

The objective of all book design is to find the ideal typographical representation of the book at hand and to interpret and communicate the text with sensitivity and good taste. Thus, the task of the book designer is to serve a work that already exists by translating a text into physical form. To do this the designer must harmoniously blend all the elements of type, letter and word spacing, leading, margins, paper, ink, decoration, binding and to do so with due attention to the five hundred year old tradition of the printed book and its craftsmanship.

John Dreyfus in his book *Into Print* said "a book must always satisfy the mind, but it also should give unobtrusive pleasure to the senses." No small task for a book designer.

In 1981 the Alcuin Society established a competition to acknowledge Canadian book publishers and book designers who maintain the highest possible standards of excellence in book production. Books are submitted by publishers and designers to a jury whose judges award Alcuin Citations for Excellence in Book Design. It is hoped that these awards give the winning publishers and designers greater recognition for their well-designed books and help to raise the awareness of good book design among all publishers as well as the public at large. The Alcuin Society's recognition of excellence in book design is the only competition of national scope that recognizes and celebrates the art of book design in Canada.

Awards winners in the 1999 competition are displayed in this catalogue. The judges for this year's competition were Roberto Dosil, Dosil & Dosil Incorporated, West Vancouver; Linda Gustafson, Counterpunch, Toronto; George Maddison, UBC Press, Vancouver; and Dennis Nagy, Allsorts Design Group, Vancouver. Our thanks to all for a job well done. The Alcuin Society is also grateful for the interest and support of Dr. Yosef Wosk, the British Columbia Gaming Commission and Roberto Dosil and Don Atkins who donated their time and talent to the design of the catalogue.

Jim Rainer

CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF DIRECTORS