

3RD PRIZE

Balthazar and other poems by D.G. Jones

Toronto: Coach House Press ISBN 0-88910-333-X

Design: Gordon Robertson (cover) Paperback

HONORABLE MENTION

Pell Mell by Robin Blaser

Toronto: Coach House Press ISBN 0-88910-339-9

Design: Gordon Robertson (cover) Paperback

The floral motif on cover and endpapers distinguishes the Skelton book, whose poems are simple yet with attention to page location. Outram's poems appear in the Cartier type created by Canada's Carl Dair in 1967, a type more successful in display than in running text, but here shown to great advantage. The book's colourful cover illustration by Barbara Howard is also notable. The Coach House Press, represented for both third prize and an honorable mention, has a long history of excellent settings of Canadian poetry. The style of the covers of both of these books is art deco.

JUVENILE

1ST PRIZE

The Wildlife ABC: A Nature Alphabet by Jan Thornhill

Toronto: Greey de Pencier ISBN 0-920775-29-2

Design: Wycliffe Smith Illustrated hard cover, dustwrapper

2ND PRIZE

The Canadian Children's Treasury

Toronto: Key Porter ISBN 1-55013-066-8

Design: Marie Bartholomew Illustrated hard cover,
dustwrapper

3RD PRIZE

Borrowed Black: a Labrador Fantasy by Ellen Byan Obed; illustrated
by Jan Morgensen

St. John's: Breakwater Books ISBN 0-920911-14-5

Design: Breakwater Books Illustrated hard cover

HONORABLE MENTION

I Didn't Know That! by the editors of OWL magazine;
compiled and edited by Katherine Farris

Toronto: Greey de Pencier ISBN 0-920775-31-4

Design: Wycliffe Smith Paperback

HONORABLE MENTION

Sooshevan, Child of the Beothuk by Donald Gale;
illustrated by Shawn Steffler

St. John's: Breakwater Books ISBN 0-920911-15-3

Design: Breakwater Books Illustrated hard cover

Juvenile books, once again the category with the largest number of submissions, continue to attract excellent design talent. Both the first-prize winner and *Sooshevan* are distinguished by bold, colourful illustrations set in suitable frame designs. *The Wildlife ABC* features an equally bold setting of the brief text for each letter to form a strong unified whole of striking attractiveness.

The major design problem of the second-prize anthology was the reproduction and placement of illustrations of differing moods, styles, colouring, and sizes by seven different artists. The problem is well solved by good layout and printing of both text and illustrations as a harmonious whole.

owl magazine's collection of short questions-and-answers, often five or more to a two-page opening, displays good magazine technique in keeping caption, illustration, and text from getting into each other's way visually while packing an amazing amount of information into few pages. The style could not be further removed from that of the first-prize winner, yet both are the product of the same imaginative designer.

Canada's book designers are active and imaginative. We are sorry some obvious candidates for consideration were not in competition, and hope other publishers and designers submit material next year. The craft of printing is important to the proper execution of a good design. The majority of these award winners are the products of excellent Canadian presswork, but printers in Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Singapore, and the United States are also represented, whether for reasons of cost, foreign sales, or quality. Finally, it must be acknowledged that a large number of good-looking Canadian books can only be produced to the desired quality standards with the financial support of government. This remains particularly true in the categories of poetry and juvenile books, where the acknowledgement of various provincial and federal arts councils is most noticeable.

The judges for this year's Alcuin Society book design competition were:

Roberto Dosil (Praxis Design, Vancouver)

Jan Elsted (co-owner, Barbarian Press, Mission,
British Columbia)

Ronald Hagler (Professor, School of Library, Archival, and
Information Studies, The University of British
Columbia)

Dennis Nagy (Studio Allsorts, Vancouver)

These notes were compiled and summarized from the hours of discussion during the course of judging.

Ronald Hagler
JUDGE