The Alcuin Society

The Alcuin Society was founded in 1965 by G.A. Spencer for booklovers world-wide 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 AD). 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, paper-making, ornamentation, illustration, printing and binding.

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Honorary past chairs

G.A. Spencer
Bryan Peet
Peter Quartermain
Gwen Murray
Allen Segal
Ron McAmmond
M.S. Batts
Madeline Williams
Neil Brearley
Don Atkins
Anne Tayler
Richard Hopkins

Directors whose term of office expires in:

2001
John King
Geoff Spencer
Don Polak

2000
Stuart Isto
Ann Cowan
Frances Woodward
Sylvia Smallman

1999
Mary Conibear
Richard Hopkins
Jim Rainer
Brenda Peterson

Membership in the Society has the following categories:

Individual
$40.00 per year

Corporate
$40.00 per year

Patron
$100.00 per year

Student
$20.00 per year
three years maximum