

On 17 April 1985, 14 Alcuin Citations for excellence in book design in Canada were presented at a ceremony and reception at the Butler Galleries in Vancouver.

For this third competition 45 publishers across Canada submitted over 120 books in the categories of Poetry, Prose, Pictorial, Juvenile, and Other. To be eligible, books had to be wholly produced in Canada; be a minimum of 45 pages; and be published in an edition of 500 or more.

The Citations are intended to acknowledge Canadian publishers who maintain a high standard in book production. Publishers are faced more and more with the questionable commercial viability of carefully designed and produced books. Technology has made possible the mass-produced, throw-away paperback, and if we are to listen to some proponents of the future, books as we know them will soon be archival matter. Luckily we still have publishers who believe in their product. In April we saluted these publishers.

In the March issue of *Amphora* we inserted a Catalogue of the winners, runners up, and a selection of comments from the judges — Ron McAmmond, Reinhard Derreth and Crispin Elsted.

The Awards Ceremony was very successful this year, largely as a result of the outstanding response we received from the publishers who were the recipients of awards. Several attended, others sent their designers/authors, and those unable to attend wrote expressing their appreciation. Another contributor to this year's success was the interest expressed by the media. Radio and television interviews were held, and several articles have appeared in newspapers across the country. In its goal of bringing greater recognition to publishers who maintain high standards, we think we can say that the 1985 Alcuin Citations were successful.

Neither the Alcuin Society nor the judges would suggest that only those who received Citations care about standards of design. Although the judges were quite clear in their selection of the place winners, they did spot a number of books they felt worthy of mention. And at the reception these books did indeed receive their fair share of attention. Interesting discussions and debates arose — a response that we were glad to see. Lee Bachus of *The Sun* called it "a quiet affair where hype and glitter were replaced by white wine and fresh strawberries and a lot of talk about the art of the book, binding, fine printing and calligraphy."

---

The Alcuin Citations were made possible by support from the National Book Festival and the B.C. Cultural Fund, and the assistance of individuals who gave freely of their time, advice and resources. Again, our thanks to all.

AT & BGH