

THE BOOKS THAT WERE ENTERED in The Alcuin Society's 2003 Annual Awards for Excellence in Book Design in Canada represent what publishers and designers consider to be the best of their best, and they were very good indeed. The effort and skill that went into the production of these books demonstrates a real passion for the art of book design. This year, there were some very young participants among the winners, as well as some whose names you will recognize from earlier competitions. The participation of this new generation of designers is especially encouraging as we look to the future of the book industry in this country. It is the hope of the Society that these awards will serve to give much-needed recognition where it is so richly deserved.

For the 2003 Competition, the twenty-second held by the Society, 264 books were submitted in eight different categories, close to the number sent in the previous year. These comprise the production of 104 Canadian publishers; each represents the work of an individual Canadian designer or a collaborative effort.

This year the judges, Sue Colberg, Randall Speller and Matt Warburton, met at Simon Fraser University, Harbour Centre on April 17, 2004, to select the winning entries. The fundamental principle of the judging process is that each book must be judged as a total entity. The judges examine every aspect of each book, including the dust jacket, binding, end papers, half-title page, copyright page, title page, page layout, typography, integration of illustrations, chapter openings, running heads, reproduction of illustrations, clarity of printing, choice of paper, footnotes, and bibliographical references.

The Alcuin Society is most grateful to all publishers and designers who have submitted books. Without their co-operation the competition would not occur. A copy of each winning book is donated to Simon Fraser University's Library, to support its programs at its Canadian Centre for Continuing Studies in Publishing. Special thanks also go to publishers of the winning entries, who provide extra copies to The Alcuin Society for use in exhibitions held in various Canadian cities throughout the coming year.

The judges volunteer their time and talent to the exacting task of examining all the books and eventually choosing winners. The Alcuin Society thanks them all, but particularly Randall Speller who has written the commentary for the winning entries included in this catalogue.

LEAH GORDON
Chair
The Alcuin Society
2003 Book Design
Competition Committee