THE ALCUIN SOCIETY

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THE ALCUIN SOCIETY was the idea of its founder, Geoff Spencer. Other founding members were Basil Stuart-Stubbs, Bill Duthie, Sam Black, Bill McConnell, Dale Smith, Sam Fogel, and Wil Hudson. The initial aim of the Society was to promote a wider appreciation of finely wrought books among booklovers around the world.

The name *Alcuin* was chosen to honour the memory of Alcuin of York (735 to 804 AD). Alcuin was a man who cared not only about books but handwriting, which he rescued from the bastard styles of the period. As Charlemagne's "Minister of Culture," Alcuin 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, many of them in collaboration with educational institutions — lectures, workshops, exhibitions, field visits, and competitions. Annual design awards are made by a panel of expert judges for the best in Canadian book design. Through *Amphora*, the Society's journal, it covers a wide range of topics related to the book: the future of the book, the history of the book, the book arts (typography, type design, calligraphy, paper-making, illustration, printing, and binding), publishing, book selling, book collecting, notable library collections, and reading. Membership in the Society has the following categories:

INDIVIDUAL — $40 per year

INSTITUTION — $60 per year

CORPORATE OR PATRON — $100 per year

STUDENT — $20 per year (3 years maximum)

(Individual Canadian members qualify for a $16 tax receipt;

Patron Canadian members qualify for a $76 tax receipt)

All categories of membership receive *Amphora*, keepsakes, and ephemera. Members have the privilege, but not the obligation, of buying books and other materials published or distributed by the Society. The Alcuin Society is registered under the Societies Act of British Columbia as a non-profit association.

Recent issues of *Amphora* are available on request at $15 per copy.