April 21, 1996
To RLH
From RH

Richard: The following is not complete. I need quantities from you and some prices from a bibl. database, and I keep forgetting to get my copy of *End Grain* and the disk/computer together! That is why you see so many "xx"s in the text. But it is substantially complete. I'll submit it on disk (and in hard copy) again when I know what word-processing format the editor or Don Atkins will accept (I also have to find a way to reproduce the hacek). I have slipped a marker into each book at a page or opening which might be considered fror reproduction. Please read the last section (after the judges' names) for consideration for next year's awards. Book me (and a guest) for the dinner on June 3; I'll pay for the guest - and my annual membership fee at the same time.

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THE ALCUIN SOCIETY, VANCOUVER

DESIGN AWARDS, PUBLICATIONS OF 1995

For this, the Society's fourteenth annual presentation of design awards, the undersigned judges spent much of April 12 and 13, 1996 examining and discussing the visual qualities of [RLH: HOW MANY?? PLEASE PROVIDE A TOTAL IN EACH CATEGORY] books submitted by their Canadian publishers and/or designers and bearing an imprint date of 1995. Some publishers and designers continue to ignore the Society's requests for submissions to this competition; we can only recognize the best from among what we receive. The books listed and described below are evidence of the high standard of excellence Canadian publishers demand of, and receive from, Canadian designers. A high proportion of the producers (platemakers, printers, binders) are also Canadian but because of technical and/or economic reasons, some production has always been done elsewhere, as noted in the individual citations below.

This is not the first year that books considered by this panel to be excellent in their physical appropriateness and aesthetic appeal have also been considered by other judges to represent the best of Canadian writing. As it happens, however, the British Columbia Book Prizes were awarded the evening of the second day of Alcuin judging and it was notable that several of the books recognized here for their design were nominees or winners for their intellectual content as well. Even if they do not always go hand in hand, excellent content and excellent presentation deserve each other.

Submissions were judged in the following categories as most recently revised by the Society's Design Awards Committee in 1989. (Last year's judges' recommendation that the "how-to ..." subcategory of general trade books be eliminated will be effective beginning with next year's competition.)

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 Texts.

The person submitting is invited to check one of these categories on the entry form accompanying each book but either the Society's Committee or the judges may reassign it. Each book is judged as a whole as the suitability and harmony of all aspects of its materials and design in relation to the book's intellectual content and intended audience. First, second, and third prizes are available in each category, with ties permitted. A book cited for Honourable Mention exhibits some exceptionally noteworthy feature(s), for example a striking and appropriate cover, which brought it, in the eyes of the judges, above the mass even if as a whole it fails to sustain comparison with prize-winners in the category.

General Trade Books: Prose (includes Fiction and Nonfiction)