

## 1988 ALCUIN CITATIONS

The Alcuin Society is pleased to announce the finalists for the 1988 ALCUIN CITATIONS which are the only national awards for excellence in book design in Canada. Winners were selected from books designed and published in Canada in 1987.

The 1987 finalists were selected from over 150 books submitted by publishers across the country. This year's competition introduced a new category, **Poetry Chapbook**, in addition to **Poetry, Prose** (Non-Fiction/Fiction), **Pictorial, Juvenile, Education** and **Other**.

Judges considered, among other things, sound marriage of design and content, appropriate (not just appealing) cover design, page layout, typography and where applicable the balance of illustration and text.

The judges this year were: Don Dickson of the Vancouver Design Team; Roberto Dosit from Praxis Design; Ron McAmmond from the University of British Columbia Press and Ronald Hagler School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, UBC. All are from Vancouver, B.C.

The commentary was written by Ronald Hagler (Chairman).

### **Juror's Statement**

We were asked to identify books meeting our criteria for first, second, and third prize. We were allowed a category of "Other" to use at our discretion. We were not required to award an available prize if we felt the criteria were not met among the applicable submissions; but we were allowed to cite "Honourable Mentions".

It must be stated that the best may remain unacknowledged in these awards simply because it was not on the table to be judged. Over 150 items were submitted, but this represents only a small proportion of Canadian publications. Some trade publishers known for excellence are not submitting items. As judges we wondered if news of the competition could be spread to more freelance designers who might prompt the entry of their work in future years. Many of Canada's private presses seem to be aware of the competition. It is hard to know how inclusive is this year's coverage of this important part of the field, but they feature significantly among the prizes and honourable mentions.