

*Prose*

This is typically the largest category of submissions. This year's large group is not unusual in the problems posed 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.

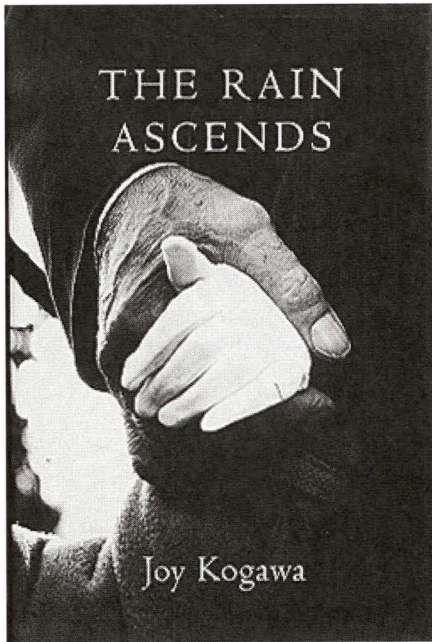
*The Mystic Leeway* has a very sensible balance, in an oblong format, of text and illustrations, the latter sharing a margin with index references.

*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

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1ST PRIZE

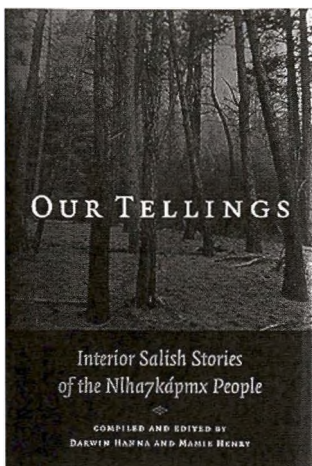
*The Rain Ascends* [by] Joy Kogawa.

Toronto: Knopf Canada.

ISBN 0-394-28121-7 (217pp., hbk) \$28.95.

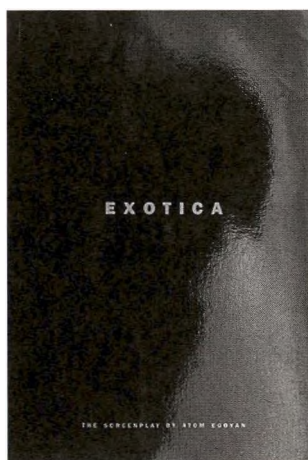
Designer: Concrete Design Communications, Inc.

Printer: R.R. Donnelley, U.S.A.



2ND PRIZE

*Our Tellings: Interior Salish Stories of the Nlha7káp̓mx People*, compiled and edited by Darwin Hanna and Mamie Henry.  
Vancouver: UBC Press.  
ISBN 0-7748-0525-0 (217pp., hbk) \$45.95.  
Designer: George Vaitkunas  
Printer: D.W. Friesen & Sons

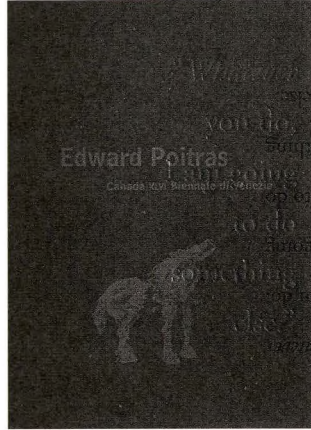
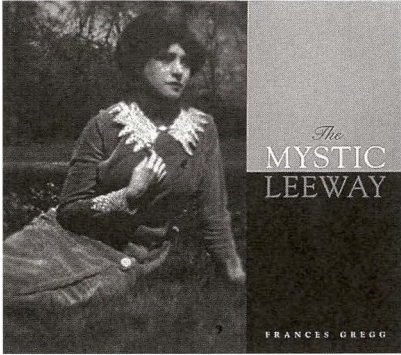


3RD PRIZE (tie)

*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

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3RD PRIZE (tie)

*The Mystic Leeway* [by] Frances Gregg; edited by Ben Jones; with an account of Frances Gregg by Oliver Marlow Wilkinson.

Carleton Women's Experience Series, vol.6.

Ottawa: Carleton University Press.

ISBN 0-88629-250-6 (194pp., pbk)

[also available as hbk, ISBN 0-88629-253-0].

Designer: Carrie Coulton Graphic Design

Printer: Love Printing

HONOURABLE MENTION

*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).

Designer: Timmings & Debay

Printer: HB Technolith



HONOURABLE MENTION

*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.