

Poetry

First Prize

EXECUTION POEMS

Author: **George Elliott Clarke**
Publisher: **Gaspereau Press, Wolfville NS**
Cover Design: **Andrew Steeves**
Text Designer: **Andrew Steeves**
Illustration: **Wesley Bates**
Printer: **Gary Dunfield at Gaspereau Press**

Execution Poems won for a number of simple reasons. It was a wonderful book to hold, and to look at. The judges all liked the blood red titles in full caps that accented each poem and visually reminded us of the violence and blood associated with Clarke's search for his family history. Originally set in lead type, the text in this offset production was understated and clear, and contrasted nicely with the paper. Such detailing, right down to the beautifully centred page numbers, really worked well. There was every indication that this entire volume was sensitively presented and produced. A lovely book.

Second Prize

PALE RED FOOTPRINTS

Author: **K.I. Press**
Publisher: **Pedlar Press, Toronto ON**
Cover Design: **ZAB Design & Typography**
Text Design: **ZAB Design & Typography**
Cover Art: **Dan Bazuin**
Printer: **Coach House Printing**

Pale Red Footprints is a small book but it made a good impression on the judges with its attractive cover, well designed title page, inviting text arrangements, and thoughtfully chosen type. The printing, on lovely buff textured paper, produced a subtle contrast with the type. The judges appreciated these subtle complimentary

colours, as well as the interesting transition between sections. There was a daring playfulness with some of the title headings, although it took some time before we realized that margins varied according to the line lengths of the poems. The type ornaments on some of the pages were a bit fussy, and out of place; the fleur-de-lis gave an unintended meaning to the text. This was, nonetheless, an excellent production.

Third Prize

REHEARSING THE MIRACLE

Author: Linda Rogers

Publisher: Poppy Press Publishing, Victoria BC

Cover Design: Alexander Lavdovsky

Text Design: Alexander Lavdovsky

Illustration: Alexander Lavdovsky and Vilém Tefr

Printer: Alexander Lavdovsky, Classic Engraving Ltd.

Here was another nicely conceived design marred by a few flaws. The cover jacket and illustration were letterpress and were immediately attractive, as was the embossing on the half-title page. The lovely colour linocut, the well-placed illustrations, and the carefully set type all provided pleasant transitions and pacing for the reader. The unfortunate choice of paper, however, made the book too difficult to handle—the reader struggled to keep the book open. Softer paper would have made the printing more attractive and the book more manageable. The judges were also puzzled as to why the pagination was on the left. We felt this was an odd design choice.

Honourble Mention

BEING IN BEING : THE COLLECTED WORKS OF A MASTER HAIDA MYTHMAKER

Author: Robert Bringhurst

Publisher: Douglas & McIntyre, Vancouver BC

Cover Design: Robert Bringhurst

Text Design: Robert Bringhurst

Illustrations: various

Printer: Friesens

Being in Being was an apple among oranges, and as a scholarly text did not really fit in this category, but the judges felt it should be recognized nonetheless for the quality and consistency of its production. As a poet and one of Canada's best known typographers, one would expect fine design from Robert Bringhurst, and that is exactly what we have here. The design is traditional but is steeped in knowledge based on long practice and expertise. Bringhurst has stepped back and let the text speak for itself in a calm and assured way. The choice of the typeface aldus, with its crisp formal qualities, suited the subject exactly. One unfortunate decision was the white label on the dust jacket spine—one judge called it nasty—but it was the only flaw in an otherwise excellent design.