

✓ **1st Prize:** *The Rain Ascends* [by] Joy Kogawa. Toronto: Knopf Canada. ISBN 0-394-28121-7 (217pp., hbk) \$28.95. [Designer: Concrete Design Communications, Inc.; Printer: R.R. Donnelley, U.S.A.]

✓ **2nd Prize:** *Our Tellings: Interior Salish Stories of the Nlha7kápmx People*, compiled and edited by Darwin Hanna and Mamie Henry. Vancouver: UBC Press. ISBN 0-7748-0525-0 (217pp., hbk) \$xx.xx. [Designer: George Vaitkunas; Printer: D.W. Friesen & Sons]

✓ **3rd Prize (tie):** *Exotica* [the screenplay by] Atom Egoyan. Toronto: Coach House Press. ISBN 0-88910-475-1 (158pp., pbk) \$18.95. [Cover designer: Pippa White; text designer: Greg Van Alstyne; Printer: Kromar Printing]

✓ **3rd Prize (tie):** *The Mystic Leeway* [by] Frances Gregg; edited by Ben Jones; with an account of Frances Gregg by Oliver Marlow Wilkinson. Women's Experience Series, vol.6. Ottawa: Carleton University Press. ISBN 0-88629-250-6 (194pp., pbk) \$xx.xx. [Designer: Carrie Coulton Graphic Design; Printer: Love Printing]

✓ **Hon. Men.:** *Edward Poitras: Canada XLVI Biennale di Venezia* [by] Gerald McMaster. Hull: Canadian Museum of Civilization/Musée canadien des civilisations. ISBN 0-660-50753-6 (163pp., pbk) \$xx.xx. [Designer: Timmings & Debay; Printer: HB Technolith]

✓ **Hon. Men.:** *Letter from Vienna: A Daughter Uncovers Her Family's Jewish Past* [by] Claudia Cornwall; foreword by Raul Hilberg. Vancouver; Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre. ISBN 1-55054-115-3 (242pp., hbk) \$26.95. [Designer: Linda Gustafson/Counterpunch; Printer: Best Gagné Book Manufacturers Inc.]

This is normally the largest category. This year's XXX items are not unusual in the problems they pose for judging. A great many, it can simply be said, are "nice" books: of generally good design and in general easily readable. What makes a few stand out from the others, particularly when so high a proportion of these books are unillustrated? Usually two things: (1) care with the many details of excellent typesetting (including size and visual "weight", line-length in relation to the page size, word- and line-spacing, and (2) consistency in the treatment of *all* the design features (not just the obvious ones) including cover, dustwrapper, endpapers, paper-stock weight and colour, preliminary pages, chapter openings, running heads, any ornamentation, and page-numbering, all in keeping with the spirit of the content. The book does not have to look spectacular to get the ultimate recognition. Indeed, it is the comforting feeling of sombre (given its topic) unity without offsetting blemish that makes this year's first-prize winner such a delight. The six prizes and mentions this year all go to different publishers, designers, and printers. The typography is the strongest feature of both the second-prize winner and *Exotica*, the latter a particularly rare achievement in the setting of a screenplay with its dialogue, description of the action, settings, scene changes, etc. *The Mystic Leeway* has a very sensible balance, in an oblong format, of text and illustrations, the latter sharing a margin with index references. *Edward Poitras* is a trilingual exhibition catalogue; for that reason it has more text than catalogues in the "picture-book" category. Its best feature is its embossed French-flap cover and sequence into a good text block; the trilingual picture captions are less successful. The decision to integrate illustrations with chapter openings is an excellent distinguishing feature of *Letter from Vienna*.

#### General Trade Books: Adult Picture and Photography Books

✓ **1st Prize:** *Rubens to Picasso: Four Centuries of Master Drawings: An Exhibition* curated by Victor Chan. Edmonton: Department of Art and Design, University of Alberta. ISBN 0-88964-281-4 (159pp., pbk) \$xx.xx. [Designer: Susan Colberg; Printer: Quality Color Press]

✓ **2nd Prize:** *Our Boots: An Inuit Women's Art* [by] Jill Oakes and Rick Riewe. Vancouver; Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre. ISBN 1-55054-195-1 (224pp., hbk) \$xx.xx. [Designer: George Vaitkunas; Printer: C&C Offset Printing Co., Hong Kong]

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✓ 3rd Prize: *Ron Thom: The Shaping of an Architect* [by] Douglas Shadbolt; with photographs by John Flanders. Vancouver; Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre. ISBN 1-55054-195-1 (224pp., hbk) \$xx.xx. [Designer: George Vaitkunas; Printer: D.W. Friesen & Sons]

✓ Hon. Men.: *Glenn Gould; Some Portraits of the Artist as a Young Man*; story and photographs by Jock Carroll. Toronto: Stoddart. ISBN 0-7737-2904-6 (96pp., hbk) \$40.00. [Designer: Gillian Stead; Printer: The Book Art, Hong Kong]

✓ Hon. Men.: *People Who Make a Difference; Des gens peu ordinaires* [edited by Irene Carroll & Jackie Kaiser. Toronto: Viking (Penguin Books Canada). ISBN 0-670-86475-7 (216pp., hbk) \$50.00. [Designer: Concrete Design Communications Inc.; Printer: Paramount Book Art Inc., China]

Treating illustrations is particularly difficult when their originals are of differing technical quality, their sizes and shapes differ, and varying amounts of text and caption must accompany and closely serve them. Exhibition catalogues have long set the standard but this year, only the first-prize winner is a catalogue. Although he had nothing to do with its production personally, this year's "new" judge (see below) absented himself from comment on this category until the other three judges unanimously (and very quickly) singled out the catalogue published by his academic department at the University of Alberta as an ideal fulfilment of the challenge. The two-colour printing permitted a beautiful, if simple, differentiation of headings and commentary. Although it is not technically an exhibition catalogue, the second prize-winner's sponsorship by Toronto's new Bata Shoe Museum must have allowed the publisher to deploy the resources needed for a lavishly beautiful production. The same designer (also acknowledged in the previous category) and publisher are responsible for a splendid biography for third prize. The honourable mention for the book about Glenn Gould is clearly for its thoughtfully juxtaposed and excellently reproduced photographs. Unifying the work of so many photographers is a challenge well met by the designer of *People Who Make a Difference*.

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

✓ 1st Prize: *Umberto's Kitchen: The Flavours of Tuscany* [by] Umberto Menghi. Vancouver; Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre. ISBN 1-55054-422-5 (172pp., hbk) \$xx.xx. [Designer: DesignGeist; Printer: C&C Offset Printing Co., Hong Kong]

✓ Hon. Men.: *Dave Hunter's Along the I-75*, 1996 Edition. Mississauga: Mile Oak Publishing Inc. ISBN 0-9696376-5-9 (186pp., wire-wound pbk) \$xx.xx. [Designer: Dave Hunter; Printer: Webcom Ltd.; (cover: Gerrie-Young Printing)]

Once again, only one book in this small category stood out - and once again, it is a well composed coffee-table-type cookbook: a picture book as much as a recipe book. Its Italian theme shines from every page and several thoughtful design features would make it stand out in other categories as well. The book accorded honourable mention describes itself as "a unique driving guide for the Interstate-75 between Detroit and the Florida border." It is only the inventive maps which distinguish it but these are remarkable. In the easy-to-open spiral binding of this guidebook, they seem ideal for consultation in a moving vehicle, even by the driver who can get much useful information in the quickest glance without risking an accident.

#### General Trade Books: Poetry

✓ 1st Prize: *Le corps pain, l'âme vin*; [poèmes par] Pierre Ouellet; [illustrations par] Christine Palmiéri. Montréal: Éditions du Nord-est. ISBN 2-89018-319-X ([41 leaves, a few printed on two sides and 2 folded, interspersed with 16 leaves of illus. on different stock], pbk) \$xx.xx. [Designers: Christine Palmiéri, Pierre Ouellet, and Claude Prud-Homme; Printer: Imprimeries d'Éditions Marquis Ltée]

✓ 2nd Prize: *Kingsway* [by] Michael Turner. Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp Press. ISBN 1-55152-028-1 (64pp., pbk) \$xx.xx. [Designer: Dean Allen; Printer: Kromar Printing]