



## **SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**

### **Honorary Degree Citations The degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, conferred on Dr. James Jardine Douglas October 1991**

Madam Chancellor, I am privileged to present to you James Jardine Douglas whose passion for books gives force to the growth and quality of British Columbia's publishing enterprise. Champion of local voices and images, craftsman of design, master of editorial detail, Jim Douglas has made his dreams substantial before the eyes of the Canadian reader.

A native of Edinburgh born in 1924, he served in the Royal Air Force as a Flying Officer throughout World War 11, rejoining as a Technical and Staff Officer for a further five years before emigrating to Canada in 1954. Jim Douglas began his career with established national publishing houses, first in Toronto and later in Vancouver. His preeminence as mentor on the British Columbia publishing scene came with the founding of J.J. Douglas Ltd. in 1964. Now Douglas and McIntyre, the direction he established nearly three decades ago set the course for Western Canadian social, cultural and educational development in print form.

A small press has been characterized as an attitude, a state of mind where talent and the standard of writing takes precedence over the dollar. The books he selected for publication and the writers he transformed into authors are Jim Douglas's lasting public legacy. Never parochial in his choice of themes nor limited by self-serving commercial interest, his good counsel to others has helped publishing houses across this country withstand foreign threats to their survival.

Sharing his wisdom freely as founding President for the Association of Book Publishers of British Columbia and three times as President of the Association of Canadian Publishers, Jim Douglas was instrumental in the formation of a nation-wide network supporting Canadian publishers, artists and writers. Now retired, he remains a valued teacher, an advisor to small presses in financial trouble and a vital catalyst behind the Canadian Centre for Studies in Publishing, recently formed in partnership with Simon Fraser University.

Throughout a life spent in service to the written word, Jim Douglas has inspired others with his vision and his idealism. His achievements reflect the inner man - generous, enterprising, humane and public spirited. Today we honour him for the leadership he has given Canadian publishing and for his singular contribution to British Columbia. On behalf of the Senate of this University, Madam Chancellor, I present James Jardine Douglas for the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.