

## 2ND PRIZE

*Tales from Gold Mountain: Stories of the Chinese in the New World*, by Paul Yee; paintings by Simon Ng. A Groundwood Book. Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre. ISBN 0-88899-098-7. Design: Michael Solomon

## 3RD PRIZE

*Every Time I Climb a Tree*, by Carl Braun and Paula S. Goepfert. Strategies (series). Scarborough, Ontario: Nelson Canada. ISBN 0-17-602576-6. Design: Lorraine Tuson

## TIED WITH

*Something Furry, Rough, and Wild*, by Carl Braun and Paula S. Goepfert. Strategies (series). Scarborough, Ontario: Nelson Canada. ISBN 0-17-602578-2. Design: Lorraine Tuson

## HONOURABLE MENTION

*The Lightning Bolt*, by Michael Bedard; illustrated by Regolo Ricci. Toronto: Oxford University Press. ISBN 0-19-540732-6. Design: Kathryn Cole

## TIED WITH

*Til All the Stars Have Fallen: Canadian Poems for Children*, selected by David Booth, illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton. Toronto: Kids Can Press. ISBN 0-921103-90-5. Design: Michael Solomon

As in most years, Canadian children's book design offers a wealth of riches; this year, six books out of the nearly sixty submitted warranted recognition. There was no doubt about the first two prizes: both books are integrated treatments of text and illustration in vastly different styles but each ideally suited to its subject. A children's librarian might dispute whether the first-prize winner is actually a children's book but it would have won a design prize in any category. Like the Toronto/Vancouver guidebooks in another category, a pair of twins merits the third-prize tie for imaginative presentation of shorter elementary reading material. Two more books demanded notice: a more traditional picture book from the oft-honoured Oxford University Press juvenile division and a beautiful illustrated anthology, a second kudo for Michael Solomon.

## Concluding Comments

It is good to see more of Canada's designers and publishers entering books into competition for these, the country's only nationwide design awards. The technical aspects of production are also crucial: good or bad printing, colour separations, paper, etc. reinforce or destroy good design. Many of the above award winners

are the products of Canadian presses and supporting technical craft studios as well as of Canadian designers and publishers but financial considerations still appear often to dictate the use of offshore production facilities. Financial assistance by provincial and/or federal cultural funding agencies is acknowledged in many of the award winners and appears to remain essential to the health of Canadian publishing. That so many publishers are willing to go the extra step in providing good design for their books is gratifying in a period when their financial stability remains precarious.

### Judges

The judges for this year's Alcuin Society Design Competition were: Roberto Dosil (Praxis Design, Vancouver); Jan Elsted (Barbarian Press, Mission City); Ronald Hagler (Professor, School of Library, Archival, and Information Studies, the University of British Columbia); and Dennis Nagy (Studio Allsorts, Vancouver)

Professor Hagler compiled the above comments as, he hopes, a reasonable summary of the hours of discussion involved.