

Lena Allen-Shore poems 'antidotes for despondency'

By JOHN RICHMOND

Lena Allen-Shore is a polyglot, polymath, internationalist, humanist and above all, an optimist.

Born in Poland, she has lived in Canada for 20 years, written poetry that brought her the admiration of Dr. Albert Schweitzer, composed songs, studied law, economics, political science and music.

Her accomplishments have endowed her with a piquant modesty.

This week, at the launching of her bilingual collection of poems, *The Singing God (Le Dieu qui chante)* — Edition Aries, 190 pp. \$2.50, and a manual of instruction, *Langue universelle. Fraternité et culture* — Editions Aries, 127 pp. \$2.00, she spoke very little of her activities in the Polish resistance during the Second World War, insisting rather on her attempts to promote mutual understanding between nations.

"I believe," she said firmly, "in God and man."

Her *Langue universelle*, with its preface by Professor Michel Plourde, dean of the faculty of science, University of Montreal, is written with deceptive simplicity.

Revealing wide scholarship, it ranges from western to eastern cultures, extracts the

essence of the religious teaching of men of different religions, never preaches but always teaches.

The author proposes lessons in fraternity, based on applied philosophy, that could be taught by what she calls "conscience games" even at the kindergarten level.

In the last chapter of the book, she explores the possibility of Canada's playing an extremely important role as a centre of diffusion of "international education."

Sincerity, compassion and energy characterize her message which, she underlines, is both pragmatic and idealist.

Her poems and her theses are antidotes for despondency.