

Children's

First Prize

THE CITY ABC BOOK

Author: Zoran Milich

Publisher: Kids Can Press, Toronto ON

Cover Design: Karen Birkemoe

Text Design: Karen Birkemoe

Photographer: Zoran Milich

Printer: Book Art Inc.

All the judges loved this book and proclaimed it the best of this year's entries for children. Using photographs of buildings and city views, the letters of the alphabet are discovered in the architectural and civic forms and highlighted in red. We were impressed with the way the book introduces children to the alphabet and teaches them to look at their environment at the same time. The design and presentation was economic and uncomplicated, yet extremely effective. The entire book was well paced and easy for a young child to grasp. The book works as an educational tool and as an outstanding example of fine design.

Second Prize

LA REINE ROUGE

Author: Philippe Béha

Publisher: Les éditions Les 400 coups, Montréal QC

Cover Design: Philippe Béha

Text Design: Philippe Béha

Illustration: Philippe Béha

Printer: Litho Mille-Îles

This funny and imaginative book delighted the judges with its rambunctious illustrations and text, and the homage it pays to the world-view of children. The illustrations were grand gestures that filled entire page spreads with colour and wit. The type used was somewhat cold; but it was highly legible, acted as a foil to the illustrations, and was handled in a kinetic manner that won the judges over. A wonderful book.

Third Prize

WHERE POPPIES GROW: A WORLD WAR I COMPANION

Author: Linda Cranfield

Publisher: Stoddart Kids, Toronto ON

Cover Design: Blair Kerrigan

Text Design: Blair Kerrigan

Printer: Book Art Inc.

This book is perhaps a too-tasteful depiction of war and the artifacts of war, but of all the historical and educational texts it was the best. The focus of the book is on people and this has worked well, as there is a sense of the colour of the times and of the documents from the period. However, some sense of the horrors of combat might have appealed more to the age group and given them a more realistic view of war. The judges felt the type used was sometimes heavy, but the design worked quite well. A few more maps of the scenes of battles would have been more helpful but otherwise this was a very good production containing a lot of material that has been attractively assembled.

Honourble Mention

THE ADVENTURES OF PINOCCHIO: THE STORY OF A PUPPET

Author: Carlo Collodi

Publisher: Simply Read Books, Vancouver BC

Cover Design: Judith Steedman of Steedman Design

Text Design: Judith Steedman of Steedman Design

Illustrator: Iassen Ghiuselev

Printer: Grafiche AZ, Verona, Italy

Note: Although dated 2002, this book was on the Canadian market in 2001

Not all the judges agreed on the design values of this book but its unique qualities left them with no choice but to give it an honourable mention. Was this a children's book for adult readers, or an adult's view of what a children's book should be? We never did decide. The colour of the cover was a poor choice, yet the book's interior had a very European feel and design sense. The dense typographic arrangement produced a glacial pace but it was nonetheless wonderful for children fascinated by reading and the world of the imagination. Unlike many of the books that we saw for older children, this one focused on extensive tracts of text—leavened only occasionally by some remarkable illustrations to introduce children into a world of fantasy. Here was a problematic text that had many features to charm those who made the effort to look more closely at its accomplishments.

Honourable Mention

ALEXIS: CHEVALIER DES NUITS: UN CONTE À LIRE AVANT D'ALLER AU LIT

Author: **Andrée-Anne Gratton**

Publisher: **Les éditions Les 400 coups, Montreal QC**

Cover Design: **Pascale Constantin**

Text Design: **Pascale Constantin**

Illustration: **Pascale Constantin**

Printer: **Litho Milles-Îles**

Here again was a book that the judges could not agree upon, but we all loved its many charms. The engaging illustrations were presented from a child's point of view of the world where things and events can be enormous and threatening. The text and illustrations were well integrated, and the type was warm, crisp, and easy to read. Nor did it interfere with the overall pictorial quality of the book. The story and all the other design elements combined to create a real sense of progression and movement. A delightful production.