

## Poetry

There were three poetry books that stood out from the rest quite strikingly, and the judge's comments on each one give an idea why. The rest deserve comment, however, because of the unimaginative treatment they received. Surely different poets and even different poems do not fit the same dull, endlessly repeated mould that was generally followed. It makes one long for the halcyon days of the 1950s and 1960s, when the trade publishers were selling poetry books like crazy, all designed by Canada's great crop of book designers—Paul Arthur, Frank Newfeld, Bill Toye, Sam Smart, Tak Tanabe, and others. One Canadian book even made it to the Fifty Books-of-the-Year in New York.

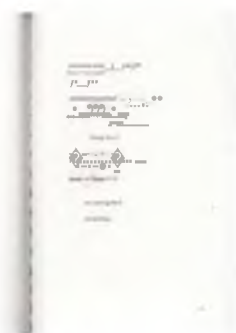
t h e

S O f t

I i s e

s i g n a t u r e

d o w n e



First Prize

*The Soft Signature* [by] Lise Downe.

Toronto: ECW Press. 96 pp.

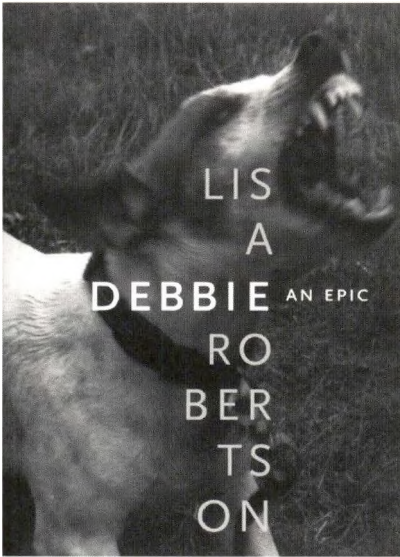
ISBN 1-55022-314-3 [pbk]

Designer: Gordon Robertson

Printer: Coach House Printing

The restrained typography in classic Bembo type printed on creamy laid paper constitutes the best in trade bookmaking. The cover's quiet elegance and inspired typography literally demand that you pick the book up.

# Poetry



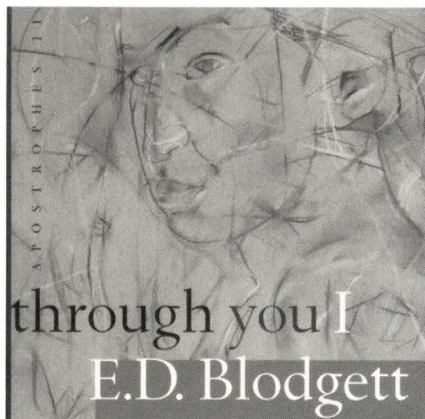
THERE MOVE DIVERSE  
MISSHAPEN GIRLS  
THAT FOREDOOM A  
DECISIVE CHANGE IN  
THE PERILS OF  
GROOMING: THEY WILL  
WAVE THE SAFFRAN WIT  
THEIR BROWN TONGUES  
IN THE MOUTH OF THE  
PROSERVATION OF  
DELIGHT'S REALM IS IN  
ITSELF FATED: AWAKE  
ANY THAT SH ELL OUT  
TO THAT RUINOUS  
BITCH RUMOUR.



## Second Prize

*Debbie: An Epic* [by] Lisa Robertson.  
Vancouver: New Star Books. 96pp.  
ISBN 0-921586-61-2 (pbk)  
Designer: cardigan.com  
Printer: Hignell Printing

A celebration of typographic virtuosity that was obviously a labour of love on the part of the designer. Each poem received individual attention, rather than being stamped out on an assembly line.



Third Prize

*Apostrophes II: Through You, I*

[by] E.D. Blodgett.

Edmonton: University of Alberta Press. 74pp.

ISBN 0-88864-304-7 [pbk]

Designer: Alan Brownoff

Printer: Friesens

A beautifully conceived book of poetry where imaginatively handled titles to each poem give the book its unique character.