

The text is clearly separated into sections for quick reference using colour and header-icons (shades of Windows and Macs). Through its Canada Communications Group, the federal government is demonstrating awareness of a need to present its important publications in a more attractive way than was typical of the government document of yore. A decade ago, a two-volume Royal Commission report would still have been designed almost to repel. In the way this one highlights statistics, quotations, and recommendations, and treats its captions, bibliographies, etc., it goes a long step toward meeting the quality standards of attractive commercial work.

Limited Editions

1st Prize: *Anatomy* [by] Michael Torosian. Toronto: Lumiere Press. ISBN 0-921542-07-0.
[Designer, printer, and binder: Michael Torosian]

2nd Prize: *The Articulation of Time, a Commonplace Book*, selected by William Rueter.
Toronto: Aliquando Press. [Designer, printer, and binder: William Rueter]

These two very different books are of almost identical size and share a traditional cover treatment of marbled paper (Rueter's, in three different-sized layers), one speckled with silver, the other with gold. Torosian's continues to produce limited editions containing his own creative work; in this, tipped-on duotone reproductions of his photographs are accompanied by some twenty pages of text set and spaced just as its Optima type demands. The colouration of the gelatin-silver frontispiece, an original photograph, is carried through the endpapers, title page, and slipcase. Bill Rueter, longtime designer for the University of Toronto Press, celebrates thirty years of his private Aliquando Press with an anthology of short poetic and prose texts each set in a different but appropriate style, on different paper, using different typefaces and colours: a sampler of the techniques of traditional printing.

Juvenile Books

1st Prize: *Brewster Rooster*, written by Berny Lucas; illustrated by Russ Willms. Toronto: Kids Can Press. ISBN 1-55074-109-8. [Designer: Russ Willms; Printer: Everbest Printing Co., Hong Kong]

2nd Prize: *Last Leaf First Snowflake to Fall* [by] Leo Yerxa. Toronto: A Groundwood Book, Douglas & McIntyre. ISBN 0-88899-183-5. [Designer: Leo Yerxa; Printer: Everbest Printing Co., Hong Kong]

3rd Prize: *Day Songs, Night Songs*, by Robert Priest; pictures by Keith Lee. Toronto: A Groundwood Book, Douglas & McIntyre. ISBN 0-88899-179-7. [Designer: Michael Solomon; Printer: Everbest Printing Co., Hong Kong]

Hon. Men.: *The Ferryboat Ride* [by] Robert Perry; illustrations by Greta Guzek. Gibsons, B.C.: Nightwood Editions ISBN 0-88971-155-0. [Designer: Greta Guzek and Roger Handling; Printer: Friesen Printers]

Hon. Men.: *Rabbit Blue*, written and illustrated by Marie-Louise Gay. Toronto: Stoddart. ISBN 0-7737-2750-7. [Designer: M.-L. Gay; Printer: Book Art Ltd., Hong Kong]

Many features of *Brewster Rooster* call for recognition: the earth colours, the two-page-bleed spreads alternating with more traditional page layout, the choice of an unusual but appropriate typeface always shown clearly even against coloured background (how often does the type of a picture book get lost as if it were not important?). Leo Yerxa's pictorial art is already well known; here, the understated leaf and snowflake motifs and the silhouette graphic elements of the large initial capital letters recommend his sense of design as well. The tall, narrow format and bright colours just suit the Priest/Lee book of short-line poems. Two books called for honourable mention from among the remaining seventy-plus entered in this category. *The Ferryboat Ride* is exemplary for its coherent use of bold colour in both illustration and decoration. Marie-Louise Gay, no stranger to these awards, designed a book full of motion from first to last page.

Concluding Comments

The Alcuin Design Awards continue to be dominated by names now familiar in Canadian book production. Two who were absent last year, Gordon Robertson and the children's-book designer Michael Solomon, happily return to this award list. Victoria's Bev Leech and Morriss Printing appear yet again; the Manitoba printing firm of D.W. Friesen continues to be responsible for more excellent printing than any other on the list, spanning an ever greater variety of styles as Canadian designers exercise their originality. Almost all winners except in the juvenile category are again printed in Canada. In hard economic times and with new taxes and reduced grants, publishers are becoming more skilled at knowing where they can cut some production costs while continuing to ensure that the state-of-the-art in Canadian book design remains praiseworthy.