

## **THE ALCUIN SOCIETY, VANCOUVER DESIGN AWARDS, PUBLICATIONS OF 1991**

THE UNDERSIGNED JUDGES met on April 18, 1992 to examine the 230 books submitted in competition by their publishers and/or designers. This represents a slight increase over the number submitted last year. As in previous years, not every Canadian publisher known to produce books of high quality chose to enter. While this makes it impossible to certify that we have picked the very best designed books produced in the country for the following awards, the quality of submissions ensures that these are representative of the best that the arts of the Canadian book can offer.

The categories, as most recently revised by the Society's Design Awards Committee in 1989, are:

- General Trade Books: Prose (Fiction and Nonfiction)
- General Trade Books: Adult Picture and Photography Books
- General Trade Books: How-To, Cook-, Craft- and Hobby Books
- General Trade Books: Poetry
- Text and Reference Books
- Limited Editions (numbered and/or signed)
- Juvenile Books other than Texts.

An appropriate category is checked on the entry form accompanying each book submitted but the Society's Committee or the judges may assign a book to a more appropriate category. First, second, and third prizes are available in each category, with ties permitted; in addition, honourable mentions are allowed. Judging is based on the suitability and harmony of type, illustration (if any), layout, and materials used (both in the text block and for the binding/covering/wrapper) in relation to the book's subject matter, intended audience, etc.

## General Trade Books: Prose (Fiction & Non-Fiction)

- 1st Prize:** *The Form of the Book: Essays on the Morality of Good Design* [by] Jan Tschichold; translated from the German by Hajo Haderer; edited, with an introduction, by Robert Bringhurst. Vancouver, Point Roberts: Hartley & Marks. ISBN 0-88179-034-6. [Designer: Vic Marks; Printer: Edwards Brothers, U.S.A.]
- 2nd Prize:** *Prayers of a Very Wise Child* [by] Roch Carrier; translated by Sheila Rischman. Toronto: Viking (Penguin Books Canada). ISBN 0-670-83832-2. [Designer: Rose Cowles; Printer: Friesen Printers]
- 3rd Prize (tie):** *The Good Wine: An Artist Comes of Age* [by] Doris McCarthy. Toronto: MacFarlane Walter & Ross. ISBN 0-921912-21-8. [Designer: Linda Gustafson; Printer: John Deyell Co.]
- 3rd Prize (tie):** *Moral Metafiction: Counterdiscourse in the Novels of Timothy Findley* [by] Donna Palmateer Pennee. Toronto: ECW Press, distributed by Butterworths Canada. ISBN 1-55022-138-8. [Designer: Paul Davies (cover, Gordon Robertson); Printer: The Porcupine's Quill]
- Honourable. Mention:** *Looking for Livingstone: An Odyssey of Silence* [by] Marlene Nourbese Philip. Stratford: Mercury Press, distributed by University of Toronto Press. ISBN 0-920544-88-6. [Designer: Gordon Robertson; Printer: Coach House Press]

These five books represent very different content visually presented in different but appropriate ways, each eminently suitable to its purpose. First prize went unhesitatingly and unanimously to a book whose design might be called imitative rather than original, but it suits the typographic originality of its author perfectly and is technically very well produced except that the spine lacks curvature: essential in a good hardcover book if not in a human body). The second-prize winner is also a hardcover book with many notable design details such as the chapter heads and sidebars, despite a cluttered title page which works better in its coloured version of the dust jacket. It is about, rather than for, a child; the simplicity and openness of its typography are suitable and appealing. Two third prizes go, one to a hardcover and one to a paperback book. The former, by Doris McCarthy, demonstrates the virtues of understated homogeneity even to the touches of colour uniting the cover, endpapers, and jacket. The other relies on skilful use of typographic contrasts in matter outside the running text. Gordon Robertson, who did its cover, is also responsible for the even better cover for which honourable mention goes to the final book listed above.

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Printed in the U.S.A.

If not available at your local bookstore,  
this book may be ordered directly from the publisher.  
Send the cover price plus one dollar fifty for  
shipping costs to the above address.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CIP DATA

Tschichold, Jan, 1902-1974  
[*Ausgewählte Aufsätze über Fragen der  
Gestalt des Buches und der Typographie*, English]  
The form of the book : selected essays on questions of book  
design & typography / Jan Tschichold ; translated from the German by Hajo  
Hadler ; edited, with an introduction, by Robert Bringhurst.

p. cm.

Translation of: *Ausgewählte Aufsätze über Fragen der  
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Includes index.

ISBN 0-88179-0346 (hc : acid-free) : \$24.95 (\$29.95 Can.)

1. Book Design. 2. Printing, Practical--Layout. I. Title.

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Fig. 2 Page iv from *The Form of The Book: Essays on the Morality of  
Good Design*

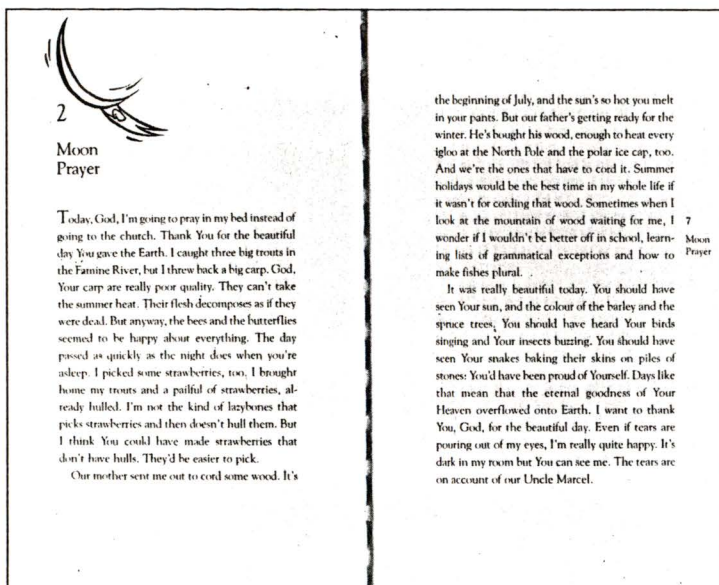


Fig. 3

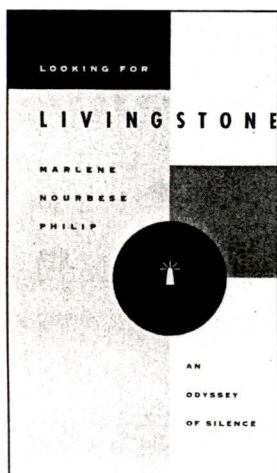


Fig. 4

Fig. 3 *Prayers of a Very Wise Child* p. 6

Fig. 4 *Looking for Livingstone* front cover

Fig. 5 *Moral Metafiction* p. 28

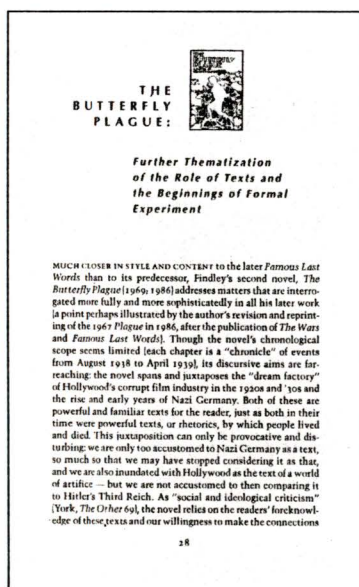


Fig. 5



**Honourable Mention:** *Portraits of Canadian Writers* [by Sam] Tata; edited by John Metcalf. Erin, Ont.: The Porcupine's Quill, distributed by University of Toronto Press. ISBN 0-88984-131-4. [Designer: Tim Inkster; Printer: The Porcupine's Quill]

Fig. 6 *Parables and Other Allegories* p. 185

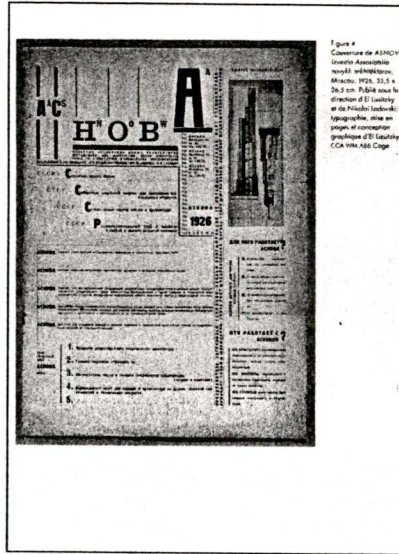


Fig. 7 *Dessins d'architecture de l'avant-garde soviétique p. 1*

Gallery/museum exhibition catalogues have always featured among the Alcuin prize winners in this category—as they should, since they are typically subsidized and designed by people particularly conscious of artistic considerations. The thoughtful work put into the catalogues of the Centre canadien d'architecture/ Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal is well represented in the first two prize winners. (These are, incidentally, published in both English and French editions; it just happens that the publisher submitted in this competition the English edition of one and the French edition of the other.) The first prize acknowledges the particularly complex problems posed by the content of this catalogue. The second prize acknowledges (like the first prize in the previous category) a perfect matching of design to the Bauhaus-influenced style of the inter-war period with which it deals. The full-length sewing of its single signature is a technical feature also worth mention. The National Gallery's Sterbak catalogue has a particularly successful cover as well as dealing with the two-column English/French layout with many intra-text illustrations successfully. The book of Sam Tata portraits deserves mention for its careful layout and production by a designer/printer often previously acknowledged in these Alcuin awards.

## General Trade Books: How-To, Cook-, Craft- and Hobby Books

**1st Prize:** *Canadian Living's Country Cooking* by Elizabeth Baird and the food writers of Canadian Living magazine. Toronto: Random House/Madison Press. ISBN 0-394-22215-6. [Designer: Gordon Sibley Design Inc.; Printer: Friesen Printers]

**2nd Prize:** (no award)

**3rd prize:** (no award)

**Honourable Mention:** *Roses for Canadian Gardens: A Practical Guide to Varieties and techniques* [by] Robert Osborne; photography by Beth Powning. Toronto: Key Porter Books. ISBN 1-55013-284-9. [Designer: Scott Richardson; Printer: Friesen Printers]

Books in this category tend to be produced either very well or very poorly; this year, only two stood out, both large-format hardcover books. One met all expectations for a prize for the consistency of its treatment of text, illustrations, and colour. An honourable mention acknowledges many fine features of the book on roses.


FROM THE GARDEN

### FRESH MOZZARELLA WITH TOMATOES

Carrots are peeled, washed, and cut into 1/2-inch (1.3-cm) cubes. In a small bowl, combine carrots, salt, and pepper. Toss and refrigerate for 10 minutes before serving. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

1.4 lb.	fresh mozzarella	375 g
1 lb.	cherry tomatoes	500 g
1.4 cup	thick-sliced sun-dried tomatoes (optional)	50 ml
1.4 cup	shredded fresh basil or chopped parsley	50 ml
2 tbsp.	extra-virgin olive oil or olive oil	25 ml
	<b>DRESSING:</b>	
2 tbsp.	red wine vinegar	25 ml
1.4 tsp.	pepper	1 ml
1	cloves garlic, minced	1
	Salt	
1.2 cup	olive oil	125 ml

On cheese into 1-inch (2.5-cm) cubes. In bowl, combine cheese, cherry tomatoes, sun-dried tomatoes (if using), basil and parsley. • Dressing: In small bowl, combine vinegar, pepper, garlic and salt to taste. Taste and adjust seasoning if necessary. Pour over salad and toss to coat well.



### ANNIE'S CUCUMBER SALAD

This recipe is adapted from a book at the annual summer chicken barbecue in Friesen on the shores of Lake Erie. For the best results, use different varieties of cucumbers.

3 lb.	cucumbers, peeled and sliced (approx. 12)	1.5 kg
1 cup	chopped celery	250 ml
1.4 cup	chopped onion	50 ml
1.4 cup	chopped sweet green pepper	50 ml
1.4 cup	granulated sugar	50 ml
1.4 cup	white vinegar	50 ml
2 tbsp.	canola oil	25 ml
1.4 tsp.	celery seeds	1 ml
1.4 tsp.	each salt and pepper	1 ml
	1 chopped fresh dill	

In non-aluminum bowl, combine cucumbers, celery, onion and green pepper. In vinegar, bring sugar, vinegar, oil, celery seeds, salt and pepper to boil, stirring constantly. Pour over vegetables and stir. Refrigerate and covered, setting aside. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours or up to 2 days. Toss before serving. see p. 88. Makes about 8 servings.

Fig. 8 *Canadian Living's Country Cooking* p. 91

### General Trade Books: Poetry

**1st prize:** *Earth Moth* [by] Peter Sanger. Fredericton, N.B.: Goose Lane Editions. ISBN 0-86492-113-6. [Designer: Julie Scriver; Printer: Wilson's Printing division of Ronalds Atlantic]

**2nd Prize:** *Adult Language Warning* [by] William Robertson. [London, Ont.]: Brick Books. ISBN 0-919626-52-1. [Designer: Alan Dayton; Printer: The Porcupine's Quill]

**3rd Prize:** *Les Etats du relief* [par] Helene Dorion. Montreal: Editions du Noroit; distribution, Diffusion Prologue inc. ISBN 2-89018-233-9. [Designer: Helene Dorion; Printer: Imprimerie Marquis ltee.]

**Honourable Mention:** *The Hour's Acropolis* [by] John Pass. Madeira Park, B.C.: Harbour Publishing. ISBN 1-55017-043-0. [Designer: Gordon Robertson; Printer: Gagne Printing]

The poetry awards go to a more diverse group of designers/printers than in previous years. An unusual but very effective choice of paper is one of several fine features of the first prize winner. The sans-serif type of the second-prize winner sits well in relatively short line-lengths on the tall format page. Every year, the judges have hoped to see a larger number of French-language submissions; the third-prize winner indicates the high quality of what is doubtless available. An honourable mention acknowledges a fine cover/title-page introduction to the Pass poems.

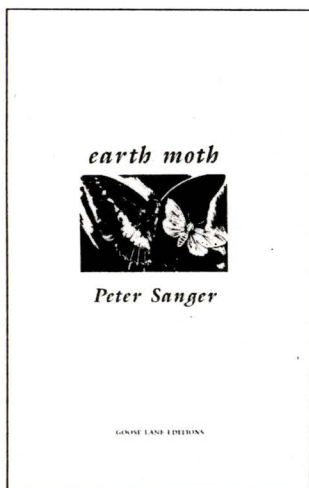


Fig. 9 *Earth Moth* title page

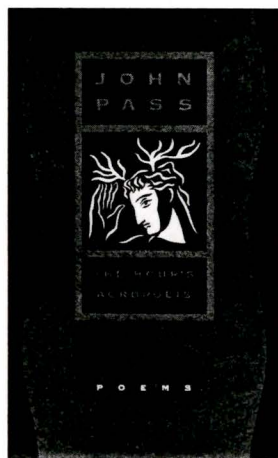


Fig. 10 *The Hour's Acropolis* cover



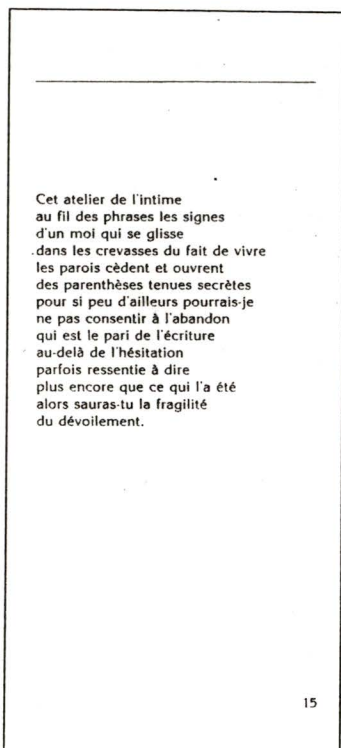


Fig. 11 *Les États du relief* p. 15

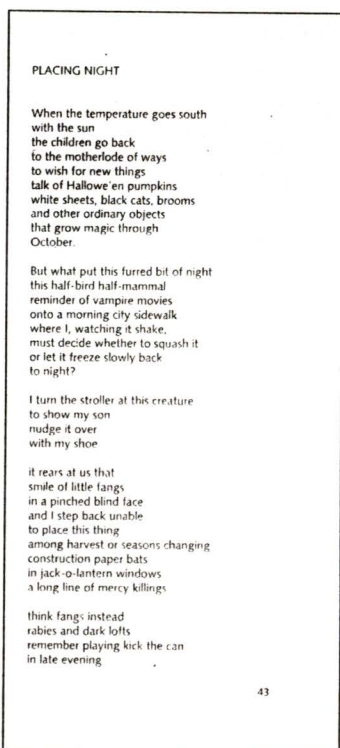


Fig. 12 *Adult Language Warning*  
p. 43

## Text and Reference Books

- 1st Prize:** *The Collected Poetry of Malcolm Lowry*; edited and introduced by Kathleen Scherf with explanatory annotation by Chris Ackerley. Vancouver: UBC Press. ISBN 0-7748-0362-2. [Designer: Arifin Graham, Alaris Design; Printer: Friesen Printers]
- 2nd Prize (tie):** *Understanding Our Environment* [by] Stewart Dunlop, Michael Jackson. Don Mills, Ont.: Oxford University Press. ISBN 0-19-5407770-9. [Designer: Marie Bartholomew; Printer: Friesen Printers]
- 2nd Prize (tie):** *Urban Dynamics* [by] Fraser Cartwright. Don Mills, Ont.: Oxford University Press. ISBN 0-19-540715-6. [Designer: Marie Bartholomew; Printer: Bryant Press]
- 3rd Prize:** *Nature Alberta: An Illustrated Guide to Common Plants and Animals* [by] James Kavanagh; illustrations by Marianne Nakaska, Linda Dunn and Horst H. Krause. Edmonton: Lone Pine Publishing. ISBN 0-919433-91-X [Designer: Beata Kurpinski; Printer: Kyodo Printing Co., Singapore]
- Honourable Mention:** *Canadian Literature Index: A Guide to Periodicals and Newspapers: Cumulative Index to 1986 [1987] Publications*. Janet Fraser, editor. Canadian Index Series Toronto: ECW Press. ISBN 1-55022-+078-0 [1987: 1-55022-084-5]. [Designer: Paul Davies; Printer: Bookcrafters]

The judges placed the first-prize winner into this, rather than the poetry category because it is replete with variant readings, scholarly apparatus, and annotations. They are all clearly presented in as unimposing a fashion as possible. Two second prizes go to a pair of not-quite-identical siblings, textbooks which must pack pose exposition, photographic and line illustration, review questions, extended quotations, graphs, etc. into a coherent whole and do so very well using contrasting type and spatial relations on the page. The Lone Pine Press is a previous Alcuin winner for the same kind of book recognized by a third prize this year, in which clear coloured drawings and brief text notes make for a useful field guide. The index given honourable mention is an example of the better attempts to produce an easily consultable bibliography, yet shows the hazards of computer typesetting when finances do not allow a review by the human eye to deal with faults such as poor line-breaks.

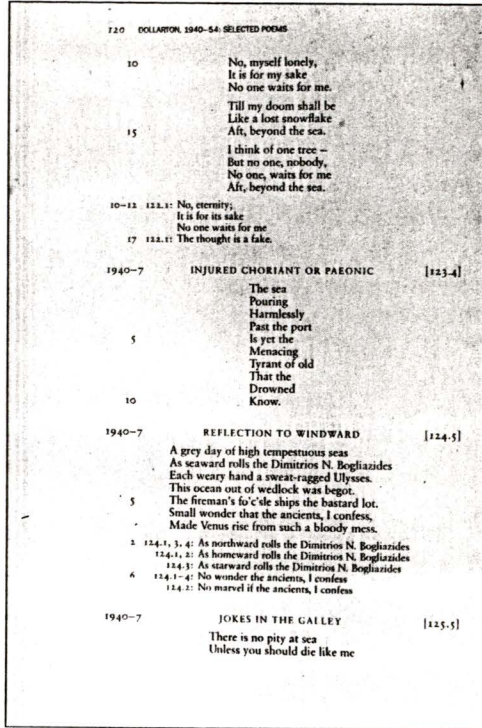


Fig. 13

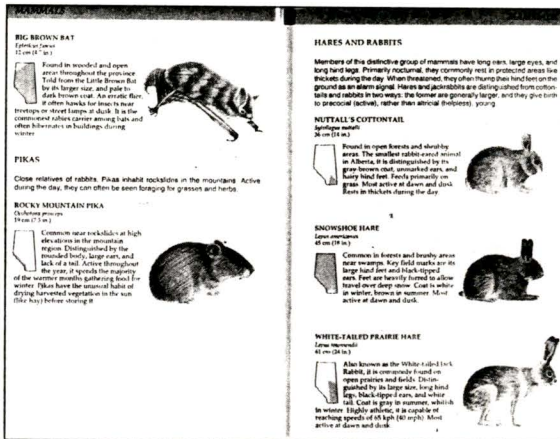


Fig. 14

Fig. 13 The Collected Poetry of Malcolm Lowry p. 120

Fig. 14 Nature Alberta p. 21

## Limited Editions

**1st Prize:** *Utile Dulci: The First Decade at Barbarian Press, 1977-1987, A History and Bibliography* by Crispin Elsted, with 2 Essays on the Craft by Jan & Crispin Elsted. Mission, B.C.: Barbarian Press, 1988 [i.e. 1991]. ISBN 0-920971-07-5. [Designer: Crispin Elsted; Printer: Barbarian Press]

**2nd Prize:** *The Edgar and Dorothy Davidson Collection of Canadiana at Mount Allison University*, compiled by the staffs of the Centre for Canadian Studies and the Ralph Pickard Bell Library. Sackville, N.B.: Centre for Canadian Studies, Mount Allison University. ISBN 0-919707-30-3. [Designer: Bev Leech; Printer: Morriss Printing Co.]

**3rd Prize:** (no award)

**Honourable Mention:** (no award)

This year's prizes for limited editions go to one quite thin book and one very large book. The Elsteds' book, dated 1988 but only completed and published three years later, is worth the wait in every way. The two-colour presswork is sharp and even; the tipped-in halftones and woodcuts match the overall colouration of the printed pages. Second prize also goes to a bibliography; a lavish production generously spaced out on thick paper with a deckle fore-edge and a very sturdy binding. The text is sensibly presented without right-justification. The presswork, in letterpress as with the other winner, is impeccable; the lithographed halftones are equally well executed.



Fig. 15 *Utile Dulci*



The  
Edgar and Dorothy  
**DAVIDSON**  
Collection of Canadiana

AT  
Mount Allison University



COMPILED BY THE STAFFS  
OF THE  
Centre for Canadian Studies  
AND THE  
Ralph Pickard Bell Library

1991

Fig. 16 *The Edgar and Dorothy Davidson Collection* title page.

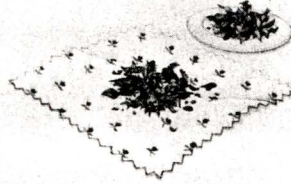
## FRAGRANT SACHETS

The women of Anne's day used potpourri not only as a decorative accent or room freshener; they also used it to scent clothing in closets and drawers, to stuff pillows and cushions, and even to keep moths and other pests away from stored linen (lavender, southernwood, mint, rosemary, thyme, sage and tansy are said to be especially good for this purpose).

Try making these simple sachets. Tuck one among your lingerie, handkerchiefs, linens and sweaters, or place a sachet in your luggage to keep it from developing a musty odour. And a little basket filled with several plump sachets makes a delightful hostess gift!

**I** Cut a 6-inch (15-cm) square of lightweight but tightly woven material such as cotton batiste, organdy, dotted Swiss or satin (try using fabric with a small floral print). Hem the edges, or trim them with pinking shears.

**2** Place 1 to 2 tsp (5 to 10 mL) dried potpourri in the centre of the square.



**3** Gather the material around the potpourri to form a pouch and tie tightly with ribbon. Hang the sachet on a hanger in your closet, or on a doorknob, or put it among clothes in a drawer.

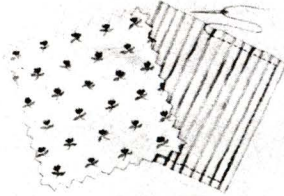


Fig. 17 *The Anne of Green Gables Treasury* p. 89

## Juvenile Books

**1st Prize:** *The Anne of Green Gables Treasury* [by] Carolyn Strom Collins, Christina Wyss Ericksson. Toronto: Viking (Penguin Books Canada). ISBN 0-670-82591-3. [Designer Pronk & Associates; Printer: New Interlitho, Italy]

**2nd Prize:** *Waiting for the Whales*, written by Sheryl McFarlane, illustrated by Ron Lightburn. Victoria, B.C.: Orca Book Publishers. ISBN 0-920501-66-4. [Designer: Ron Lightburn and Christine Toller; Printer: NCP, Hong Kong]

**3rd Prize (Tie):** *On the Merry-Go-Round*, by bp Nichol, pictures by Simon Ng. Northern Lights Books for Children. [Red Deer, Alta.]: Red Deer College Press. ISBN 0-88995-076-8. [Designer: Michael Solomon; Printer Kyodo Printing Co., Singapore]

**3rd Prize (tie):** *The Travelling Musicians*, retold by P.K. Page, illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton. Toronto: Kids Can Press. ISBN 1-55074-039-3. [Designer: Michael Solomon; Printer: Wing King Tong, Hong Kong]

**Honourable Mention:** *The Nightingale*, retold by Michael Bedard, illustrated by Regolo Ricci. Toronto: Oxford University Press. ISBN 0-19-540814-4. [Design: Kathryn Cole; Printer: Excel Graphic Arts, Hong Kong]

As in several previous competitions, the children's category provides the most immediately satisfying book of the year. First prize goes to a perfect match of style and content: a book full of visual delights not always expected or noticed at first glance. The very high standard of Canadian children's-book design continues through a second-prize winner, whose subdued soft-tone colours of the full-page illustrations suit the coastal theme and are not overwhelmed by the text setting on facing pages. Two third prizes acknowledge books which treat illustration differently, but equally successfully. Simon Ng's pictures, also featured in an Alcuin Prize winner the year before last, are single-page ones, which Kady Denton's animals jump and strut vigorously from the front cover through to the final page. Finally, honourable mention goes to an author/illustrator/designer/printer/genre combination which won similar mention two years ago for a very similar book obviously worth imitating

Overleaf:

Fig. 18 *The Travelling Musicians* p. 17 & 18

Fig. 19 *The Nightingale* p. 8

Fig. 20 *Waiting for the Whales* cover



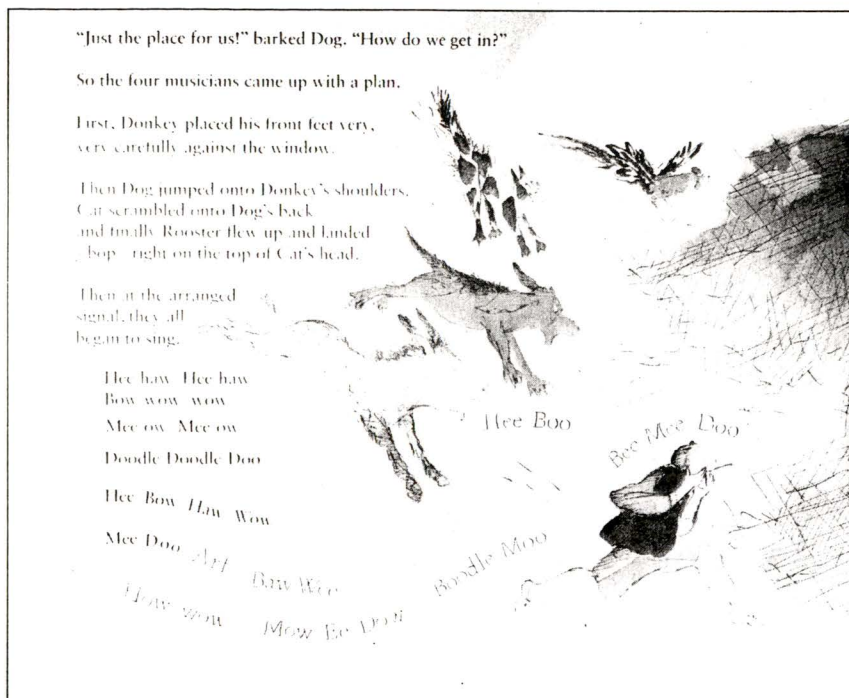


Fig. 18

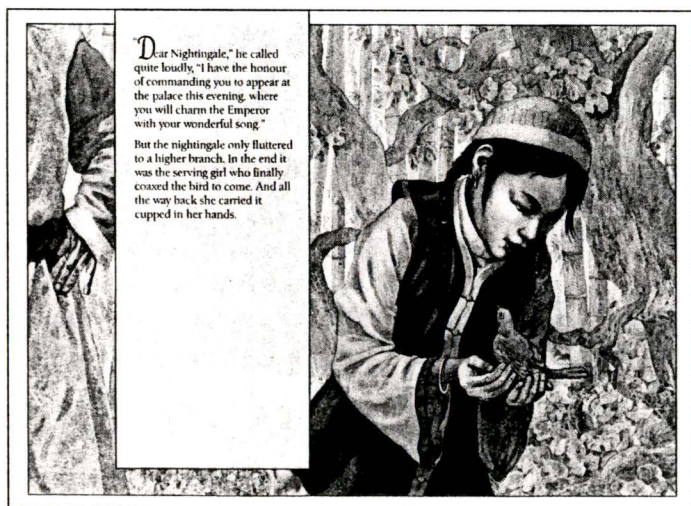


Fig. 19



And, at the same moment, they crashed through the glass,  
a great furry, feathery, four-headed monster with hooves and claws.

You should have seen those robbers run!

They were sure, for there wasn't a clear conscience among them,  
that some terrible hob-goblin was after them;  
One and all, they ran hickety-split to the forest.

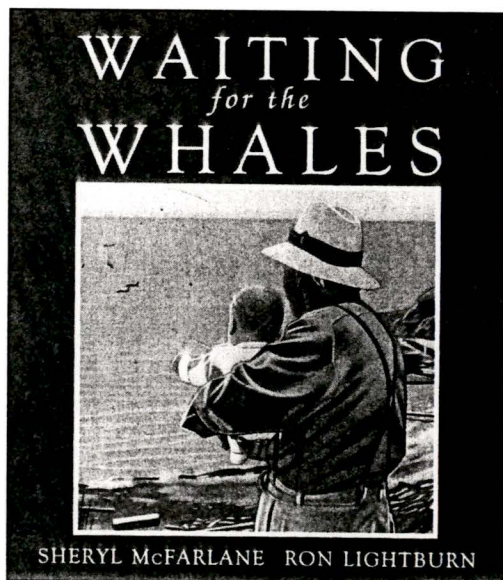


Fig. 20

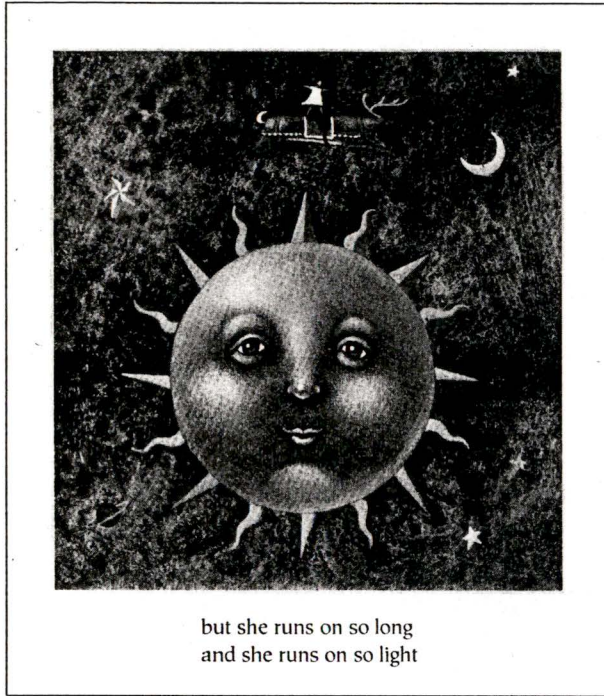


Fig. 21 *On the Merry-Go-Round* p. 11

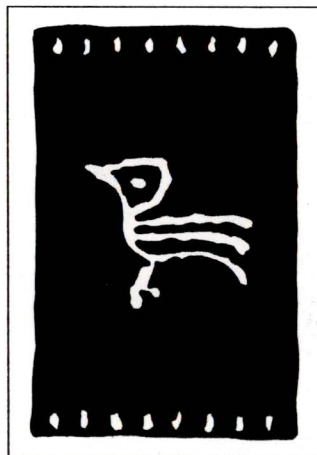


Fig. 22 *The Nightingale* endpaper

## Concluding Comments

A few names have become well established among the Alcuin awards over the years. Gordon Robertson is gaining prominence among the current group of successful freelance designers. The proportion of Canadian printers among the winners in categories other than juvenile books continues to increase: This year, only two were printed outside this country. Among the children's books, however, all of this year's winners were printed offshore, a regression from some recent years, showing that full-colour work throughout even a smaller book is still hard to justify at Canadian prices. Once again, Friesen Printers of Manitoba are Canadian printers offering the highest quality work, which meeting the production and cost-efficiency demands of a wide variety of commercial publishers. Among the smaller firms, The Porcupine's Quill crops up this year as a printer of winners published by two other firms as well as by itself. Morriss Printing of Victoria has also been present on every previous list of winners.

## Judges

The judges for this year's Alcuin Society Design Competition were;

Roberto Dosil (Praxis Design, Vancouver)

Ronald Hagler (Professor, School of Library, Archival and Information Studies, The University of British Columbia)

Dennis Nagy (Studio Allsorts, Vancouver).

Professor Hagler compiled the above comments as, he hopes, a reasonable summary of the hours of discussion involved.



Fig. 23 from *The Travelling Musicians*