artistic work for local newspapers, Le Nouvelliste, and then Le Soleil de l'Ouest, by whom she was employed.

She married Arthur Boutal in France in 1916. After the war, they moved to Saint-Boniface, and she was hired as a commercial artist by Brigdens of Winnipeg, for whom she worked more than twenty years.

Monsieur et madame Boutal became members of Le Cercle Molière shortly after its foundation in 1925. He became artistic director of Le Cercle Molière in 1926, and she designed costumes and sets. They collaborated together until he passed away in 1941, when madame Boutal replaced him as artistic director of Le Cercle Molière and remained in that position until 1968. Year after year, Le Cercle Molière entered the National Drama Festival and walked away with numerous trophies, many of which were awarded to madame Boutal personally.

She took it upon herself to paint many of the old historic houses in Saint-Boniface, before they were demolished. After 1941, she gave up com-
commercial drawing in order to devote more time to painting. She soon became a renowned artist, and was commissioned to paint the portraits of the last mayors of Saint-Boniface, from Mr. McLean to Mr. Turner (these are now in Le musée de Saint-Boniface), the portrait of Mr. Bachynski, long time speaker of the House in Manitoba (this painting is in the Legislative Building), and a large painting of La Vérendrye for Le Club LaVérendrye.

Madame Boutal gave drawing and painting lessons to children in Saint-Boniface until very recently, and a few of her former pupils have pursued a career in the arts.

She attended the School of Fine Arts in Winnipeg, then in 1946 went to Cape Cod where she studied under such renowned artists as George Elmer Browne and Henry Henschke. In 1948, she went to Paris where she first studied with André Lhote, and then with Charles Picart-Ledoux and Gthon Friez at the famous Académie de la Grande Chaumière.

Madame Boutal exhibited with other Canadian artists under the sponsorship of the Canadian Embassy in Paris in 1949, and later participated in numerous exhibitions of the Manitoba Society of Artists. She holds a life membership with Le Cercle Molière and is also a member of La Société Historique de Saint-Boniface.

On June 23, 1973, she was one of the forty persons nominated to the Order of Canada by the Governor General.

Friends and admirers of madame Boutal are happy and proud to see so many of her paintings finally exhibited in Saint-Boniface, on the joyful occasion of the official opening of Le Centre culturel franco-manitobain.

Marthe BENOIST