

## Chairman's Update

**A**fter eleven years at the helm of the Alcuin Society, Jim Rainer handed the responsibility over to me, Howard Greaves, in June 2004. Although new to the Alcuin Society, I have spent my working life in the book business, in the U.K. with Dillon's University (London) Bookshop (now Waterstone's) and Penguin Books, and in Canada with, amongst others, Classic Bookstores, Harper and Row, Oxford University Press and Macmillan of Canada. In 2005 my company, Portal Press, published *Your Magical Brain* for teachers. My tenure began with the Society in very good shape, both financially and in terms of its many activities and programs. (News of the receipt of \$15,000 from the provincial gaming authority arrived just about the day of the 2004 AGM.)

A major activity of the Society is, of course, the Awards for Excellence in Book Design in Canada, whose history Leah Gordon and Jim Rainer describe elsewhere in this publication. The judges of the 23rd competition in April 2005 were Sue Colberg, Val Spiedel and Andrew Steeves. For this competition, ninety-nine publishers from eight provinces submitted 274 books, from which 26 winners were chosen, Douglas & McIntyre taking away seven awards. Sets of the winning books are displayed across Canada at nine sites: Acadia University, the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design, the Alcuin annual general meeting, Simon Fraser University, McGill University's Redpath Library, Vancouver's Word on the Street, Vancouver Public Library, Royal Roads University and the University of Alberta. The judges for the upcoming 2006 competition will be Robert Bringhurst, Sue Colberg and Glenn Goluska. In addition to the exhibit sites above, the Design Exchange Gallery in Toronto will be added in 2006. As usual, the books not required for displays are auctioned off in November, providing fine, economical opportunities for Christmas giving as well as contributing over \$3,000 in 2004 and about \$4,000 in 2005 to the Society's coffers.

In July 2005, the Society was approached by the Stiftung Buchkunst (Book Art Foundation) in Frankfurt to show Alcuin Design competition winners at the annual exhibit, Best Book Design from All over the World, at the Frankfurt and Leipzig book fairs. They will also be entered in the annual spring competition on book design in Leipzig, the winners of which will

Limited edition books and Demonstrations of  
Intaglio printing, Relief printing, Marbling Paper, Making Woodtype

# PRINTING WAYZE GOOSE

Free admission

AT THE VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY CENTRAL  
BRANCH, 350 WEST GEORGIA STREET  
SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER 2005. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Made possible through the financial assistance of the Province of British Columbia

The  
Second Alcuin Wayzgoose

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THE ALCUIN  
SOCIETY



THE VANCOUVER  
PUBLIC LIBRARY



TYPESET IN VIENNA BLACK, PREISSIG ROMAN AND JIM RIMMER'S KAAATSKILL ITALICS

## Participating Presses

Barbarian Press  
Cotton Socks Press  
De Walden Press  
Les Éditions Lucie Lambert  
Frog Hollow Press  
greenboathouse books  
Heavenly Monkey  
High Ground Press  
Inferno Press  
(m)Öthêr Tônguê Press  
Nomados Press  
Papermaker's Press  
pb + j press  
Pie Tree Press  
Robert R. Reid  
Sandhill Press

## Book Artists

Nicole Dextras  
Simone Mynen  
Gina Page (Seawrack Press)  
Denise Carson Wilde

## Demonstrations

Peter Braune (Intaglio process)  
Lawrence Lowe (Relief process)  
Phyllis Greenwood (Marbling paper)  
Scott Polzen (Making woodtype)

tour internationally. They will then be contributed to the Museum of Type and Design in Leipzig, where they will reside permanently in their collection of prize-winning design books and may be used in future exhibits.

Special events in 2005 included a talk by Walter Bachinski and Janis Butler on the origin and evolution of the Shanty Bay Press, introducing many in the audience to the demanding process of pochoir illustration. Andrew Steeves, of the Gaspereau Press, described the work of his press, where he frequently blends modern and antique design and production techniques in an attempt to bring a private sensibility to trade and commercial design.

The Antiquarian Book Roadshow was first run in 1999, again in 2000, 2002, and most recently in 2004 at the Vancouver Public Library. The public was encouraged to bring with them two books that they wished to have appraised by professional book dealers and also listen to a series of bookish talks given by experts in their particular fields. In addition, demonstrations of calligraphy, bookbinding, marbling, book renovation and printing were staged. Each Roadshow attracted between 600 and 800 people, and the appraisers were kept busy all day. Although no Gutenberg Bibles were found, several books worth a few thousand dollars were unearthed.

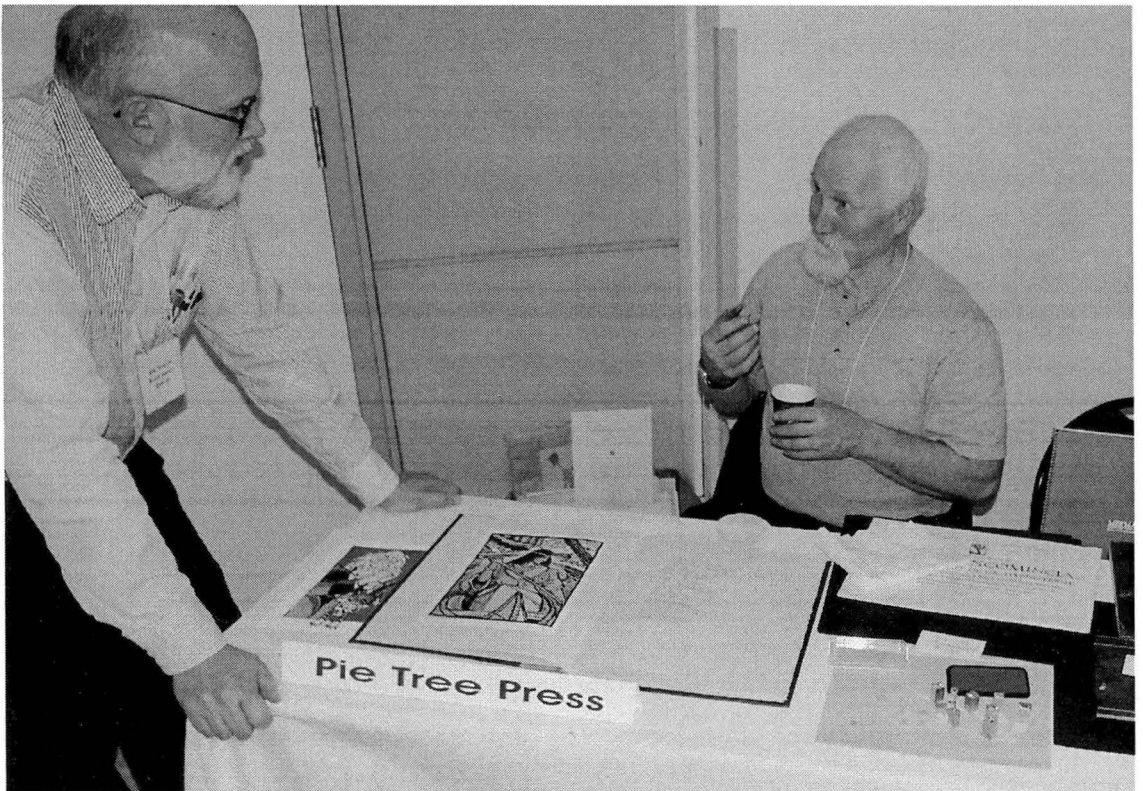
In 2005 the Society produced a chapbook, *Thoreau MacDonald: Canada's Foremost Book Illustrator*, with text by Terry Stillman. It was printed by David Clifford at Black Stone Press and at Benwell Atkins.

The 2004 Alcuin Wayzgoose, co-sponsored by the Alcuin Society and the Vancouver Public Library, was the first event organized specifically to bring together members of B.C.'s growing letterpress publishing community. It took place in VPL's Central Branch, involved fourteen exhibitors, and had an attendance of about 650. A much remarked on aspect of the event was its press kit, beautifully produced in a limited edition of fifty numbered copies. Its text was set in Book Antiqua and the display in Gill Sans. All production, including emphasized letterpress, was carried out at Heavenly Monkey. The paper used for the cover wrap was made by Reg Lissel. An equally successful Wayzgoose event was held in 2005.

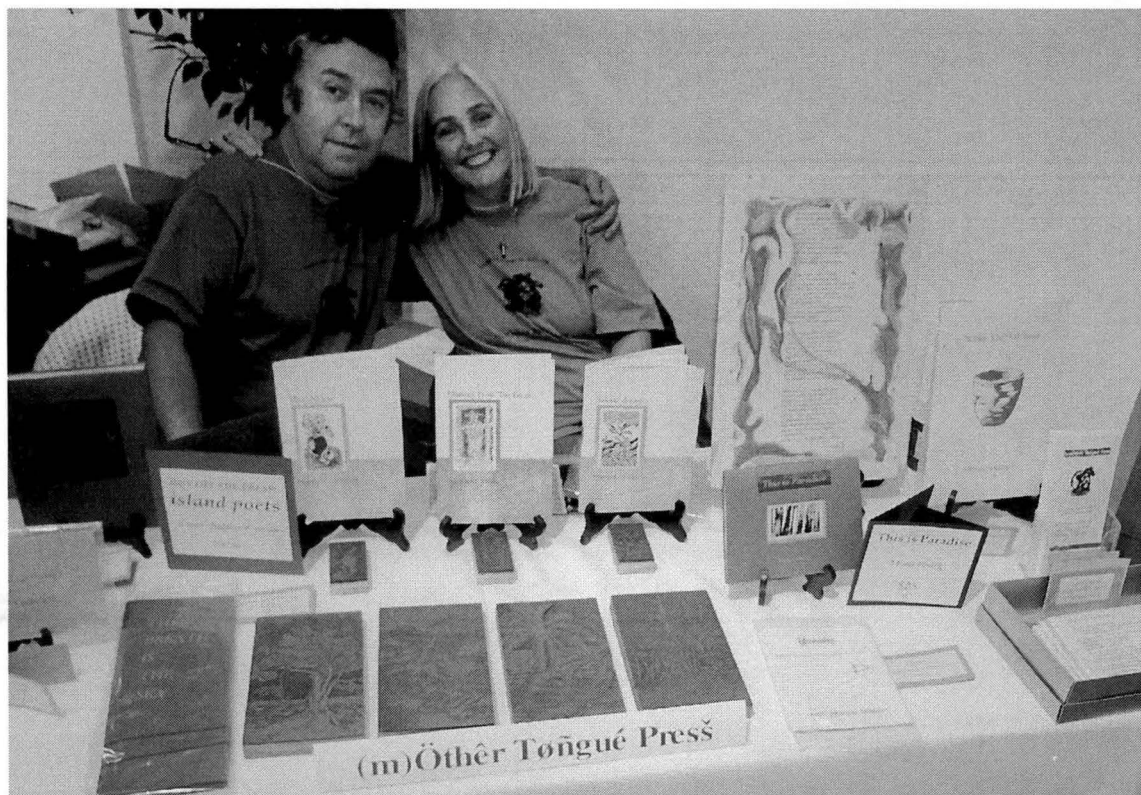
One of the periodic Alcuin Society/Vancouver Public Library talks that attracted a particularly large audience was given by UBC paleographer



*Table displaying publications of the Alcuin Society.*



*Eric Swanick, organizer of the Wayzgoose, with Jim Rimmer of Pie Tree Press.*



*Peter Haase and Mona Fertig, proprietors, (m)Öthêr Tōngué Press.*



*Peter Quartermain talking to Crispin Elsted, standing behind the Barbarian Press table with his wife Jan.*

Have 2 books professionally appraised free

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# The Antiquarian Book Roadshow

Downstairs in the Alice McKay Room  
at the Central Branch of the  
Vancouver Public Library

Speakers, demonstrations, and displays about books: collecting, making, binding, restoring, conserving and more! Visit the VPL's Special Collections and discover why, even in this age of electronic wizardry, books are still wonderfully fascinating and beautiful.

**Info: 875-6339**

The Antiquarian Book Roadshow is made possible through the generous support of the BC Gaming Commission and the Vancouver Public Library. design by Robert R. Reid

**SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2000 - 10 am to 4 pm**

**A B.C. BOOK WEEK EVENT**

## CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Dr. Eric Kwakkell, who spoke about the various types of people—monks, clerks, notaries, professional scribes and private individuals—involved in the production of medieval books and showed how their particular methods enable scholars to identify the writer of a particular book.

SFU Friends of the Library and Alcuin combined to present "Twenty-Five Years of Barbarian Press," the speakers for which were David Bond, Robert Bringham, Celia Duthie and Scott McIntyre. A copy of the press's exceptional *Hoi Barbaroi: A Quarter-century at Barbarian Press* was on show.

The Society regularly attends events such as Word on the Street, the Haig-Brown Book Fair, Sidney Book Fair and the Sechelt Writers' Festival, which give opportunities to promote membership and sell the Society's publications.

The perennial generosity of Dr. Yosef Wosk has this year extended to offering to contribute to the funding of three projects. One is the creation of the Robert Reid Award and Medal, given on an occasional basis to recognize lifetime achievement or extraordinary contributions to the book arts in Canada. Robert Reid is the designer of the very well received reformatted *Amphora*. Dr. Wosk will also assist with the development of a heraldic crest, which will appear on one side of the Robert Reid medal. This has acquainted members working on this project with the ancient world of Achievement of Arms and terms such as Helm, Mantling, Crest, Supporters and Motto, the latter always expressed in Latin. He also offered to fund the production, of nine woodcuts, each an imagined printer's mark, which Barbarian Press will print for future editions of *Amphora*.

Membership of the Society, always a major concern, has doubled in the past ten years to 355, one of many reasons why the board was very pleased to present Jim Rainer, on his stepping down from the chairmanship, with a beautiful calligraphic design by Alcuin Society member Irene Alexander.

Alcuin members' particular interests in the book arts and their expectations of the Society are of considerable interest to the board. It is hoped, therefore, that a series of informal get-togethers will be held where members can meet and learn the interests of one another. These informal gatherings may incorporate opportunities to meet practitioners of the book arts as well as allow members to "show and tell".

**O**f all  
the inanimate  
objects, of all men's  
creations, **BOOKS** are  
the nearest to us, for  
they contain our very  
thought, our ambitions,  
our indignations,  
our illusions, our fidelity  
to truth and our  
persistent leaning  
toward error.

**JOSEPH CONRAD**