

The Alcuin Society was founded in 1965 by G.A. Spencer for booklovers worldwide and to promote a wider appreciation of what goes into finely-wrought books.

The name "Alcuin" was chosen to honour the memory of Alcuin of York (735 to 804 a.d.). Alcuin was a man who cared not only about books but handwriting too, which he rescued from the proliferation of bastard styles of the period. As, in effect, Charlemagne's "Minister of Culture", Alcuin selected the most pleasing and certainly the most legible script of his day, and gave it official blessing. Known as the "Caroline Minuscule", it ultimately led to our modern lower-case alphabet.

To further its aims, The Alcuin Society engages in a wide range of activities, many in collaboration with the Canadian Centre for Studies in Publishing at Simon Fraser University: lectures, workshops, exhibitions, and competitions. Annual design awards are made by a panel of judges for the best in Canadian book design. *Amphora*, the Society's quarterly journal, covers a wide range of topics related to the book arts: collecting, typography, type design, type-setting, calligraphy, papermaking, ornamentation, illustration, printing and binding. The Society's latest concern is with the effect of electronic media on books, reading and culture generally.