

Last year, gallery/museum exhibition catalogues won all three prizes in this category; this year, only one such catalogue was even submitted in competition, possibly because the financial pinch on galleries and museums has reduced the necessary subsidies for such publications. Still, the first two prizes go to books which acknowledge subsidies from public sources: these are expensive productions but fortunately the money has been well spent in them. First prize recognizes attention to every single detail of presentation that is evident in the Neel volume: layout of contents, caption markers, running footers and page numbers, paragraph dividers, linkage of text and portraits, and subtle background colouring for some portraits all contribute to the elegance of this book. That two similar books can look very different but be equally suitable for their content is emphasized by a comparison with the second-prize winner in the prose category (placed there because its design emphasizes text over photographs). Federal government publications are not generally noted for their design, but second prize in this category goes to a beautifully produced tribute to the soldiers at Vimy Ridge, whose design recalls the spirit of the age. Third prize goes to a commercial publication. Even its text is illustration, whereas the other two prize winners have traditional textual components; and everything is in full colour. Sabine's and Griffin's postcards and letters (envelopes included) to each other constitute a journey in time and space whose impact would be impossible in a conventional medium.

General Trade Books: How-To-, Cook-, Craft- and Hobby Books

1st Prize: *The Compact Garden* [by] Brian Fawcett. Camden East, Ont.: Camden House Publishing, distributed by Firefly Books, Willowdale, Ont. ISBN 0-921820-43-7. [Designer: Linda J. Menyes; Printer: D.W. Friesen & Sons]

2nd Prize: *Discovering Spiders, Snails and Other Creepy Crawlies* [by] Gilles Brillon; translated by Christina Richards; illustrated by Doris Barrette. Young naturalist [series]; 1. Waterloo, Quebec: Quintin Publishers ISBN 2-920438-53-0. [Designer: Le Groupe Fletidee; Printer: Imprimerie Gagne]

Hon. Men.: *Prints* [by] Judy Ann Sadler; illustrated by Marilyn Mets. Toronto: Kids Can Press. ISBN 1-55074-083-0. [Designer: Nancy Ruth Jackson; Printer: Wing King Tong Co., Hong Kong]

Books in this category tend to be produced either very well or very poorly; it has not been uncommon for some prizes to go unawarded. This year, two thin "nature" books (one for younger people) meet award standards for the suitability of their co-related treatment of text and illustration which is always necessary in this category. The adult gardening book may be more elegant and enlivened by colour, but the children's book, all but its cover in black-and-white, serves its purpose as a visual do-it-yourself teaching guide excellently; yet being inexpensively produced it is a very good buy in relation to slicker but less effective competitors. Sadler's craft book for younger children ("printing" with eraser, sponge, string, potato, etc.) is notable for its whimsical pastel marginal reproductions of the desired effects.

General Trade Books: Poetry

1st Prize: *Seascape with Figures: Poems Selected and New* [by] Gilean Douglas. Victoria: Sono Nis Press. ISBN 1-55039-015-5. [Designer: Bev Leech; Printer: Morriss Printing]

2nd Prize: *La Balance du Vent* [by] Yves Boisvert. Montreal: Editions du Noroit; distribution: Diffusion Prologue inc. ISBN 2-89018-243-6. [Designer: Claude Prud-Homme; Printer: Imprimerie Marquis ltee.]

3rd Prize: *Short Talks* [by] Anne Carson. [London, Ont.]: Brick Books. ISBN 0-919626-58-0. [Designer: Tim Inkster; Printer: The Porcupine's Quill]

Hon. Men.: *La Fin du Jour* [par] Daniel Guenette. Montreal: Editions du Noroit; distribution: Diffusion Prologue inc. ISBN 2-89018-250-9. [Designer: Claude Prud-Homme; Printer: Les Ateliers graphiques Marc Veilleux]

Hon. Men.: *The Queens* [by] Normand Chaurette; translated by Linda Gaboriau. Toronto: Coach House Press. ISBN 0-88910-448-4. [Designer: Gary Stuber (Orbit); Printer: Metrolitho]

Poetry is a category, like the paperback novel, in which a successful design can be fairly closely copied in many different books (never exactly, of course, especially in the case of the covers). Previous years' prize winners have seen Brick, Coach House, Noroit, and Sono Nis publications close in general appearance to those honoured this year. Repetition does not, however, detract from the high quality of these basic designs. Considering the low