

THE ALCUIN SOCIETY'S AWARDS
FOR EXCELLENCE IN CANADIAN BOOK DESIGN
FOR THE YEAR 1993 (1992?)

Ronald Hagler

For this, the Society's eleventh annual presentation of design awards, the undersigned judges spent much of April 17, 1993 examining and discussing the visual merits and deficiencies of 244 books submitted by their publishers and/or designers. This is a few more books than were submitted last year. Some books of great design merit published in Canada are not, for one or another reason, submitted to this competition, but we celebrate those listed and described below as evidence of the notable standard of excellence. Many of them would be equally remarkable when compared with examples of the very best produced anywhere. The categories, as most recently revised by the Society's Design Awards Committee in 1989, are: General Trade Books: Prose (includes Fiction and Nonfiction) General Trade Books: Adult Picture and Photography Books: General Trade Books: How-To-, Cook-, Craft- and Hobby Books General Trade Books: Poetry Text and Reference Books Limited Editions (numbered and/or signed) Juvenile Books other than Textbooks.

The person submitting is invited to check one of these categories on the entry form accompanying each book but a book is occasionally assigned to a more appropriate category by either the Society's Committee or the judges. First, second, and third prizes are available in each category, with ties permitted. Honourable mention is awarded to a book exceptionally noteworthy in some feature(s) but not as a whole of prize-winning standard. Judging is based on the suitability and harmony (both in the text block and for the binding/covering/wrapper) of type, illustration (if any), layout, and materials used; all in relation to the book's subject matter, intended audience, etc.

General Trade Books: Prose (includes Fiction and Nonfiction)

1st Prize: *Good Bones* [by] Margaret Atwood. Toronto: Coach House Press. ISBN 0-88910-442-5. [Designer: Stephanie Power (Reactor); Printer: Best Gagne]

2nd Prize: *Chinese Canadians: Voices from a Community* [by] Evelyn Huang with Lawrence Jeffery. Vancouver: Douglas &

McIntyre. ISBN 1-55054-034-3. [Designer: RayMahDesign;
Printer: D.W.Friesen & Sons]

3rd Prize: Costumes and Scripts in the Elizabethan Theatres [by] Jean McIntyre. Edmonton: University of Alberta Press. ISBN 0-88864-226-1. [Designer: Marian Banties (cover: Kerry Watt); Printer: John Deyell Co.]

Hon. Men.: Living the Moment: A Sacred Journey [by] Lance H.K. Secretan; illustrated by Carolyn MacLeod Megill. Alton, Ont.: The Thaler Corp. [Designer: Corporate Lines Design Group; Printer: Tri-Graphics Printing]

Hon. Men.: The Puppeteer: A Novel [by] Robert Kroetsch. Toronto: Random House of Canada. ISBN 0-394-22037-4. [Designer: Linda Gustafson (Counterpunch); Printed in the U.S.A.]

In the case of the two novels and McIntyre's book, the choice of type and the text layout are critical. Being unillustrated, they must catch the reader's eye and carry it along without graphic aids. In addition to superior quality in this respect, Atwood's and McIntyre's books are much enhanced by the consistent and suitable use of colour in their covers, jackets, and endpapers (Atwood is responsible for her own jacket illustration). The book of interviews with Chinese Canadians is unified by a well used symbolic decorative motif. Secretan's book is remarkable for its bold illustration based on first-nations motifs and for its treatment of use of small decorative elements in page numbering, text dividers, etc.; Kroetsch's for its integration of jacket and chapter openings.

General Trade Books: Adult Picture and Photography Books

1st Prize: Our Chiefs and Elders: Words and Photographs of Native Leaders [by] David Neel. Vancouver: UBC Press. ISBN 0-7748-0411-4. [Designer: Robin Ward; Printer: D.W. Friesen & Sons]

2nd Prize: Canada and the Battle of Vimy Ridge: 9 to 12 April, 1917 [by] Brereton Greenhous and Stephen J. Harris. Ottawa: Canada Communication Group - Publishing. ISBN 0-660-14401-8. [Designer: Art Global; Printer: Imprimerie Gagne]

3rd Prize: Sabine's Notebook [by] Nick Bantock. Vancouver: Raincoast Books. ISBN 0-920417-10-8. [Designer: Nick Bantock; Printed in Hong Kong]