

*Publications of 1995*

The judges named on page 31 spent much of April 12 and 13, 1996 examining and discussing the approximately two hundred fifty books submitted by their Canadian publishers and/or designers and published during 1995. While we can only acknowledge the best from among those placed in competition by their publishers and/or designers, the following pages celebrate the high standard of excellence Canadian publishers demand of, and receive from, the designers they commission. A high proportion of the producers involved (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 others to represent the best of Canadian writing. As it happens, the British Columbia Book Prizes were awarded the evening of the second day of Alcuin judging this year and 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 categories most recently revised by the Society's Design Awards Committee in 1989. These categories will be adjusted in future competitions to divide fiction and nonfiction in the over-large "prose" category and to disperse the "How-To (etc.)" group among other groups as appropriate. The person submitting is invited to check one of the 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 on 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.

