

**THE ALCUIN SOCIETY** was the idea of Geoff Spencer, to promote a wider appreciation of finely wrought books among book lovers around the world. Other founding members were Basil Stuart-Stubbs, Bill Duthie, Sam Black, Bill McConnell, Dale Smith and Sam Fogel.

The name Alcuin was chosen to honour the memory of Alcuin of York (A.D. 735 to 804). Alcuin was a man who cared not only about books but also about handwriting, which he rescued from the 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 lowercase 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. *Amphora*, the Society's journal, 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, papermaking, illustration, printing and binding), publishing, bookselling, book collecting, notable library collections, and reading.

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A full listing of Alcuin Society committees and their members can be found on our Web site, [alcuinsociety.com](http://alcuinsociety.com).

## IN THIS ISSUE

THE UNFATHOMABLE DEPTH OF LETTERS . . . 10  
A visit to the home of Hermann and Gudrun Zapf.

EMERGING FROM THE WILLOWS . . . . . 12  
The persistence of books read in childhood: an interview with Charles van Sandwyk about the success of his new edition of *The Wind in the Willows*.

ALCUIN GOES TO LEIPZIG . . . . . 18  
A report from members who accompanied Alcuin to the spring Leipzig Book Fair.

## DEPARTMENTS

NEWS & NOTES . . . . . 3  
Peter Koch talks about the CODEX Foundation; Cotton Socks' new *Sea Monsters*; Cat Skinner Press' first book reports zoological discoveries; Jim Rimmer's *Life of Pie*; Aliquando nears 100; new Alcuin Web site.

TRENDS IN COLLECTING . . . . . 5  
A new column devoted to contemporary and hypermodern collecting. By Steven Palter.

THE ROYAL PICK . . . . . 6  
Some choice items culled from recently issued catalogues from around the world. By John King.

BOOKSELLING . . . . . 8  
This issue's bookseller profile: David Mason.

BOOK REVIEWS . . . . . 20  
Claudia Cohen's *Book Binding Ephemera*; Stuart Kelly's *Book of Lost Books*; Phil Baines' *Penguin by Design*; and Chris Ware's *Library of Novelty*.

EX LIBRIS . . . . . 24  
Selections from the world of bookplate art. An ongoing series curated by Ralph Stanton.

Cover art by Charles van Sandwyk, from the Folio Society's new edition of *The Wind in the Willows*.