

Limited Editions

2001 was a wonderful year for limited editions. There were eleven entries, more than any other year, and all were magnificent. Each had a quality that was well worth celebrating. Nonetheless we had to choose, and the judges felt there were three clear winners.

First Prize

ALPHABETICAL [and] COSMOLOGIES

[two books in a slipcase]

Author: P.K. Page

Publisher: Poppy Press Publishing, Victoria BC

Cover Design: Alexander Lavdovsky

Text: Alexander Lavdovsky

Illustration: Alexander Lavdovsky

Printer: Alexander Lavdovsky, Classic Engraving Ltd.

Note: Although dated 2000, this book was actually published and issued in 2001.

All the judges felt this was an outstanding production from every angle, far and above the best item in this category. We threw a number of superlatives at this text and still found things to praise. For us, this was a highlight of the year; a beautiful design married to the writing of a fine poet. Everything worked well together in both volumes. The type and the spacing were assured and accomplished. The use of colour was superb, subtle but sensitively handled and effectively controlled. For some of the judges the blue tonalities in Cosmologies were rather understated, but all agreed on the beauty of its cool tones. The use of colour in Alphabetical was also very subtle, but suddenly a single note of pale yellow would resound to great effect. "Wonderful! Wonderful! Wonderful!" was, in the end, all we could say.

Second Prize

**RESIDUAL LANDSCAPES: STUDIES OF
INDUSTRIAL TRANSFIGURATION
[EDWARD BURTYNSKY]**

Author: Michael Torosian

Publisher: Lumiere Press, Toronto ON

Text Design: Michael Torosian

Photographer: Edward Burtynsky

Printer: Lumiere Press

The judges were suitably impressed with this production based on Edward Burtynsky's beautiful photographs of scarred landscapes, quarries, mines and junkyards. The two volume set, limited to an edition of 26, contained a text volume accompanied by a giclée print in its own binding. The paper boards and linen cover were very effectively presented and matched the contents perfectly. The letterpressed type was handled with special care; the judges felt the two faces by Hermann Zapf (Palatino italic and Optima) worked well together and suited the subject matter admirably. A beautiful presentation.

Third Prize

REID'S LEAVES : A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BOOKS FROM THE PRIVATE PRESS OF ROBERT R. REID, 1949-1962, WITH COMMENTARIES AND SAMPLES LEAVES

Author: Robert Reid

Publisher: Heavenly Monkey, Vancouver BC

Cover Designer: Rollin Milroy

Text Designer: Rollin Milroy

Printer: Rollin Milroy

Binder: Rollin Milroy

The judges all enjoyed this outstanding book, a testament to Robert Reid, one of Canada's great book artists and designers. We were not, however, unanimous in our praise. This production was lavish and its large size, multiple formats and inserts, made it look and feel important.

The entire project was sensitively handled, the type was splendid, and the pacing excellent. Unfortunately we were unable to reconcile the lavish format and size of the book with its stated purpose as a bibliography. Was this a research tool for collectors and librarians or an exhibition display piece? We felt it could not be both, and this production did not resolve the issue for us. It was also noted that the right edge of the text block should have been justified—its ragged shaping irritated some of the judges. One or two widowed sentences were also found and were thought to be oversights in an otherwise excellent and well-researched production. This is an important bibliography for anyone interested in Robert Reid and the typographic arts in Canada.

