

Prose Fiction

First Prize

HIPPOLYTE'S ISLAND

Author: Barbara Hodgson

Publisher: Raincoast Books, Vancouver BC

Cover Design: Barbara Hodgson

Text Design: Barbara Hodgson

Illustrator: Barbara Hodgson

Printer: C & C Offset, Hong Kong

At first glance Hippolyte's Island looks like a historical travel guide or botanical journal with its coloured maps and illustrations. Some of us thought it had slipped into the wrong category. An examination of its contents and its beautiful presentation, however, soon made it clear that this was that rare hybrid, an illustrated novel. As such, it was the unanimous choice of the judges for first prize. The type was well-chosen and beautifully presented, with plenty of breathing space around the text. The illustrations and maps were not only decorative, but informative and engaging. This presentation was highly imaginative, and unique amongst all the other fiction entries this year. Our choice was obvious.

Second Prize

WHIR OF GOLD

Author: Sinclair Ross

Publisher: The University of Alberta Press, Edmonton AB

Cover designer: Alan Brownoff

Text designer: Alan Brownoff

Photographer: Margaret Watkins [cover image]

Printer: Kromar Printing

This book is part of a new series issued by the University of Alberta Press reprinting of the work of Sinclair Ross. We were tempted to award the entire series a prize but this title was so obviously the best that it alone has second place. Whir of Gold

was a superb production, nicely balanced, and printed on good paper. It was obvious that the type had been thoughtfully chosen, and that great care was taken with its setting. The ornaments in this book were the least intrusive and the most attractive of the series. In some of the other titles, The Well and Sawbones Memorial, the ornamental illustrations were an unnecessary intrusion and distracted from the subtlety of the design. This is a lovely book in a distinctive series that has been very thoughtfully put together. It is delightful.

Third Prize

DITCH

Author: Hal Niedzviecki

Publisher: Random House Canada, Toronto ON

Cover Design: Carmen Dunjko

Text Design: Daniel Cullen

Photographer: Natalie Kovacs [cover image]

Printer: Transcontinental

This playful and witty little book was designed to be contemporary and urbane and it does each to perfection. The type is varied and playful, and it effectively holds together, balances, and distinguishes the different sections of the book. Some of the judges felt the design was a bit too neat and should have been edgier, but we all chose it as one of the more interesting design productions of the year.

Honourable Mention

RED MANGO: A BLUES

Author: Charles Tidler

Publisher: Anvil Press, Vancouver BC

Cover Design: Rayola Graphic Design

Text Design: Brian Kaufman

Illustrator: Shawn Shepherd

Printer: Morriss Printing

Another edgy, urbane little text, with good illustrations, Red Mango demonstrated as many problems as it did virtues. A few of the pages, containing wobbly text and chipped type, bothered some of the judges; but we all felt it was worth an honourable mention in this category for its efforts toward good design.