

The Alcuin Society



20th Annual Awards for Excellence in Book Design in Canada 2001



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The Alcuin Society

THE ALCUIN SOCIETY was formed in 1965 in Vancouver. It was the idea of its founder, Geoffrey Spencer, and other founding members were Basil Stuart-Stubbs, Bill Duthie, Sam Black, Bill McConnell, Dale Smith and Sam Fogel. The initial aim of the society was to promote a wider appreciation of finely wrought books among booklovers around the world. It is the only non profit organization in Canada dedicated to the entire range of interests related to books and reading. Through *Amphora*, the Society's quarterly journal, topics covered include authorship, publishing, book design and production, the history of the book, libraries, ephemera, bookselling, book buying and collecting and the book arts of typography, type design, printing, binding, paper making, marbling, calligraphy and illustration.

The name Alcuin was chosen to honour the memory of Alcuin of York (c.735 to 804 A.D.). Alcuin was a man who cared deeply about books and literacy. As Charlemagne's "Minister of Culture" and a respected teacher, Alcuin encouraged the study and preservation of ancient texts and helped establish numerous schools and libraries. He also selected the most legible script of his day and gave it official blessing. Known as 'Caroline Minuscule', it ultimately led to our modern lower case alphabet.

To further its aims, the Alcuin Society engages in a wide range of educational activities lectures, workshops, exhibitions, field visits many in collaboration with educational institutions such as the Canadian Centre for Studies in Publishing at Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia, Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design and the University of Victoria.

The Alcuin Society Annual Awards for Excellence in Book Design in Canada is the only national competition that recognizes and celebrates the art of book design in Canada. This catalogue honours the winners.

Preface

The year 2001 marked the twentieth year of the Alcuin Society's Annual Awards for Excellence in Book Design in Canada. Invitations were sent to 600 Canadian publishers to submit books published in Canada during 2001 with each title representing the exclusive work of Canadian book designer(s). In the eight separate categories over 275 books were entered, approximately the same numbers as last year. The number of limited editions submitted rose to a record number of twelve.

Judging took place at Simon Fraser University on 27th April, 2002, when this year's judges, Peter Bartl, Sharon Romero and Randall Speller, met to select the prize winners. The principles of the judging are 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, and choice of paper.

The Alcuin Society is most grateful to publishers who have submitted books. Without such cooperation the competition would not occur. A copy of each winning book is donated to Simon Fraser University's Canadian Centre for Continuing Studies in Publishing. Special thanks also to publishers of winning books who provide extra copies to the Alcuin Society for use in exhibitions held in various Canadian cities.

The judges volunteer their time and talent to the exacting task of examining the books and eventually choosing winners. The Alcuin Society thanks them. Extra applause for Peter Bartl who gave a lecture on letterpress printing the night prior to judging and to Randall Speller who wrote the introduction to this catalogue.

Anne Yandle
Alcuin Society

Introduction

As a first-time jury member for the Alcuin Society 2001 Book Design Awards, I found the juried catalogues of the previous Design Award winners both inspirational and intimidating. The catalogues show how seriously the Alcuin Society and their jurors take these awards, and how much they value good design in Canadian books. Awards for the book design industry are few and far between. Book designers are so seldom celebrated that every effort should be made to encourage and highlight their accomplishments. These juried catalogues year after year reveal the number of talented people who devote their time and effort to improve the look of the Canadian book. This is but a selection of the wide range and variety of the wonderfully designed books that appear every year in Canada. It was both a pleasure and a privilege for all the judges to advance this project for the Alcuin Society for 2001.

These catalogues also show a design community that is uncertain about its direction, and uncertain about whether to admonish itself or celebrate its accomplishments. Some jurors have been critical of the industry while others have chosen to celebrate their accomplishments. Others have compromised and gone right down the middle. I believe that the intention of this year's jury was from the very beginning to take a central path; both to admonish when required but more importantly to celebrate the accomplishments of 2001.

For what these catalogues also show is that book design in Canada faces similar problems year after year. The books may be different but the issues remain. How often were the comments of previous jurors exactly the same for the three of us in April 2002? The books of 2001 contain the same errors as those from 1996, 1998 and 2000. Fine covers but badly designed texts,

inappropriate or poorly selected typefaces, or careless spacing all continue to bedevil us. In several instances the comments and criticisms of previous years could be copied verbatim and used again for the award winners listed below.

The question that naturally follows is: has Canadian book design improved in these past few years? As an amateur observer of the Canadian industry I believe that Canadian book design has made great advances. There are others who will disagree, who will point out all the design faults in all the books we present to them. And who would claim that they are wrong? There are problems in all areas of book production. Design is not an exact science and is as subject to taste and fashion as any other industry. For everyone who senses an improvement there is someone who notes a decline. There are those who justifiably claim that an award that looks only at production values and ignores the content of a book is absurd, especially in the Canadian industry where having any book published and marketed is often a miracle in itself.

Whatever your opinion on this issue, whatever your role, whatever your interest in this industry, we must face the fact that there will always be problems with book design and typography. There will always be carelessness and error. This is not unique to Canada or to publishing. The main objective, however, of this 2001 catalogue and of the Alcuin Society, remains; to celebrate the artistry and to improve the visual identity of the Canadian book, however incrementally or steadily it advances.

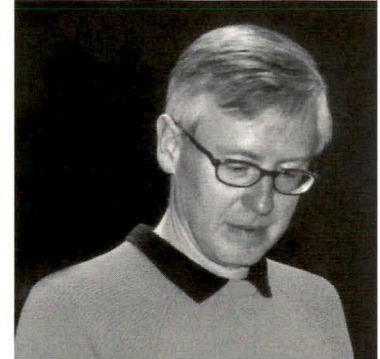
Randall Speller
Toronto

This Year's Judges

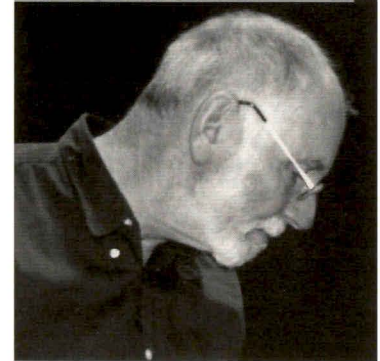
SHARON ROMERO left a lengthy career as senior graphic designer for the CBC in Vancouver to coordinate the Electronic Communication Design program at Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design. She has won numerous awards for graphic design, including an ETROG from Toronto Film Festival for a documentary film; and now divides her time between Emily Carr, where she teaches typography, illustration and senior design courses, and the New Media Innovation Centre, where she is Artist/Designer in Residence for the current academic year.

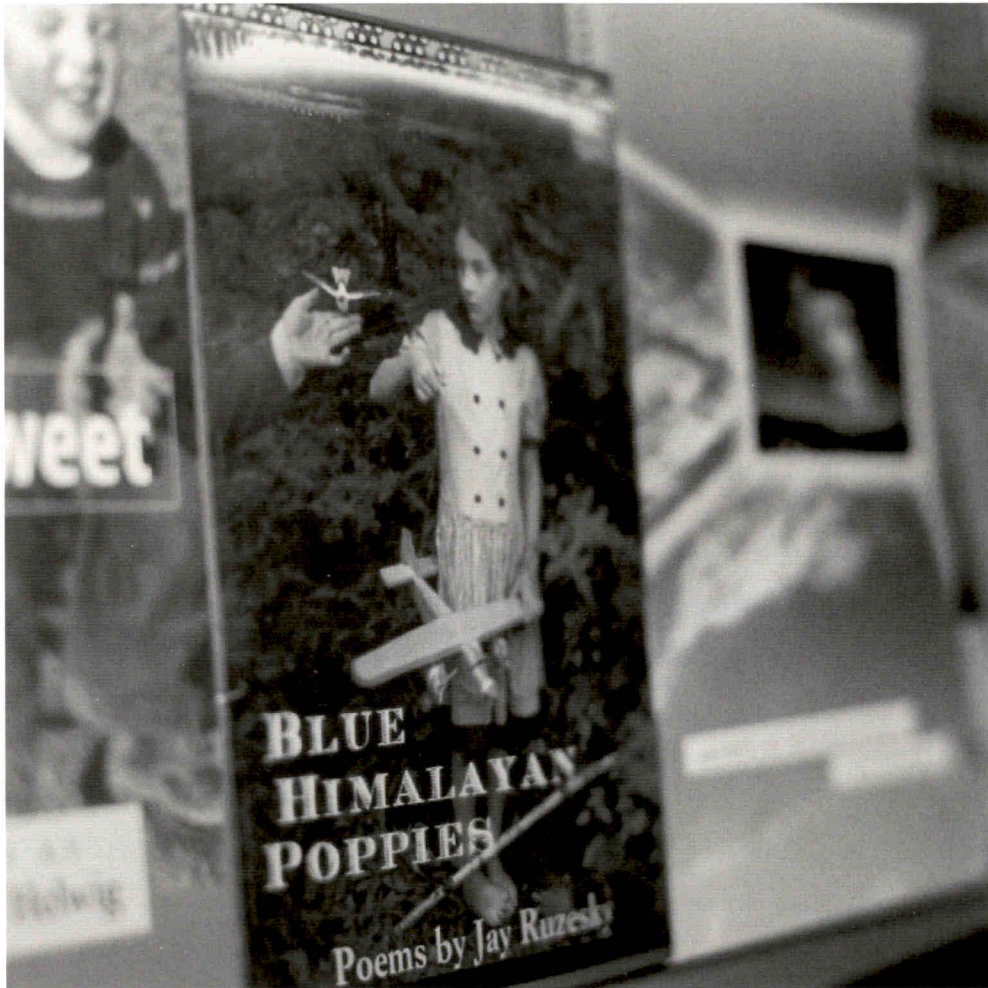


RANDALL SPELLER, is a librarian in the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto, where he has worked since 1980. He has combined a career in art librarianship with an interest in Canadian literature and book collecting to influence his research in the history of Canadian book illustration and design, especially in the years following World War II. Randall is a contributing editor to the DA: a Journal of the Printing Arts, where he has written several articles on book illustration and design.



PETER BARTL, born in Switzerland, is a Professor Emeritus of Design at the University of Alberta, and currently resides in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he teaches letterpress printing at the Art Academy of Cincinnati. He has lectured and conducted workshops on various aspects of visual communication at universities, colleges, and international and national design conferences in North America, Europe and Japan. Together with his wife Jane Merks, Peter also co-owns the Press at Pilot Bay, near Nelson, B.C., an experimental private press specializing in creative typography and art books.





The Award Winners

Poetry

First Prize	Execution Poems
Second Prize	Pale Red Footprints
Third Prize	Rehearsing The Miracle
Honourable Mention	Being in Beijing; The Collected Works of a Master Haida Myhtteller

Prose Fiction

First Prize	Hippolyte's Island
Second Prize	Whir of Gold
Third Prize	Ditch
Honourable Mention	Red Mango

Prose Non-Fiction

First Prize	not awarded
Second Prize (tie)	Exploded View; Observations on Reading, Writing and Life
Second Prize (tie)	Vis à Vis: Field Notes on Poetry and Wilderness
Honourable Mention	From Rupert's Land to Canada

Prose Non-Fiction-Illustrated

First Prize (tie)	Piero en Tête: Sculptures de Geoffrey Smedley
First Prize (tie)	Mies van der Rohe: L'Art difficile d'être simple/The Difficult Art of the Simple
Second Prize	Couture and Commerce: The Transatlantic Fashion Trade in the 1950's
Third Prize	In the Arms of Morpheus: Tragic History of Laudanum, Morphine and Patient Medicines
Honourable Mention	The Illustrated History of British Columbia
Honourable Mention	Historical Atlas of the North Pacific Ocean

Children's

First Prize	The City ABC Book
Second Prize	La reine rouge: aucun
Third Prize	Where Poppies Grow; A World War I Companion
Honourable Mention	The Adventures of Pinocchio; The Story of a Puppet
Honourable Mention	Alexis, chevalier des nuits; Un conte à lire avant d'aller au lit

Pictorial

First Prize	Design in Canada: Fifty Years from Teakettles to Task Chairs
Second Prize	Greg Curnoe; Life and Stuff
Third Prize	David Blackwood: Master Printmaker
Honourable Mention	Coming Through Fire: The Wildland Firefighter Experience

Reference

First Prize	Butterflies of British Columbia
Second Prize	La Météo; Comprendre Le Climat et l'environnement
Third Prize	Fitzhenry and Whiteside Canadian Thesaurus; the word you want, where and when you want it
Honourable Mention	Rob Feenie Cooks at Lumière
Honourable Mention	A Year of the Best; Seasonal Recipes From The Best of Bridge

Limited Edition

First Prize	Alphabetical/Cosmologies
Second Prize	Residual Landscapes
Third Prize	Reid's Leaves



First Prize

Title

Execution Poems

Author

George Elliott Clarke

Publisher

Gaspereau Press

Cover Designer

Andrew Steeves at Gaspereau Press

Text Designer

Andrew Steeves at Gaspereau Press

Illustrator

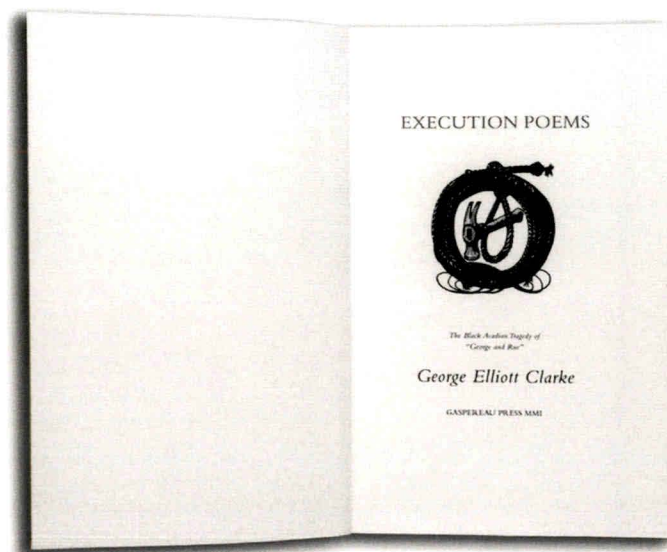
Wesley Bates

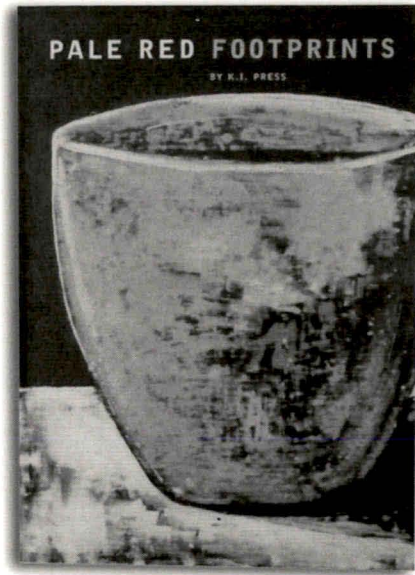
Printer

Gary Dunfield

Size

15cm x 23cm





Second Prize

Title
Pale Red Footprints

Author
K.I. Press

Publisher
Pedlar Press

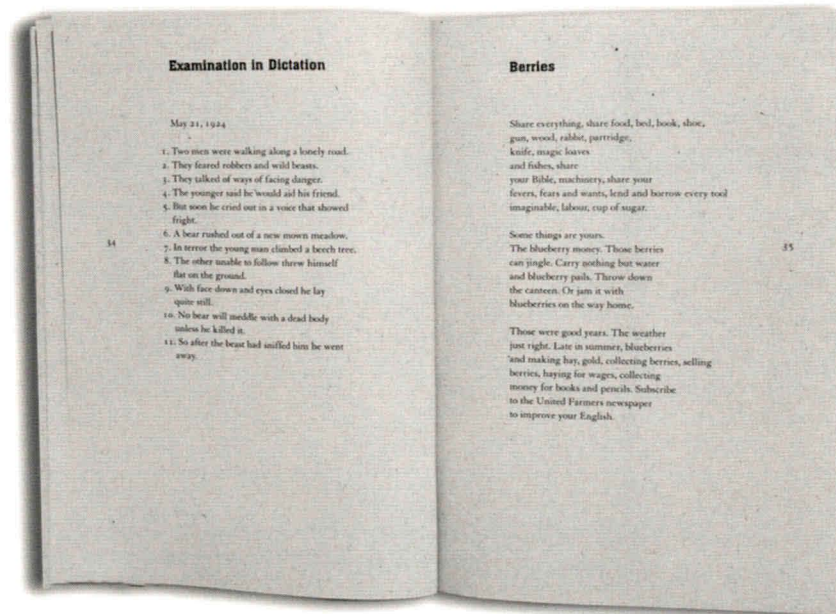
Cover Designer
Zab Design & Typography

Text Designer
Zab Design & Typography

Illustrator
Dan Bazuin: Cover Art

Printer
Coach House Printing

Size
14.5cm x 21cm



Examination in Dictation

May 21, 1944

1. Two men were walking along a lonely road.
2. They feared robbers and wild beasts.
3. They talked of ways of facing danger.
4. The younger said he would aid his friend.
5. But soon he cried out in a voice that showed
a fight.
6. A bear rushed out of a new mown meadow.
7. In terror the young man climbed a beech tree.
8. The other unable to follow threw himself
flat on the ground.
9. With face down and eyes closed he lay
quite still.
10. No bear will meddle with a dead body
unless he killed it.
11. So after the bear had sniffed him he went
away.

Berries

Share everything, share food, bed, book, shoe,
gun, wood, rabbit, partridge,
knife, magic leaves
and fishes, share
your Bible, machinery, share your
fevers, fears and wants, lend and borrow every tool
'imaginable, labour, cup of sugar.

Some things are yours.
The blueberry money. Those berries
can jingle. Carry nothing but water
and blueberry pulp. Throw down
the canteen. Or jam it with
blueberries on the way home.

Those were good years. The weather
just right. Late in summer, blueberries
'and making hay, gold, collecting berries, selling
berries, haying for wages, collecting
money for books and pencils. Subscribe
to the United Farmers newspaper
to improve your English.

Third Prize

Title

Rehearsing the Miracle

Author

Linda Rogers

Publisher

Poppy Press

Cover Designer

Alexander Lavdovsky

Text Designer

Alexander Lavdovsky

Illustrator

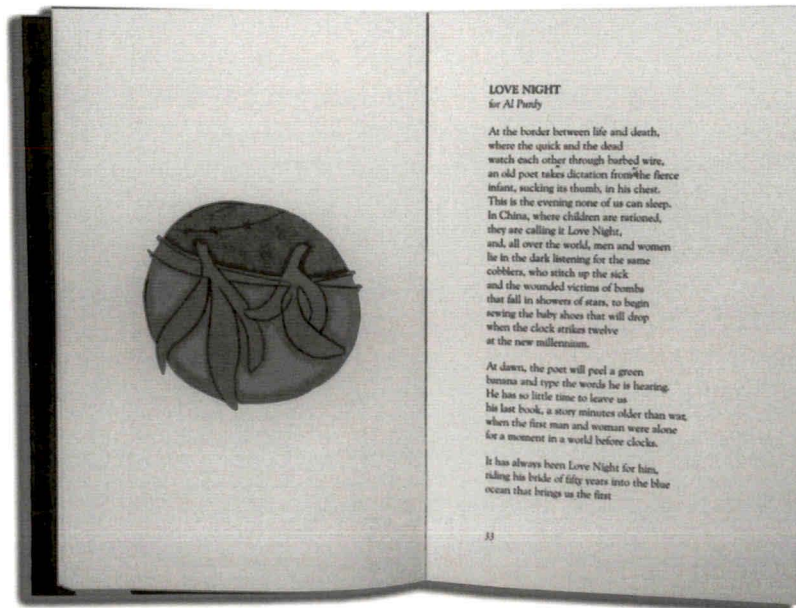
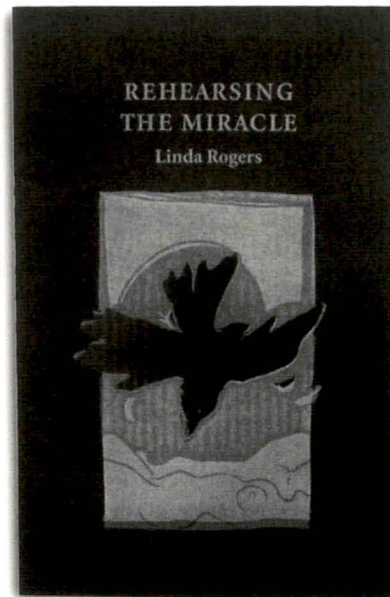
Alexander Lavdovsky and Vilém Tefr

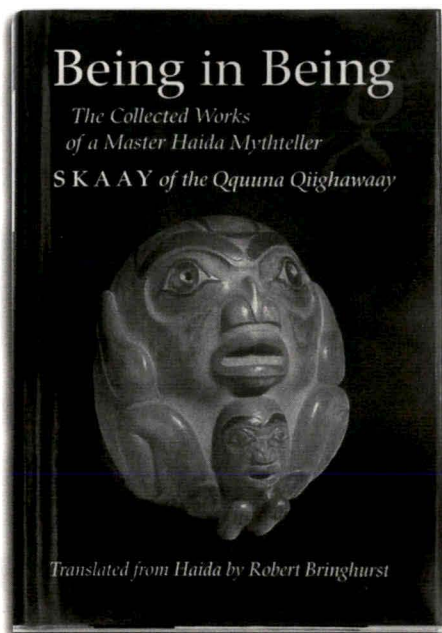
Printer

Classic Engraving

Size

13cm x 20cm





Title
Being in Being; The collected works of
a master Haida mythteller

Author
Robert Bringhurst

Publisher
Douglas & McIntyre

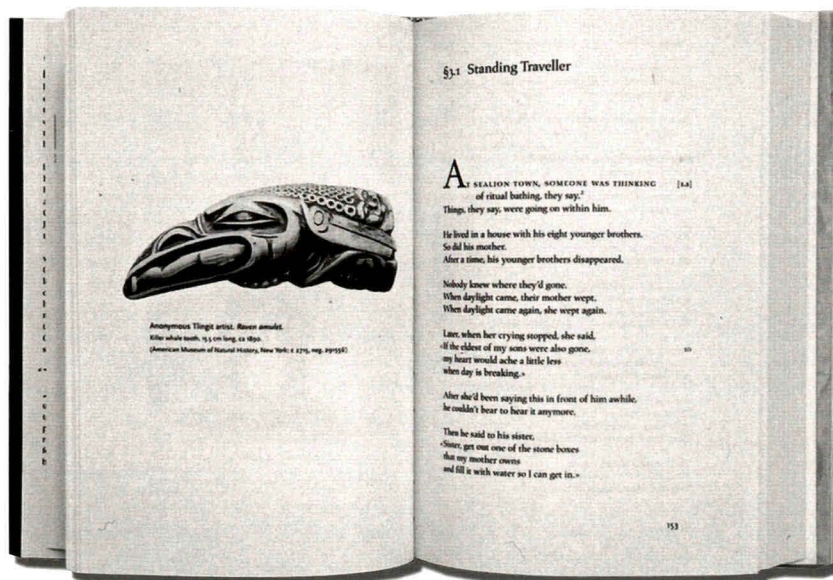
Cover Designer
Robert Bringhurst

Text Designer
Robert Bringhurst

Illustrator
Various

Printer
Friesens

Size
15cm x 23cm



First Prize

Title
Hippolyte's Island

Author
Barbara Hodgson

Publisher
Raincoast Books

Cover Designer
Barbara Hodgson

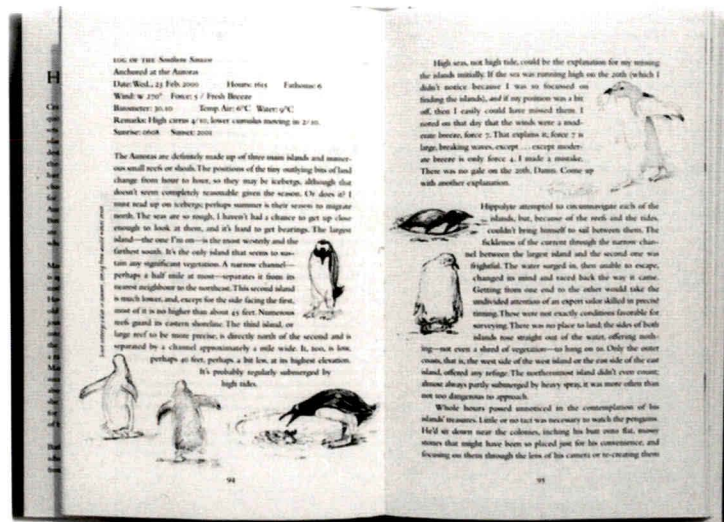
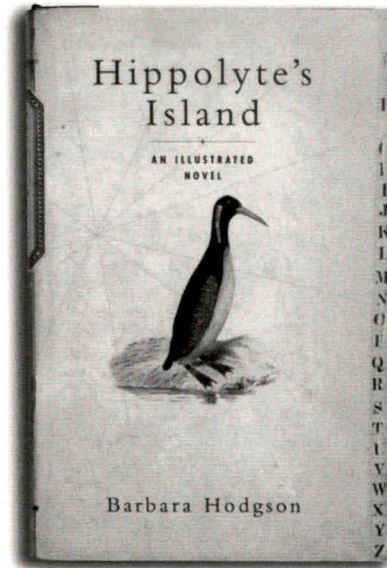
Text Designer
Barbara Hodgson

Illustrator
Barbara Hodgson

Printer
C&C, China

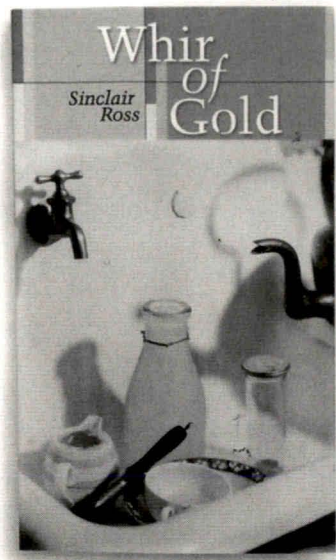
Size
14.5cm x 23cm

Prose Fiction



Prose Fiction

Second Prize



Title
Whir of Gold

Author
Sinclair Ross

Publisher
The University of Alberta Press

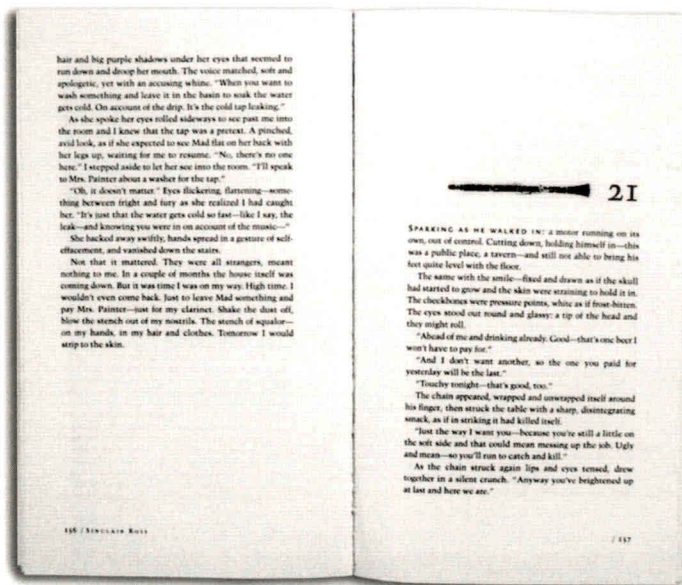
Cover Designer
Alan Brownoff

Text Designer
Alan Brownoff

Photographer
Margaret Watkins

Printer
Kromar Printing

Size
13cm x 23cm



Third Prize

Prose Fiction

Title

Ditch

Author

Hal Niedzviecki

Publisher

Random House Canada

Cover Designer

Carmen Dunjko

Text Designer

Daniel Cullen

Photographer

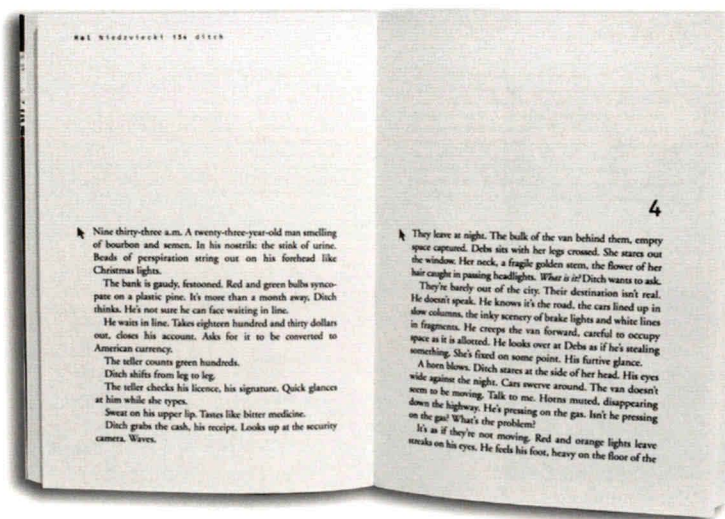
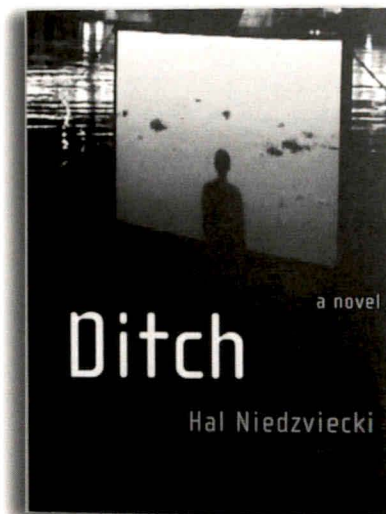
Natalie Kovacs

Printer

Transcontinental

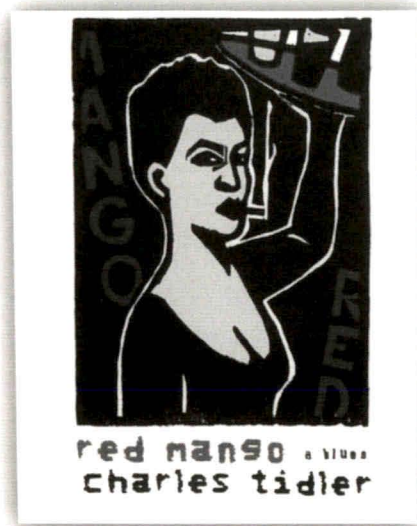
Size

13cm x 18cm



Prose Fiction

Honourable Mention



Title
Red Mango

Author
Charles Tidler

Publisher
Anvil Press

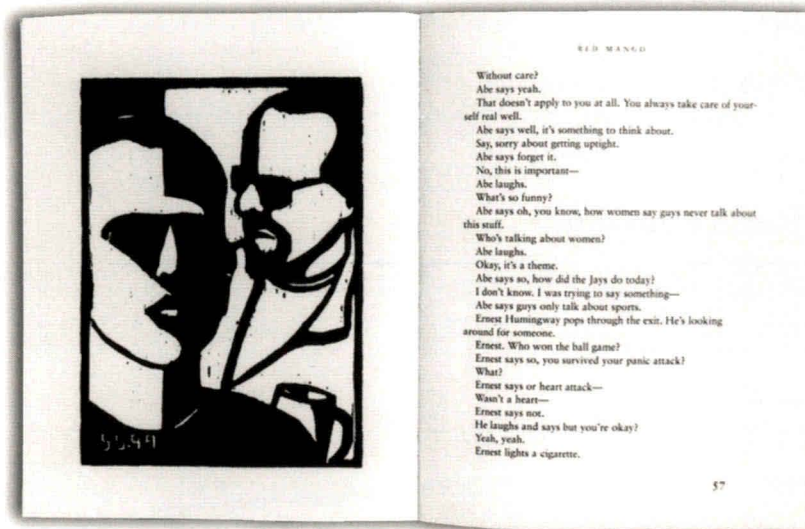
Cover Designer
Brian Kaufman

Text Designer
Brian Kaufman

Illustrator
Shawn Shepherd

Printer
Morris Printing

Size
14cm x 18cm



Second Prize (tie)

Prose Non-Fiction

Title

**Vis à Vis: Field notes on
Poetry and Wilderness**

Author

Don McKay

Publisher

Gaspereau Press

Cover Designer

Andrew Steeves

Text Designer

Andrew Steeves

Illustrator

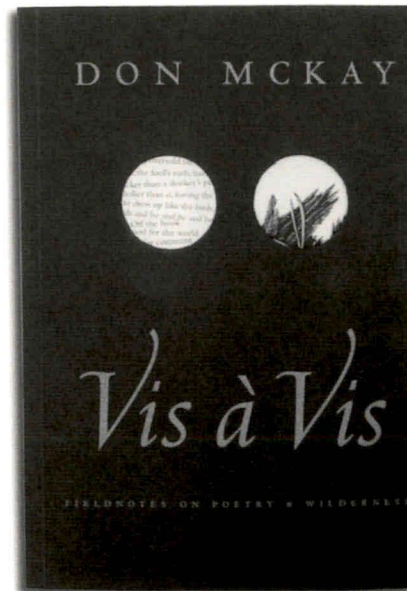
Wesley Bates

Printer

Gary Dunfield

Size

14cm x 20.5cm



Prose non-Fiction

Second Prize (*tie*)

Title

Exploded View; Observations on
Reading, Writing and Life

Author

Jean McKay

Publisher

Douglas & McIntyre

Cover Designer

Peter Cocking

Text Designer

Peter Cocking

Illustrator

Roxanna Bikadoroff

Photographer

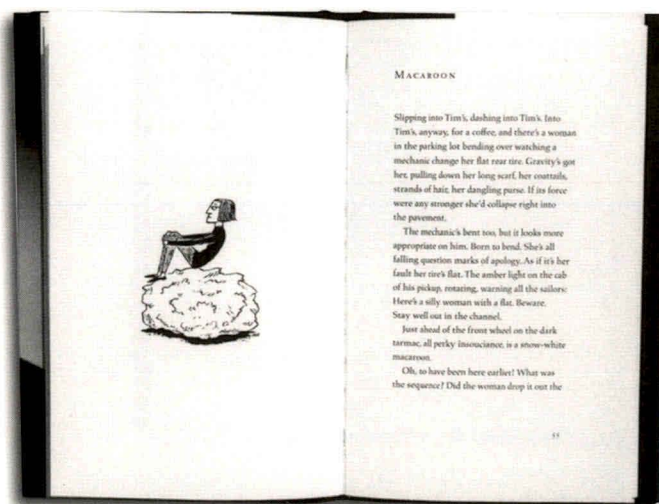
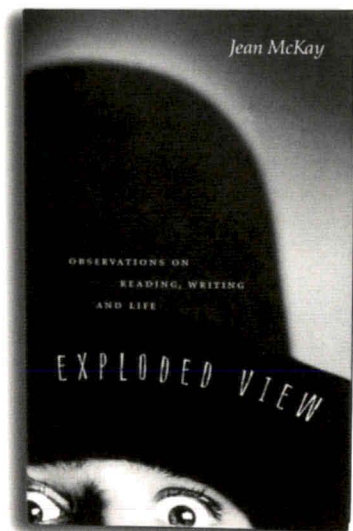
Eric Tucker

Printer

Friesens

Size

12cm x 19cm



Honourable Mention

Prose non-Fiction

Title

From Rupert's Land to Canada

Author (Editors)

Theodore Binnema, Gerhard J. Ens and R.C. Macleod

Publisher

The University of Alberta Press

Cover Designer

Alan Brownoff

Text Designer

Alan Brownoff

Illustrator

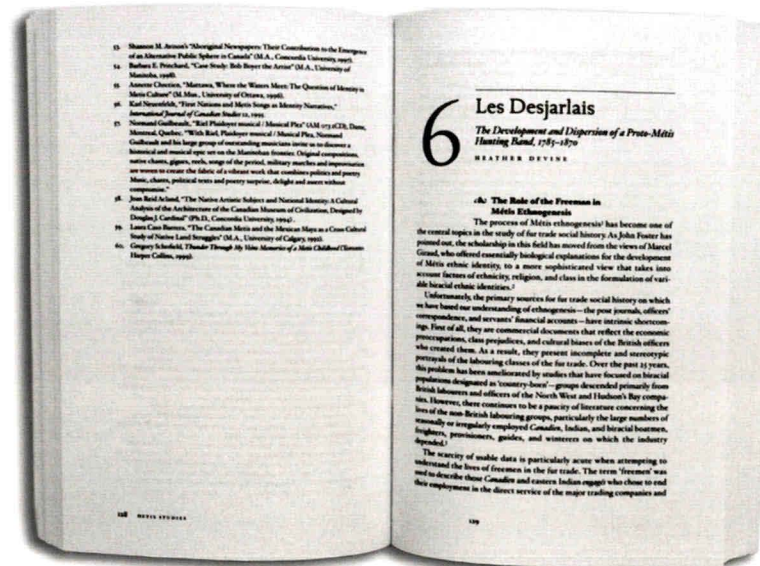
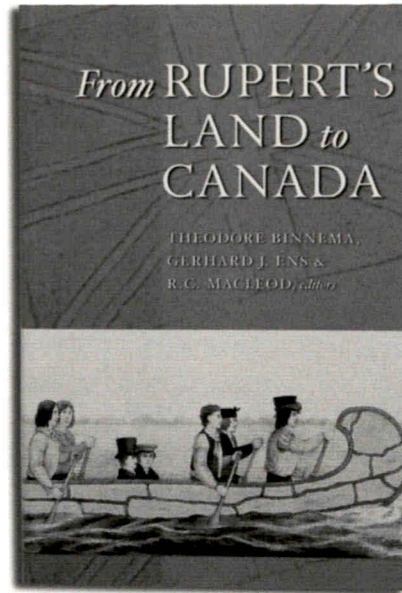
Peter H. Rindisbacher Jones

Printer

Houghton-Boston, Saskatoon

Size

15cm x 23cm





First Prize (tie)

Title

Piero en tête:
Sculptures de Geoffrey Smedley

Author

Gerald Beasley

Publisher

Canadian Centre for Architecture

Cover Designer

Fugazi—Réjean Myette-François Martin

Text Designer

Fugazi—Réjean Myette-François Martin

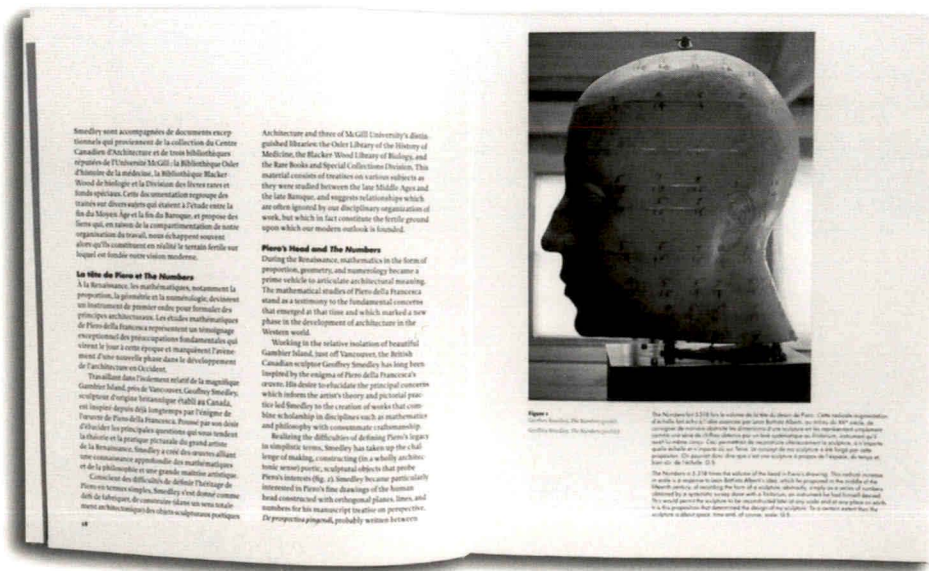
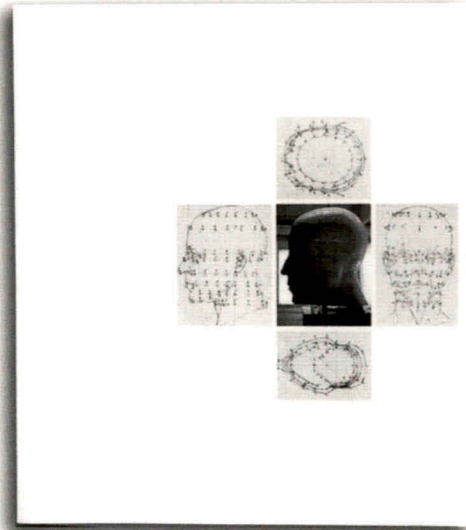
Printer

Litho Acme, Inc.

Size

20cm x 20.5cm

Prose non-Fiction Illustrated



Title

Mies van der Rohe: L'art difficile d'être simple
The Difficult Art of the Simple

Author

Phyllis Lambert

Publisher

Canadian Centre for Architecture

Cover Designer

Chris Rowat Design

Text Designer

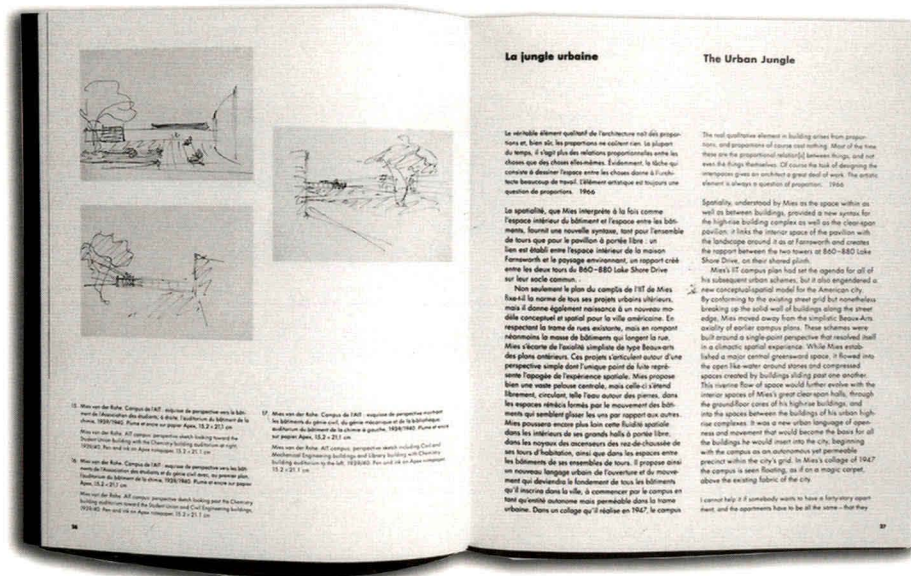
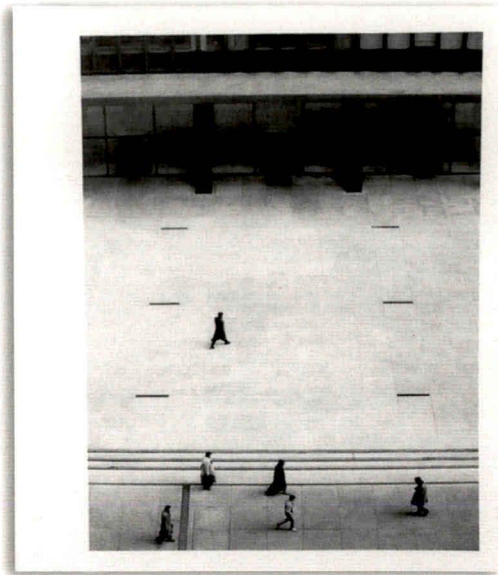
Chris Rowat Design

Printer

Litho Acme, Inc.

Size

20cm x 23.5cm



Second Prize

Title
Couture & Commerce
The Transatlantic Fashion Trade in the 1950's

Author
Alexandra Palmer

Publisher
UBC Press

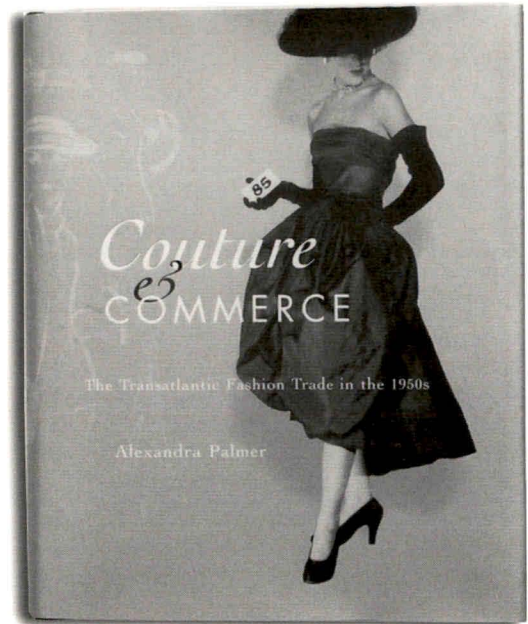
Cover Designer
Mark Timmings

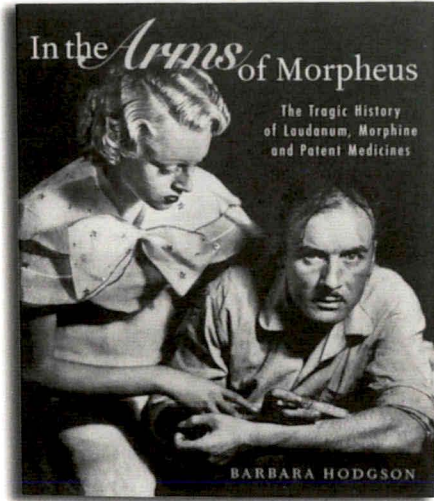
Text Designer
Mark Timmings

Printer
Friesens

Size
20cm x 25cm

Prose non-Fiction Illustrated





Title
In the Arms of Morpheus:
The Tragic History of Laudanum,
Morphine and Patent Medicines

Author
Barbara Hodgson

Publisher
Greystone Books

Cover Designer
Barbara Hodgson

Text Designer
Barbara Hodgson

Illustrator
Various

Photographer
Various

Printer
C&C Offset

Size
16cm x 19cm



Honourable Mention

Title

Historical Atlas of the North Pacific Ocean

Author

Derek Hayes

Publisher

Douglas & McIntyre

Cover Designer

Karen Schober

Text Designer

Derek Hayes

Illustrator

Various

Photographer

Various

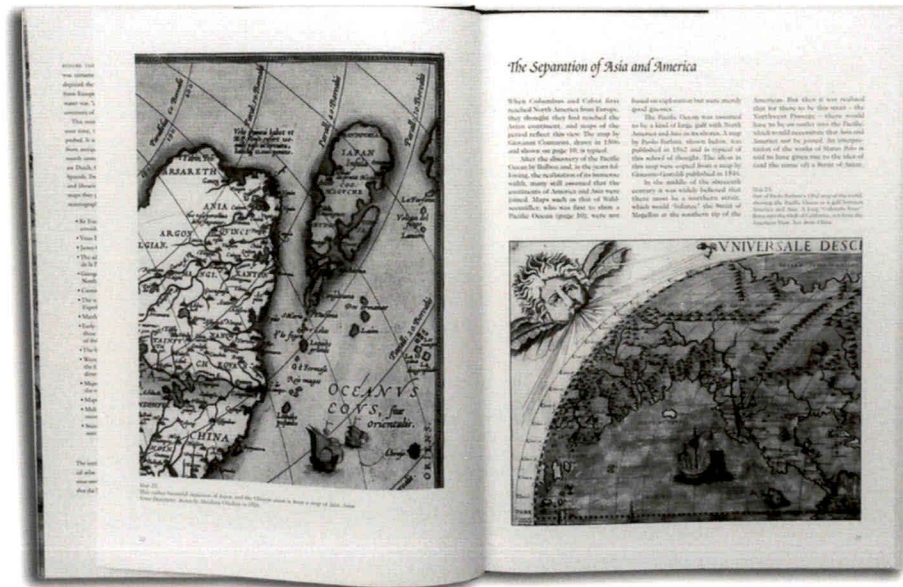
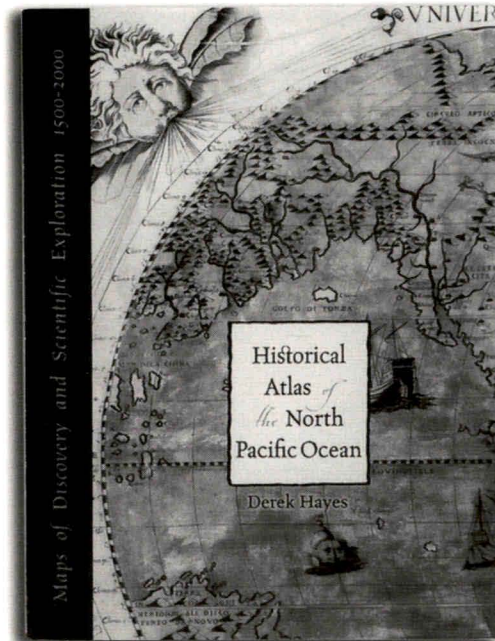
Printer

C&C Offset

Size

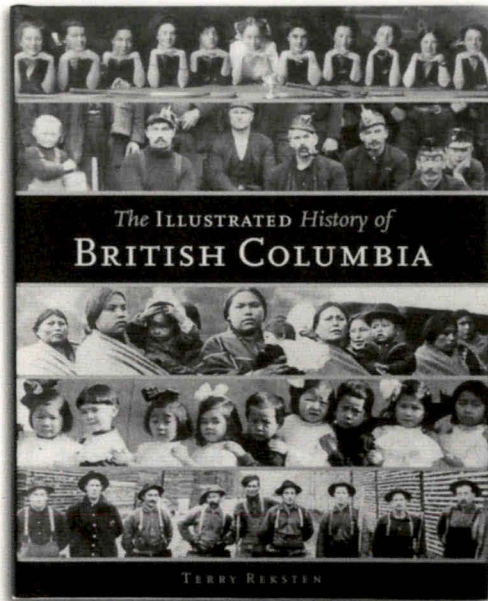
23cm x 32cm

Prose non-Fiction Illustrated



Prose Non-Fiction Illustrated

Honourable Mention



Title
The Illustrated History of
British Columbia

Author
Terry Reksten

Publisher
Douglas & McIntyre

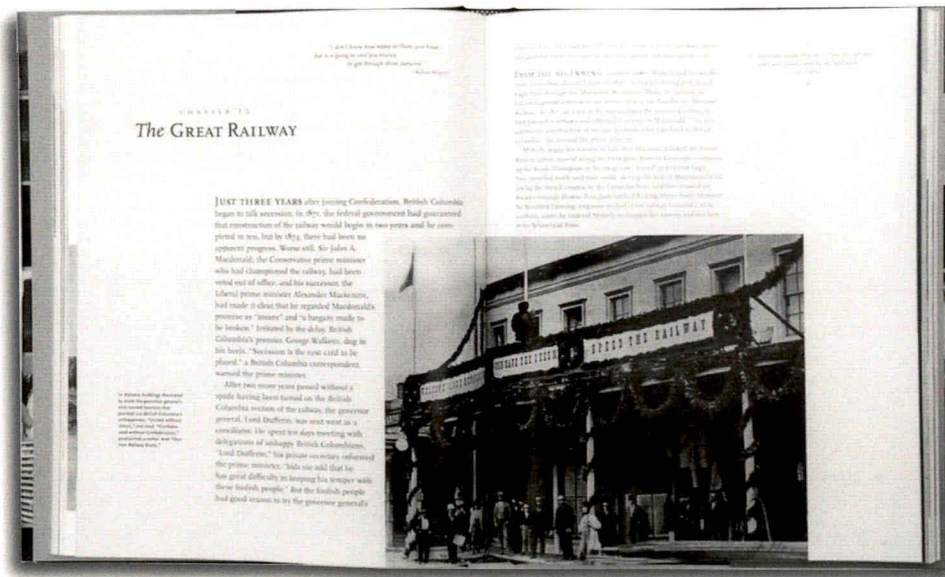
Cover Designer
George Vaitkunas

Text Designer
George Vaitkunas

Photographer
Various

Printer
Friesens

Size
24cm x 30.5cm



First Prize

Children's

Title

The City ABC Book

Author

Zoran Milich

Publisher

Kids Can Press

Cover Designer

Karen Birkemoe

Text Designer

Karen Birkemoe

Photographer

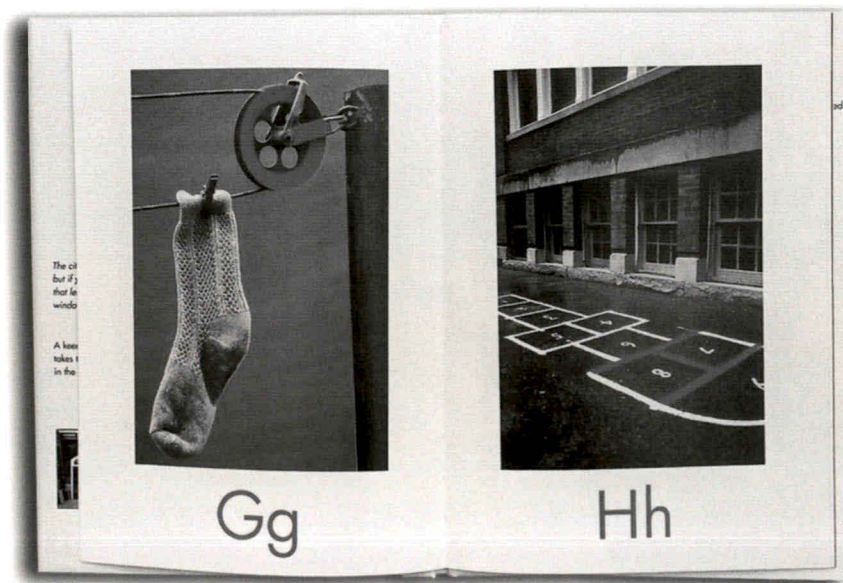
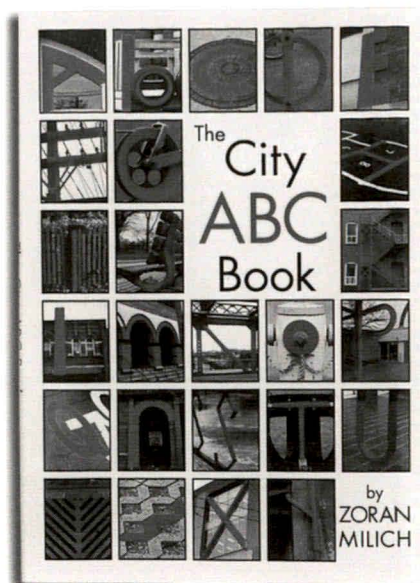
Zoran Milich

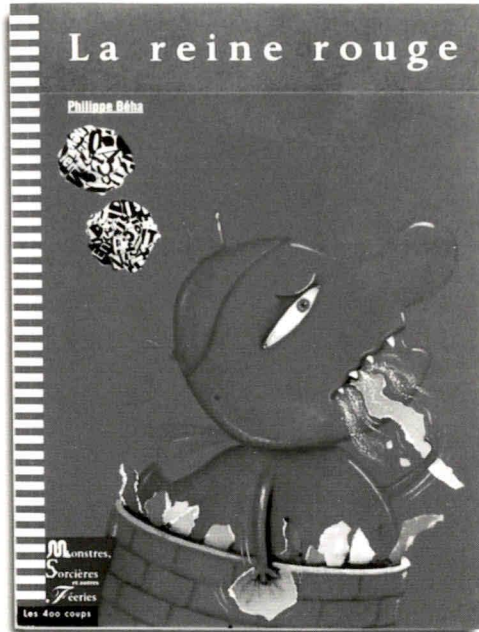
Printer

Book Art Inc.

Size

18cm x 25cm





Title
La reine rouge

Author
Philippe Béha

Publisher
Les Editions Les 400 coups

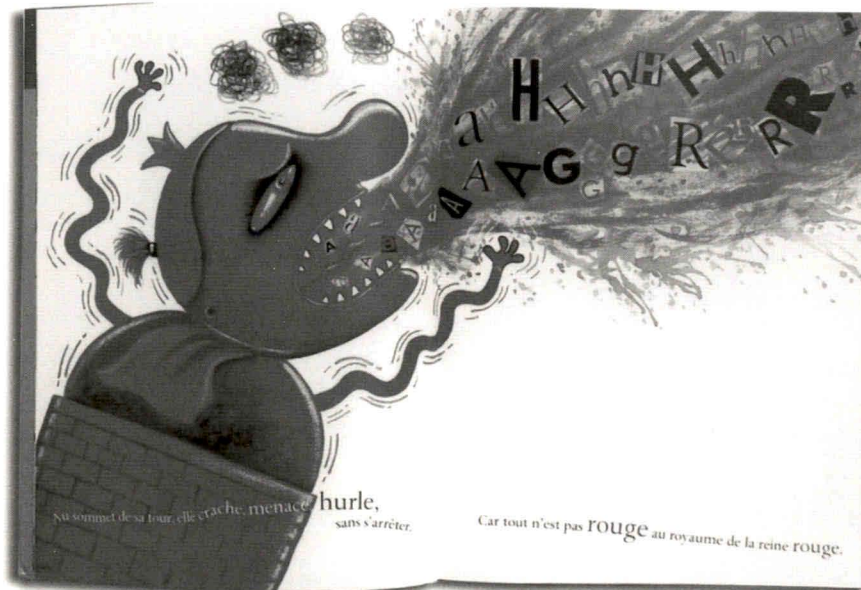
Cover Designer
Philippe Béha

Text Designer
Philippe Béha

Illustrator
Philippe Béha

Printer
Litho Mille-îles

Size
23cm x 30.5cm



Third Prize

Children's

Title

Where Poppies Grow:
A World War I Companion

Author

Linda Granfield

Publisher

Stoddart Kids

Cover Designer

Blair Kerrigan

Text Designer

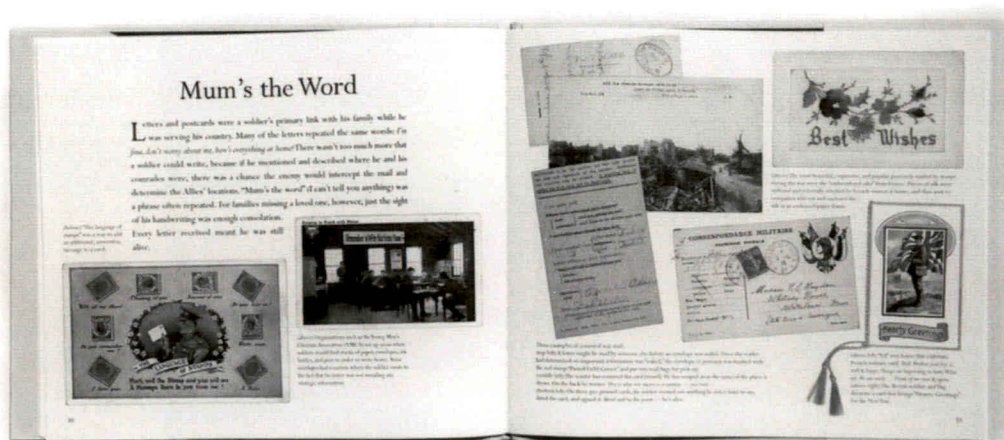
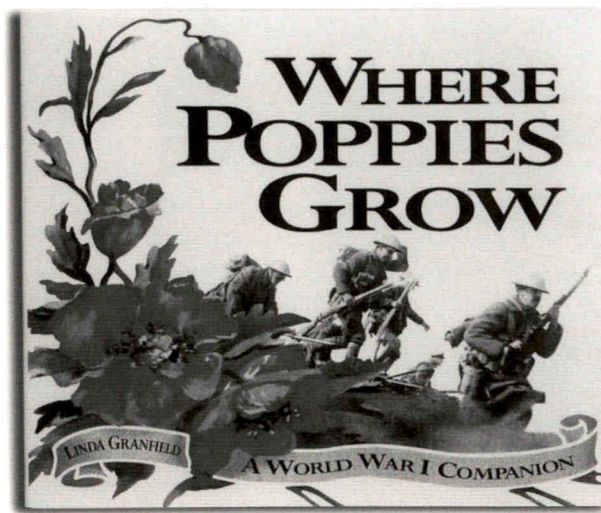
Blair Kerrigan

Printer

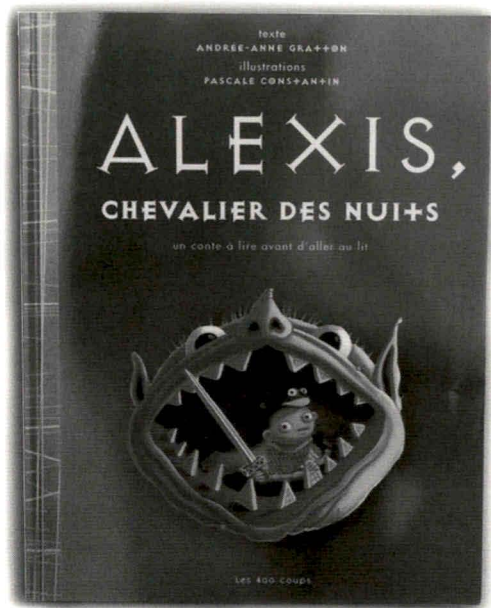
Book Art Inc.

Size

26.5cm x 23cm



Children's



Honourable Mention

Title

Alexis, chevalier des nuits
Un conte à lire avant d'aller au lit

Author

Andrée-Anne Gratton

Publisher

Les Editions Les 400 Coups

Cover Designer

Pascale Constantin

Text Designer

Pascale Constantin

Illustrator

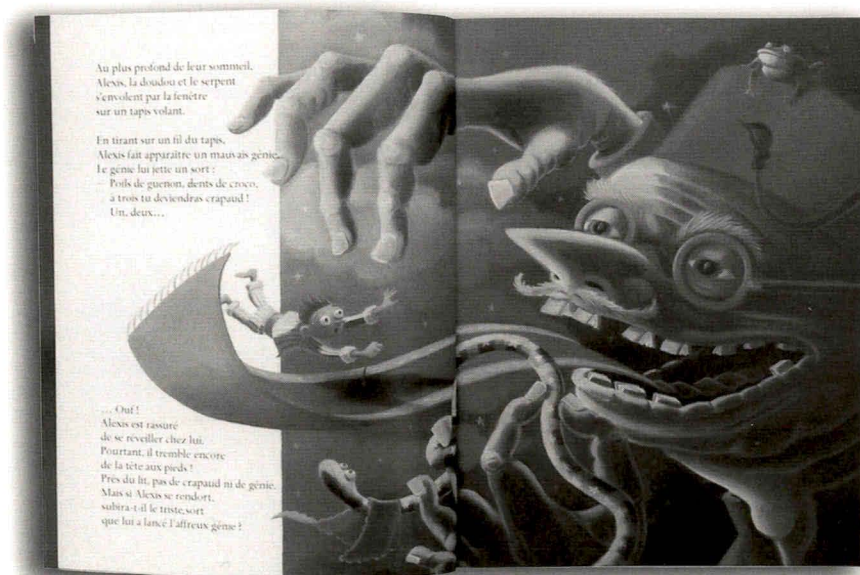
Pascale Constantin

Printer

Litho Mille-iles

Size

21.5cm x 28cm



Honourable Mention

Children's

Title

**The Adventures of Pinocchio;
The Story of a Puppet**

Author

Carlo Collodi

Publisher

Simply Read Books

Cover Designer

Judith Steedman

Text Designer

Judith Steedman

Illustrator

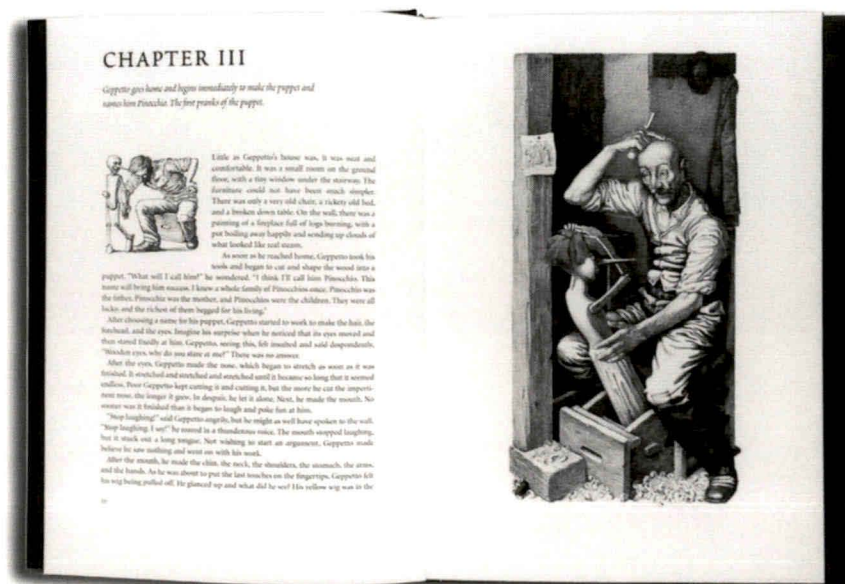
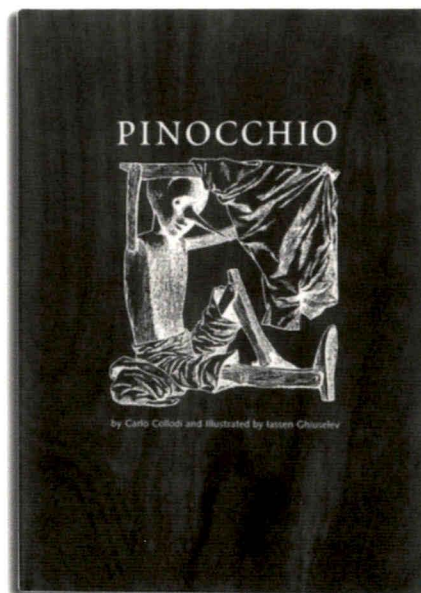
Iassen Ghiuselev

Printer

Grafiche AZ Italy

Size

19.5cm x 28cm





First Prize

Pictorial

Title

Design in Canada: Fifty Years from Teakettles to Task Chairs

Author

Rachel Gotlieb and Cora Golden

Publisher

Alfred A. Knopf Canada

Cover Designer

Dinnick & Howells

Text Designer

Dinnick & Howells

Photographer

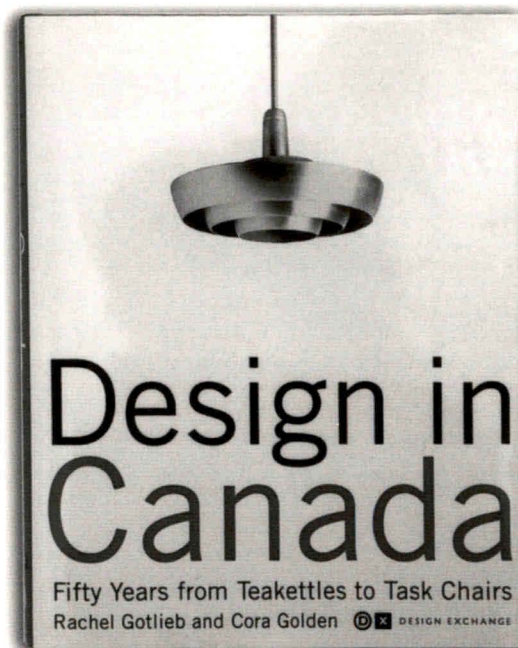
Pete Paterson and Karen Levy

Printer

Friesens

Size

14cm x 22cm



Pictorial

Second Prize

Title
Greg Curnoe; Life and Stuff

Author (Editors)
Dennis Reid and Matthew Teitelbaum

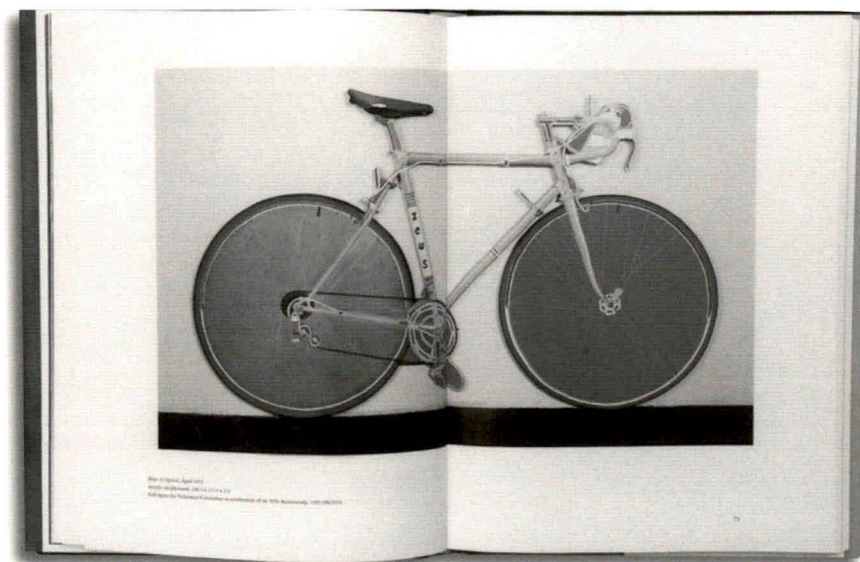
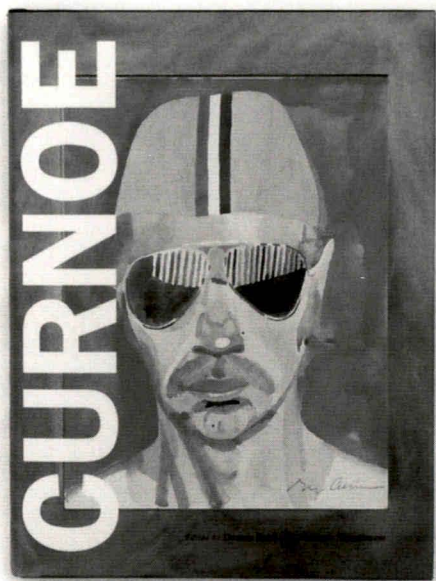
Publisher
Douglas & McIntyre

Cover Designer
Timmings & Debay

Text Designer
Timmings & Debay

Printer
Friesens

Size
21cm x 28.5cm



Third Prize

Pictorial

Title
David Blackwood; Master Printmaker

Author
William Gough

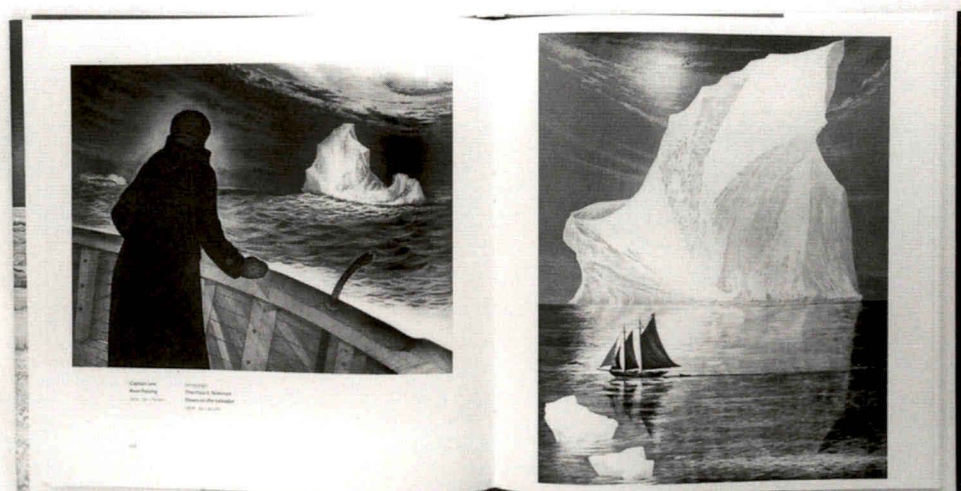
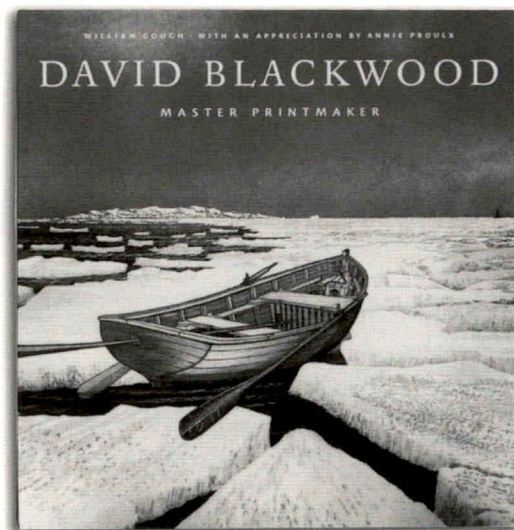
Publisher
Douglas & McIntyre

Cover Designer
Peter Cocking

Text Designer
Peter Cocking

Printer
C&C Offset

Size
26.5cm x 28cm



Honourable Mention

Title
**Coming Through Fire:
 The Wildland Firefighters Experience**

Author
David Greer

Publisher
Raincoast Books

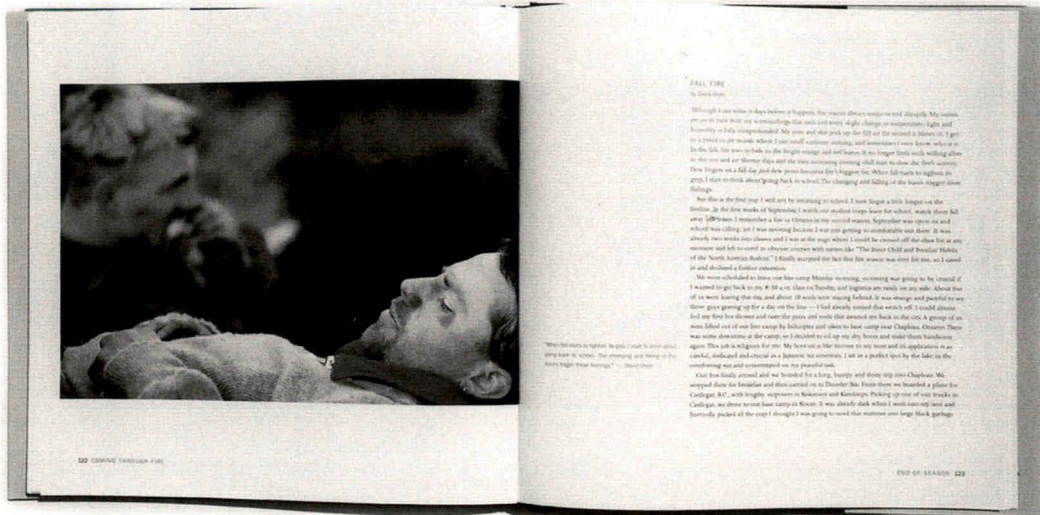
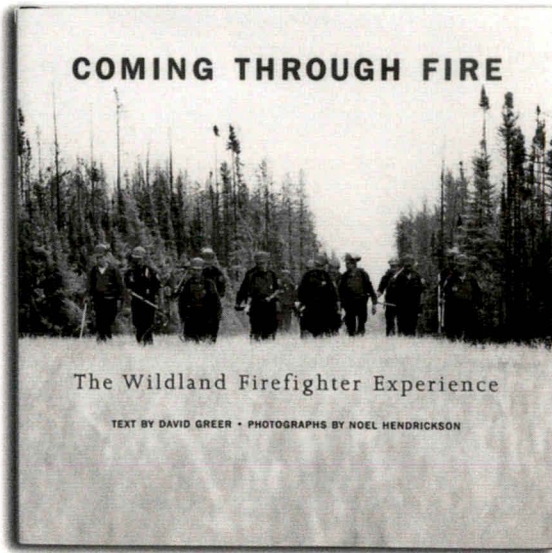
Cover Designer
Sue Mcpherson

Text Designer
Sue Mcpherson

Photographer
Noel Henderickson

Printer
Midas

Size
25cm x 25cm



First Prize

Title

Butterflies of British Columbia

Author

Crispin S. Guppy and John H. Shepard

Publisher

UBC Press

Cover Designer

Gary Blakeley

Text Designer

Gary Blakeley

Illustrator

Various

Photographer

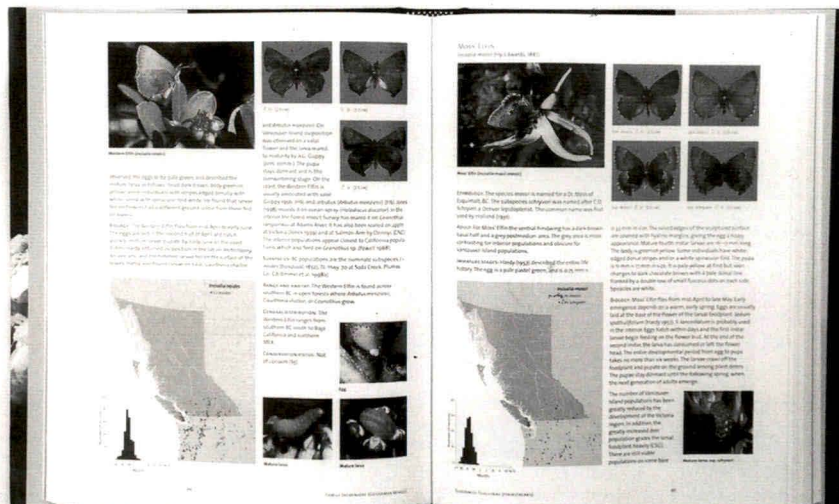
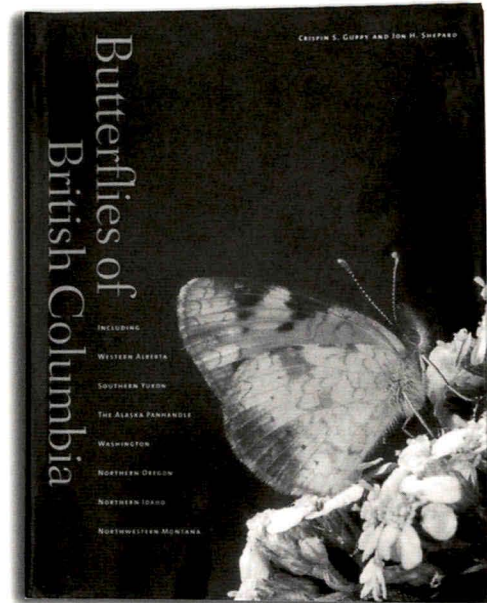
Various

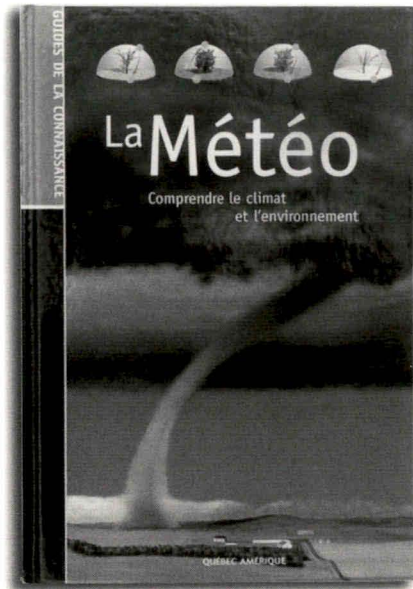
Printer

Friesens

Size

22cm x 28cm





Title
La météo :
Comprendre le climat et l'environnement

Author
QA International

Publisher
QA International

Cover Designer
QA International

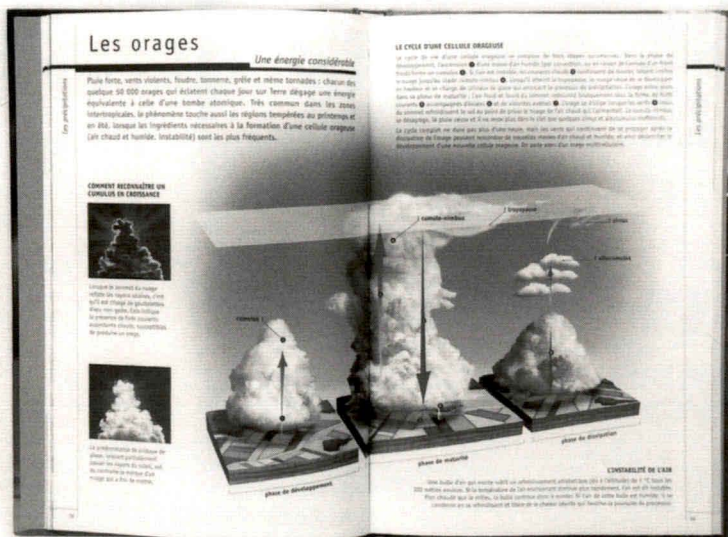
Text Designer
QA International

Illustrator
QA International

Photographer
Various

Printer
Neografia

Size
18.5cm x 27.5cm



Title

Fitzhenry & Whiteside Canadian Thesaurus; The word you want, where and when you want it

Author

Compiled by Celia Munro

Publisher

Fitzhenry & Whiteside

Cover Designer

Darrell McCalla

Text Designer

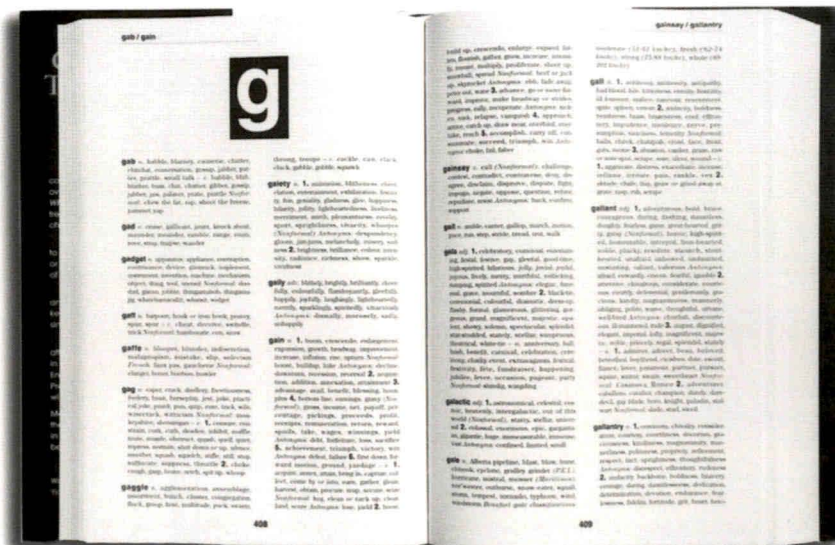
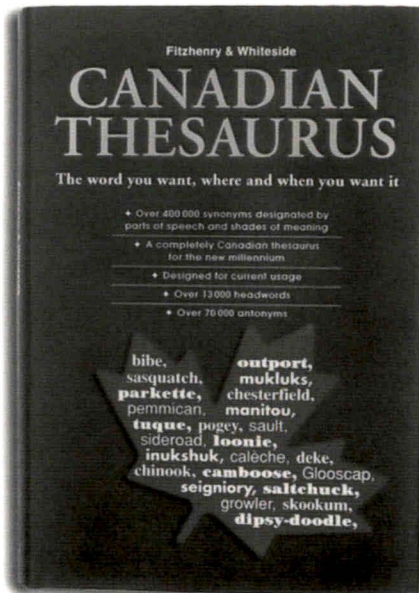
Darrell McCalla

Printer

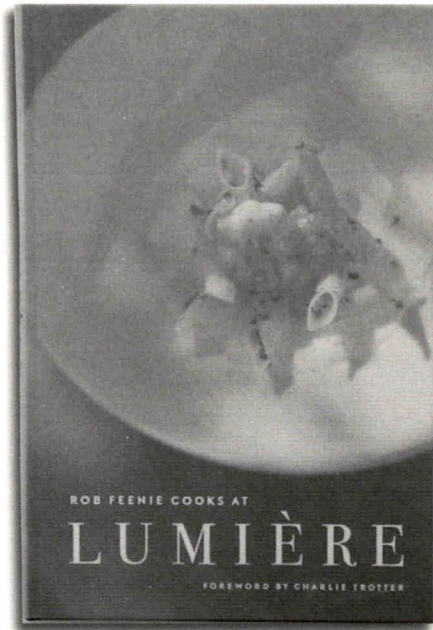
Tri-Graphic

Size

16cm x 23.5cm



Reference



Honourable Mention

Title
Rob Feenie Cooks at Lumière

Author
Rob Feenie

Publisher
Douglas & McIntyre

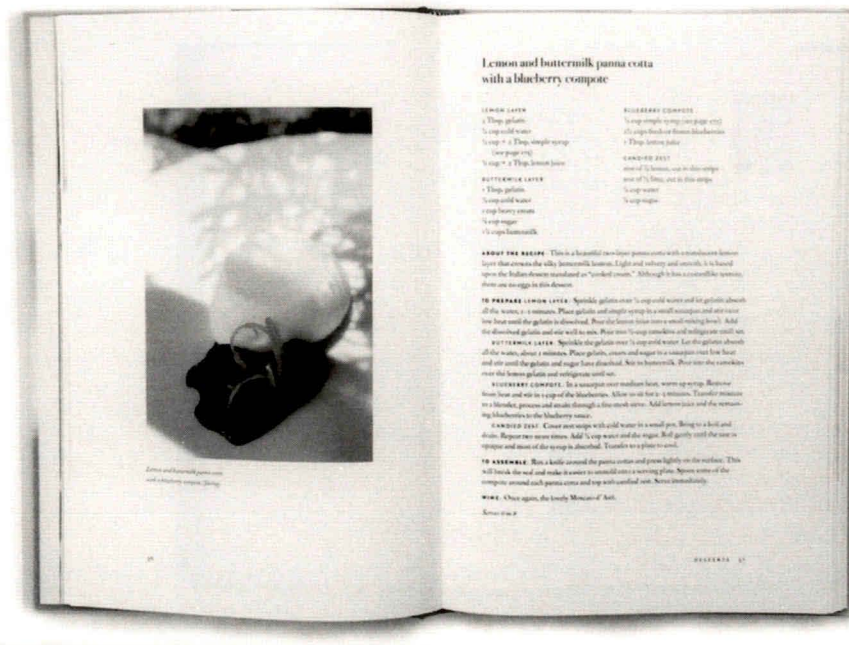
Cover Designer
Peter Cocking

Text Designer
Peter Cocking

Photographer
John Sherlock

Printer
C&C Offset

Size
20.5cm x 30.5cm



Honourable Mention

Reference

Title

A year of the Best;
Seasonal Recipes from the
Best of Bridge

Author

Best of Bridge Publishing

Publisher

Best of Bridge Publishing

Cover Designer

Michael Dangelmaier, Karo

Text Designer

Michael Dangelmaier, Karo

Photographer

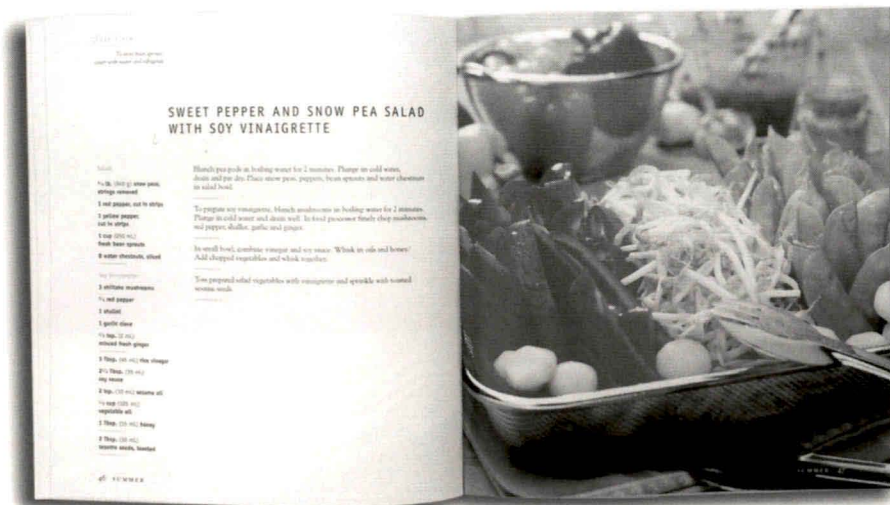
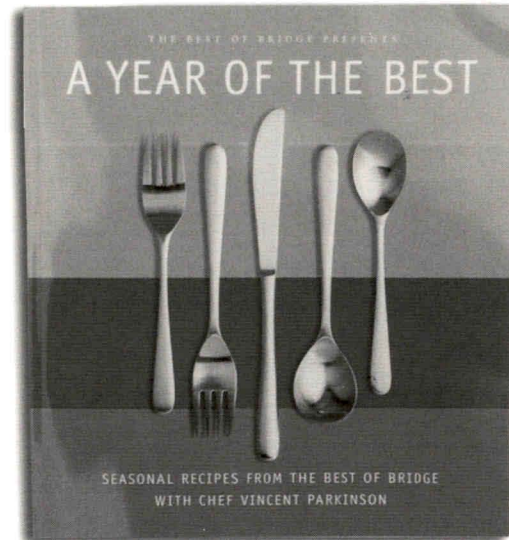
Bilodeau Preston

Printer

Print West, Saskatoon

Size

23cm x 25cm





First Prize

Limited Edition

Title
Alphabetical/Cosmologies

Author
P.K. Page

Publisher
Poppy Press Publishing

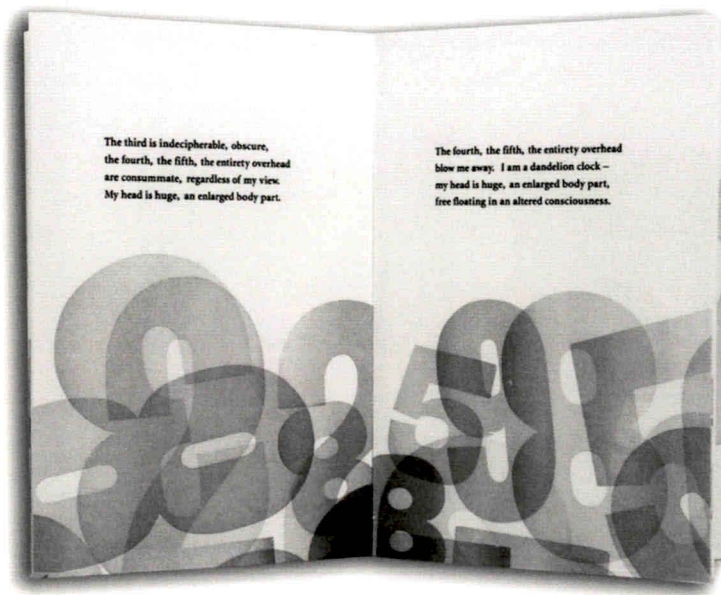
Cover Designer
Alexander Lavdovsky

Text Designer
Alexander Lavdovsky

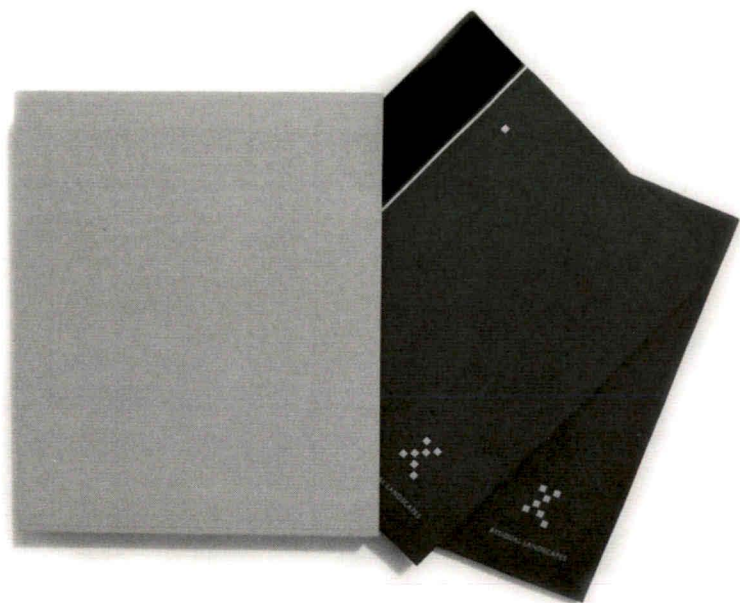
Illustrator
Alexander Lavdovsky

Printer
Classic Engraving

Size
13cm x 20cm



Limited Edition



Second Prize

Title
Residual Landscapes

Author
Michael Torosian

Publisher
Lumiere Press

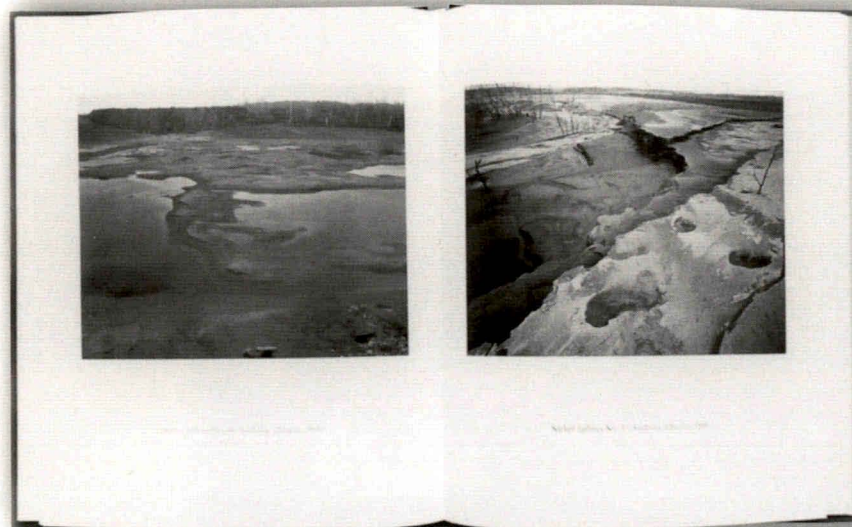
Cover Designer
Michael Torosian

Text Designer
Michael Torosian

Photographer
Edward Burtynsky

Printer
Lumiere Press

Size
19cm x 23cm



Third Prize

Limited Edition

Title

Reid's Leaves; A bibliography
of books from the private press of
Robert R. Reid 1949-1962, with
commentaries and sample leaves

Author

Robert R. Reid

Publisher

Heavenly Monkey

Cover Designer

Rollin Milroy

Text Designer

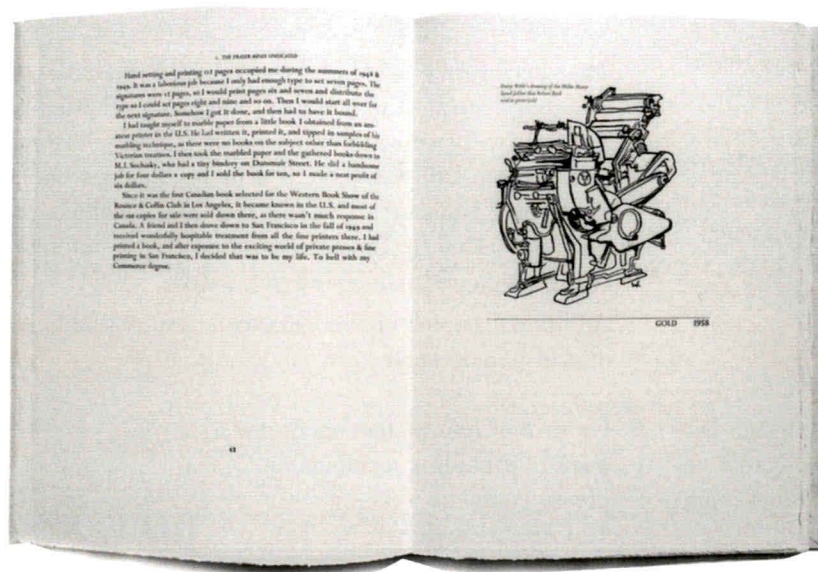
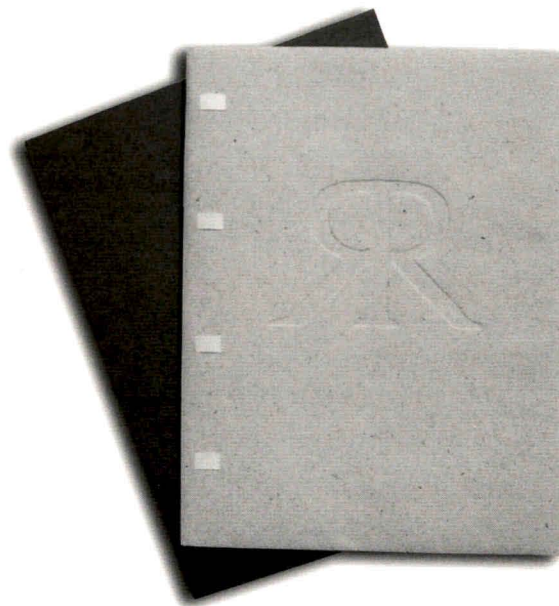
Rollin Milroy

Printer

Rollin Milroy

Size

28cm x 38cm



The Alcuin Society

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Don Polak
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Colophon

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