



*Ewers*, ©2002, by Phyllis Greenwood

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

*Richard Hopkins*

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER to all of those designers and publishers who won awards in the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Awards for Excellence in Book Design in Canada. But special congratulations go to those smaller publishers who take the time, effort and expense to pay close attention to the overall design of their books. I am thinking here of publishers like Gaspereau Press, Coach House Books, Porcupine's Quill, Pedlar Press, Poppy Press, and others too numerous to mention here.

The Alcuin Society is going to attempt to begin publishing again on a regular basis. In the early days of the Society the Board undertook a very ambitious program of publishing worthwhile Canadian books in letter press limited editions. One can still marvel at both the Board's audacity and at their considerable achievements. Alas, publishing a letter press book of any size today is simply not economically feasible.

The Publications Committee has decided to try to publish a series of chapbooks in a numbered series, each chapbook to deal with a topic related to books: book history, the book arts, private presses, book design, bookselling, book collecting, notable library collections, and reading. In that way the subject matter of the chapbooks will reflect the subject matter of *Amphora*, although the manuscripts for the chapbooks will be longer than the usual article length found in the journal.

The Committee's choice for the initial chapbook is *Thoreau MacDonald: Canada's Foremost Book Illustrator* (working title). The text is by Maple Ridge bookseller Terry Stillman who once had the honour of meeting Thoreau MacDonald and who has had a long-standing interest in his work. Besides the written text the chapbook will contain two photographs of MacDonald and approximately 20 reproductions of his wonderful woodcut art. The overall design work for the chapbook series is in the very capable hands of Alexander Lavdovsky of Poppy Press in Victoria. We hope to have this chapbook out early in the Fall.

Some ideas for future chapbooks are Vancouver woodcut pioneer Allistair Bell (featured in *Amphora* #128), a new work on legendary Vancouver bookseller Bill Hoffer by Glenn Woodsworth, a practical chapbook on caring for your own personal library by Guy Robertson, and an illustrated chapbook featuring the extensive collection of fire insurance plans in the UBC Library Rare Books and Special Collections Division.

We welcome members to send along ideas for the chapbook series. Even more welcome are original manuscripts written by members to actually publish in the series! We hope that this will be the beginning of a new era of publishing for The Alcuin Society.