

Prose Non-Fiction

The judges were disappointed with this category. None of the entries was outstanding and we did not reach a consensus on any of our chosen items. A persistent problem was the number of widows - fragments or paragraph ends left at the top of a page. None of us ever knows what the economics are behind the production of these books, but more attention in typesetting would have changed much. There appeared to have been inconsistent efforts to follow simple design rules that would have made the difference between run-of-the-mill and excellent. As a result we did not award a first or third prize. We did agree, nonetheless, that the following exhibited many virtues.

[first and third prizes were not awarded this year]

Second Prize-Tie

EXPLODED VIEW: OBSERVATIONS ON READING, WRITING, AND LIFE

Author: Jean McKay

Publisher: Douglas & McIntyre, Vancouver BC

Cover Design: Peter Cocking

Text Design: Peter Cocking

Photographer: Eric Tucker [cover photograph]

Illustrator: Roxanna Bikadoroff

Printer: Friesens

Exploded View paid more attention to detail than many of the other books in this category. The book had an excellent cover and felt very satisfying in its opening and handling. There was a poetic feel to the text block which the judges admired, but the designer could have taken more care with the randomness of the rag right margins. There was perhaps an over-reliance upon the illustrations to punctuate and pace the text; this we felt led to some odd arrangements, especially with the chapter breaks.

Second Prize-Tie

VIS À VIS:

FIELD NOTES ON POETRY AND WILDERNESS

Author: Don McKay

Publisher: Gaspereau Press, Wolfville NS

Cover Design: Andrew Steeves

Text Design: Andrew Steeves

Illustrator: Wesley Bates

Printer: Gary Dunfield at Gaspereau Press

Vis à Vis was a very easy book on the eyes. The design gave all the correct signals that this was a serious literary work. We all enjoyed the beautiful grey values of the typography. The illustrations by Wesley Bates were excellent but we felt the wood engravings were too large in scale and would have been far more effective in most cases had they been reduced. Again we felt that more attention to the pacing of the text and illustrations would have made for a more effective and attractive design.

Honourable Mention

FROM RUPERT'S LAND TO CANADA

Editors: Theodore Binnema, Gerhard J. Ens &
R.C. Macleod

Publisher: The University of Alberta Press, Edmonton AB

Cover Design: Alan Brownoff

Text Design: Alan Brownoff

Illustrator: Peter H. Rindisbacher Jones [cover image]

Printer: Houghton-Boston, Saskatoon SK

This book suffered from many of the same problems noted above. Nonetheless it was very well handled and exhibited many “signs of life” and careful design. The charts were excellent, and so the judges felt it deserved to have some recognition.

