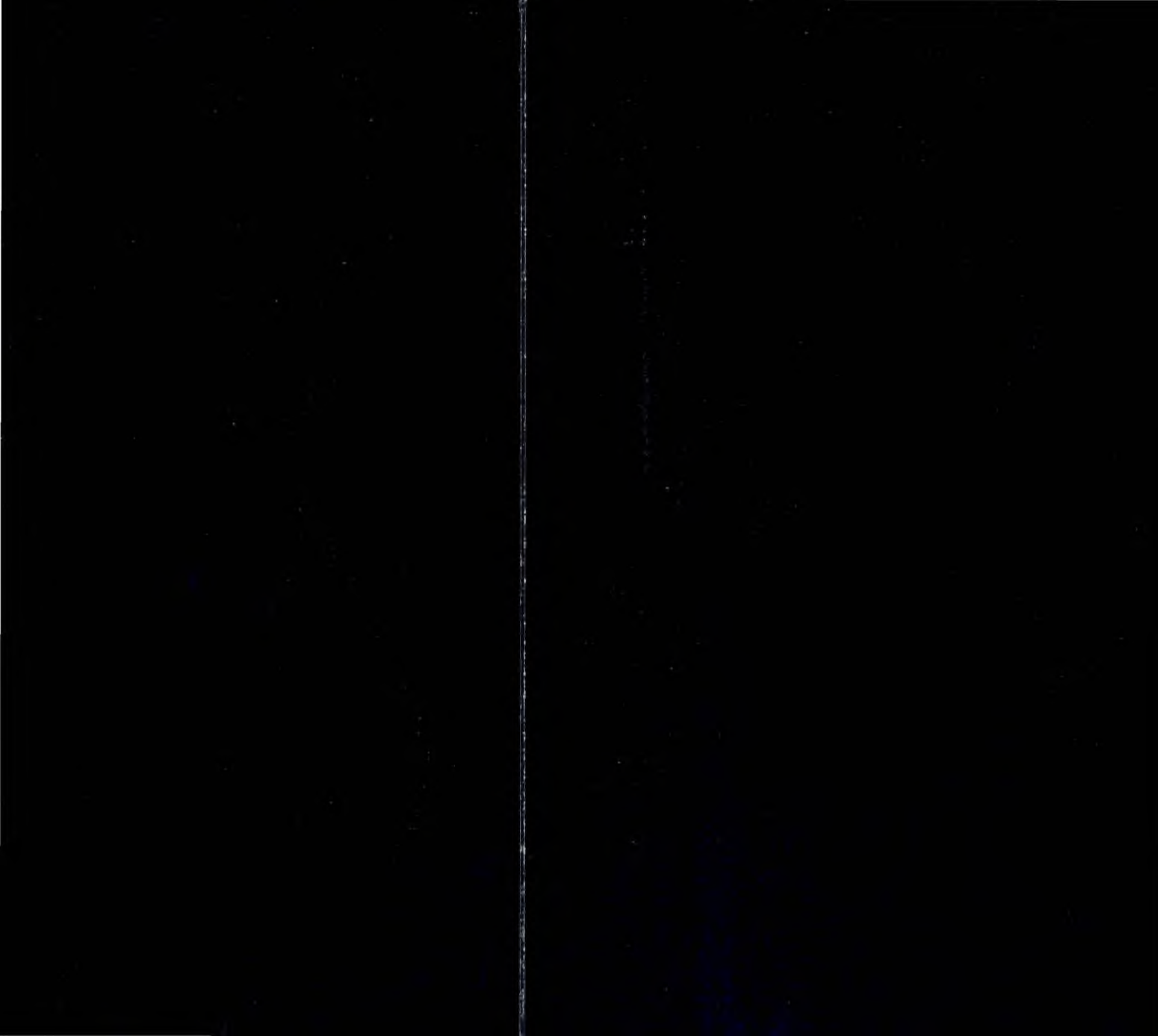


1998



Catalogue of Winners

## Contents

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## Design Citations for Canadian Publications of 1997

For this, the Society's sixteenth annual presentation of design awards, the undersigned panel of three judges spent April 25, 1998 examining a record 347 books published in Canada during 1997, each entered into competition by its Canadian publisher or designer. Producers (platemakers, printers, binders, etc.) are not necessarily Canadian: economic, and formerly also technical, reasons have always taken some production elsewhere. Not every eligible organization submits work to this competition, although each January, the Society makes every effort to locate and notify every Canadian publisher and graphic arts firm known to take book work. Still, those submitted are representative of the quality now expected in the Canadian book industries.

## Design Citations for Canadian Publications of 1997

In judging the merits of a group of well-designed books it is very difficult not to start reading them, because the point in designing books, after all, is first, to make them attractive and then to make them eminently readable. This year's collection of entries was no exception, but the judges managed, with great discipline, to get through the task in the allotted time.

The 1997 submissions fell into the following categories:

- 58 Prose fiction
- 111 Prose Non-fiction
- 34 Pictorial
- 60 Poetry
- 24 Text and Reference
- 50 Children's
- 10 Limited Editions

The Alcuin Citations

1998

The Award Winners

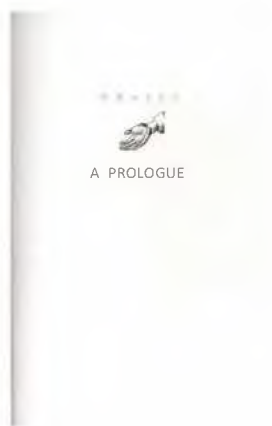
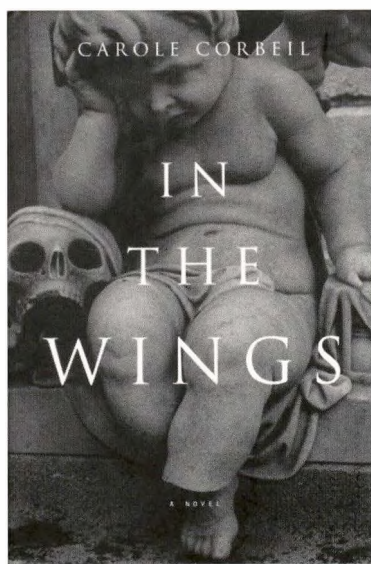
## Prose Fiction

Fiction is easier to judge because most books follow the same format. This year, however, there were few real award winners because to the judge's eyes the entries were so undistinguished. Primarily one looks at the title page, chapter openings, running heads, text face, margins and paper stock. The few that satisfied basic requirements received a third and honourable mentions, but none stood out. One problem that causes such a lack of distinction is that publishers lavish great effort on striking bookjackets that will look good in the bookstore. And who can blame them, but oftentimes the jackets aren't even designed by the book designer. Title page design was virtually non-existent, except in the third place winner and in the honourable mentions.

First Prize: no award

Second Prize: no award





Third Prize

*In the Wings: A Novel* [by] Carole Corbeil.

Toronto: Stoddart. 280 pp.

ISBN 0-7737-3041-9 [hbk]

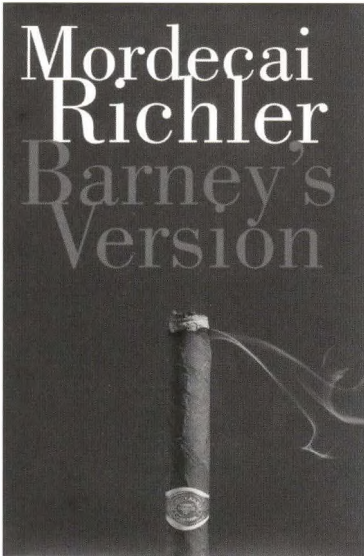
Designer: Bill Douglas@The Bang

Typographer: Kinetics Design & Illustration

Printer: Friesens

A good serviceable book, but the text pages are terribly grey  
-whatever happened to black ink?

# Prose Fiction



## Honourable Mention

*Barney's Version* [by] Mordecai Richler;  
with footnotes and an afterword by  
Michael Panofsky.

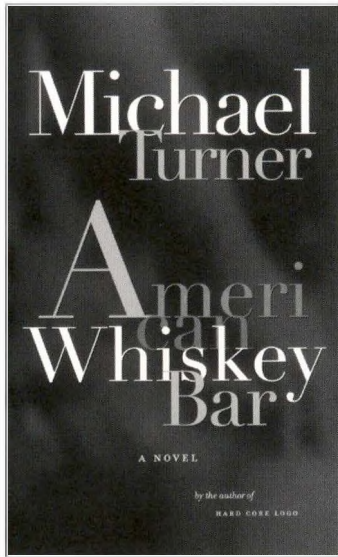
Toronto: Knopf. 417 pp.

ISBN 0-676-97078-8 [hbk]

Designer: Spencer Francey Peters

Printed in U.S.A., cover: Quebecor

The jacket is best, but we were judging the book design, which has nice chapter openings, nice offwhite book paper, and nice readable type.



Honourable Mention

*American Whiskey Bar: A Novel* [by]  
Michael Turner.  
Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp Press. ix, 182 pp.  
ISBN 1-55152-048-6 [pbk]  
Designer: cardigan.com  
Printer: Webcom

A great cover and a great title page of imaginative typography.

## Prose Non-fiction

Non-fiction books presented more variety and much better typography and design than fiction titles. The winners in this category represent better standards of bookmaking. One particularly, on chickens if you can believe it, is outstanding.

MICHAEL KLUCKNER

# The Pullet Surprise

*A Year on an Urban Farm*



First Prize

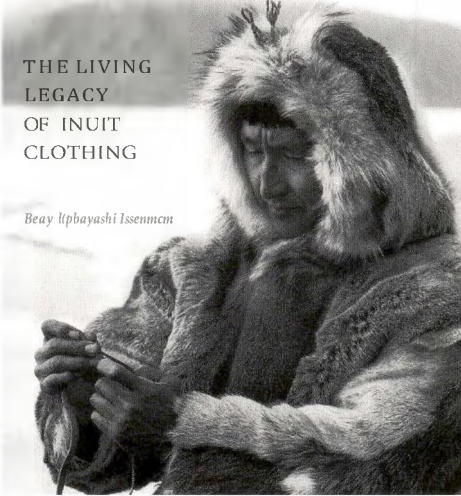
*The Pullet Surprise: A Year on an Urban Farm*;  
text and watercolours by Michael Kluckner.  
Vancouver: Raincoast Books. 132 pp.  
ISBN 1-55192-109-X [hbk]  
Designer: Dean Allen  
Printed in Hong Kong

An utterly charming book of the sort one buys just to have it, whether one reads it or not. Generous, classic margins and the flowing integration of the colour illustrations are superb. The Hong Kong printer found some creamy off-white paper to print the book on, which it needed. But the show-through from one side of the page to the other is unfortunate.

# SINEWS OF SURVIVAL

THE LIVING  
LEGACY  
OF INUIT  
CLOTHING

*Betty Kobayashi Isssenman*



Second Prize

*Sinews of Survival: The Living Legacy of Inuit Clothing* [by] Betty Kobayashi Isssenman.

Vancouver: UBC Press in association with Etudes/Inuit/Studies. xiv, 274 pp.

ISBN 0-7748-0596-X [hbk]

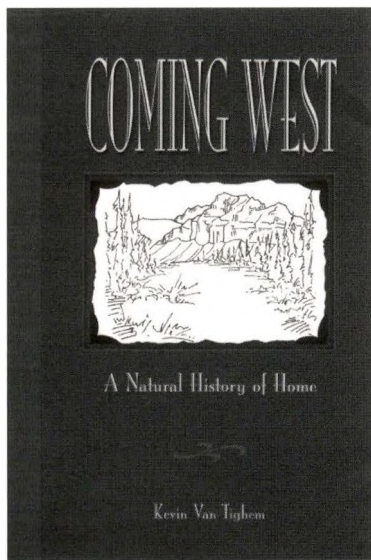
ISBN 0-7748-0599-4 [pbk]

Designer: George Vaitkunas

Printer: Friesens

Black and white photographs excellently printed and imaginative layout that combines detailed drawings with old and new photos reveal the amazing artistry of Inuit clothing.

## Prose Non-fiction



Third Prize

*Coming West: A Natural History of Home*

[by] Kevin Van Tighem;

preface by Peter Christensen;

drawings by Stephen Hutchings.

Can more: Altitude Publishing Canada. 243 pp.

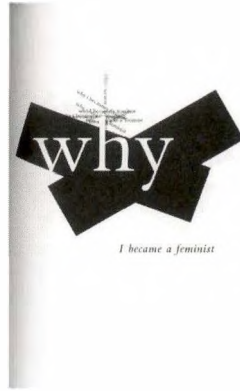
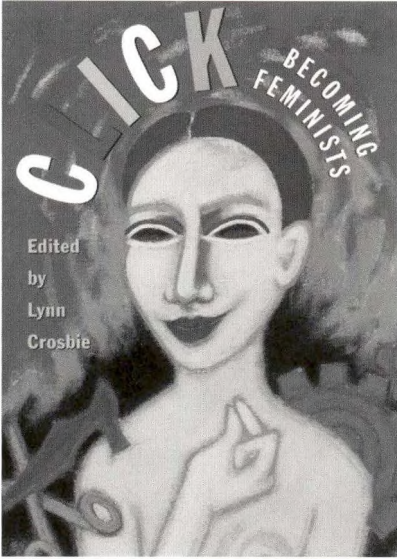
ISBN 1-55153-911-X [pbk]

Designer: Kelly Stauffer

Printer: Friesens

A typographically well-integrated book, from cover, to title page, to part division pages, to text pages with their nice wide margins. This quietly attractive book shows what publishers can do when they are serious about turning out well-designed books.

# Prose Non-fiction



Honourable Mention

*Click: Becoming Feminists*; edited by Lynn Crosbie.

Toronto: Macfarlane Walter & Ross. [226] pp.

ISBN 1-55199-004-0 [pbk]

Designer: Gordon Robertson

Printer: Transcontinental

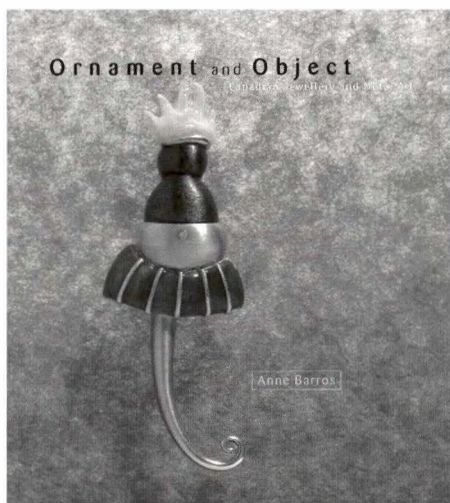
A browser's delight, due entirely to the virtuoso skills of the designer.



## Pictorial

An abundance of beautiful books in this category, well-designed and superbly printed, made choices most difficult. The judges therefore had to single out those special qualities the award winners had over the other books, and the comments on each book should give an indication of the judge's thinking.

# Pictorial



First Prize

*Ornament and Object: Canadian Jewellery and Meta/Art, 1946-1996* [by] Anne Barros.

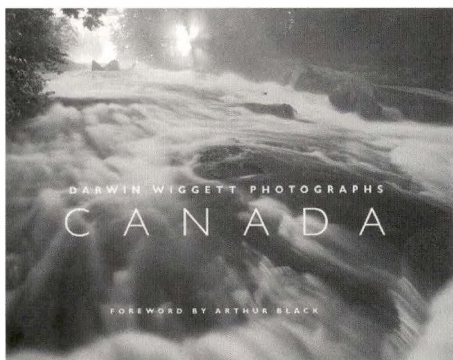
Erin: Boston Mills Press. 143 pp.

ISBN 1-55046-218-0 [hbk]

Designer: Adams+ Associates

Printer: Friesens

Excellent layout holds together this book of many large and small, black and white and colour photographs, and integrates them well with the captions and text. The only jarring note is the lime-green endpapers.



#### Second Prize

*Darwin Wiggett Photographs Canada.*

Vancouver: Whitecap Books. 127 pp.

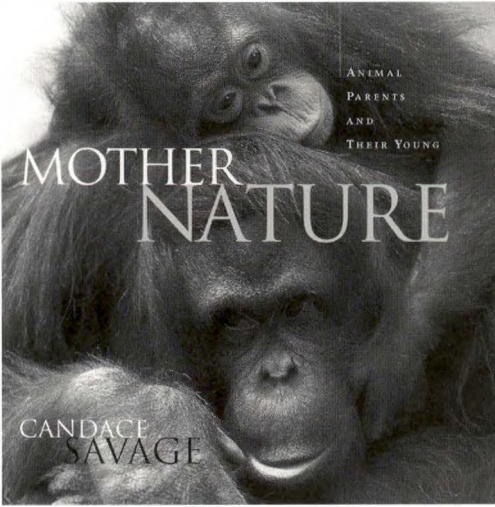
ISBN 1-55110-621-3 [hbk]

Designer: Carbon Media

Printer: Friesens

Canada at its best- gorgeous photographs superbly printed (in Canada) with substantial captions accompanying each photograph. The designer wasn't tempted to include a lot of small detailed photographs, keeping the layout simple and majestic.

# Pictorial



Third Prize

*Mother Nature: Animal Parents and Their Young*

[by] Candace Savage.

Vancouver: Greystone Books;

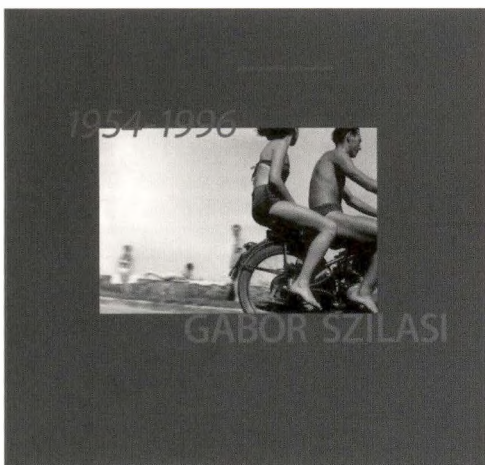
Douglas & McIntyre. ix, 118 pp.

ISBN 1-55054-546-9 [hbk]

Designer: DesignGeist.

Printer: C.S. Graphics, Singapore

Great colour separations of a stunning collection of wildlife photographs are handled simply to show off the power of each photo. The accompanying captions, chapter openings, and text pages meld beautifully.



Honourable Mention

*Gabor Szilasi, Photographies/Photographs  
1954-1996; texte par/ text by David Harris.*  
Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University  
Press for Vox Populi, Montreal. 141 pp.  
ISBN 0-7735-1728-6 [pbk]  
Designer: Fran ois Blais  
Printer: Litho Acme

Beautifully printed black and white and colour photographs with good division pages. The captions could, however, be at least two points larger for serious readers.

## Poetry

There were three poetry books that stood out from the rest quite strikingly, and the judge's comments on each one give an idea why. The rest deserve comment, however, because of the unimaginative treatment they received. Surely different poets and even different poems do not fit the same dull, endlessly repeated mould that was generally followed. It makes one long for the halcyon days of the 1950s and 1960s, when the trade publishers were selling poetry books like crazy, all designed by Canada's great crop of book designers—Paul Arthur, Frank Newfeld, Bill Toye, Sam Smart, Tak Tanabe, and others. One Canadian book even made it to the Fifty Books-of-the-Year in New York.

t h e

S O f t

I l i s e

s i g n a t u r e

d o w n e



First Prize

*The Soft Signature* [by] Lise Downe.

Toronto: ECW Press. 96 pp.

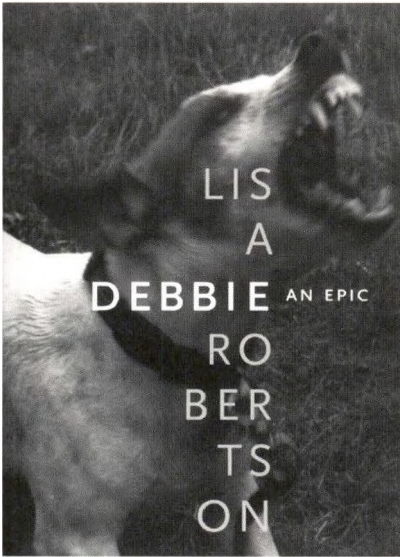
ISBN 1-55022-314-3 [pbk]

Designer: Gordon Robertson

Printer: Coach House Printing

The restrained typography in classic Bembo type printed on creamy laid paper constitutes the best in trade bookmaking. The cover's quiet elegance and inspired typography literally demand that you pick the book up.

# Poetry



THERE MOVE DIVERSE  
MISSHAPEN GIRLS  
THAT FOREDOOM A  
DECISIVE CHANGE IN  
THE PERILS OF  
GROOMING: THEY WILL  
WAVE THE SAFFRAN  
TERRACOTTA TURTLE  
SHEETS  
IN THE MOUTH THE  
PROSERVATION OF  
DELIGHT'S REALM IS IN  
ITSELF FATED: AWAKE  
ANY THAT SH ELL OUT  
TO THAT RUINOUS  
BITCH RUMOUR.

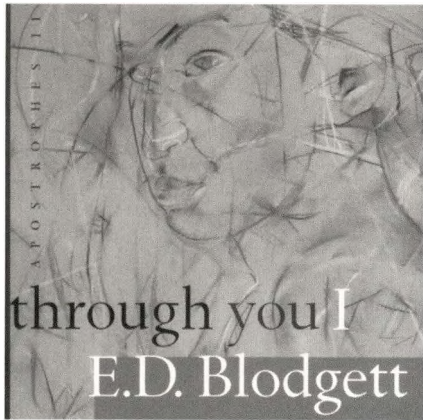


## Second Prize

*Debbie: An Epic* [by] Lisa Robertson.  
Vancouver: New Star Books. 96pp.  
ISBN 0-921586-61-2 (pbk)  
Designer: cardigan.com  
Printer: Hignell Printing

A celebration of typographic virtuosity that was obviously a labour of love on the part of the designer. Each poem received individual attention, rather than being stamped out on an assembly line.





Awake

The voice. The voice raised over water, golden as the light. Beyond  
 the shores, the light, the light, the light, the light, the light.  
 To come, to the light, to the light, to the light, to the light.  
 The light, the light, the light, the light, the light, the light.  
 To come, to the light, to the light, to the light, to the light.  
 The light, the light, the light, the light, the light, the light.

And the light, the light, the light, the light, the light, the light.  
 The light, the light, the light, the light, the light, the light.  
 To come, to the light, to the light, to the light, to the light.  
 The light, the light, the light, the light, the light, the light.

(uri-ir)

Third Prize

*Apostrophes II: Through You, I*

[by] E.D. Blodgett.

Edmonton: University of Alberta Press. 74pp.

ISBN 0-88864-304-7 [pbk]

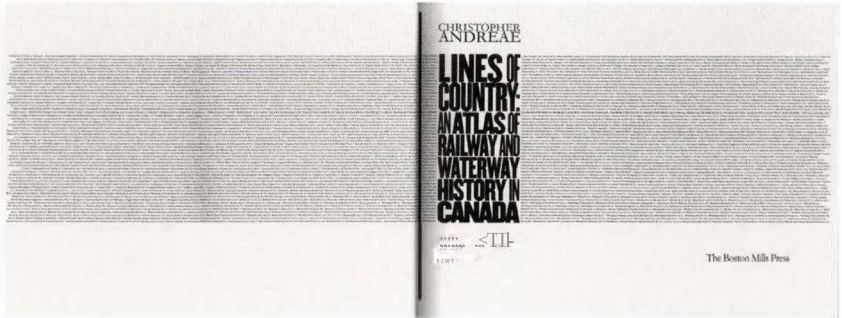
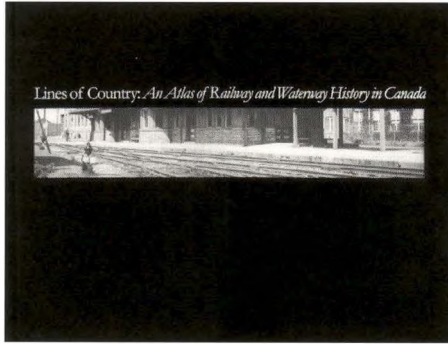
Designer: Alan Brownhoff

Printer: Friesens

A beautifully conceived book of poetry where imaginatively handled titles to each poem give the book its unique character.

## Text and Reference

An interesting lot of books because they cover such a wide range of subjects and book design problems. Text books alone range from grade one primers to complex college texts of the kind that won an award this year. The range of reference books is also vast, and the judges had this year a representative sampling of this great variety, from a guide to the universe down to a typographical gem on the subject of vultures. One of the most stunning award-winners appeared in this category-an atlas on railways and waterways in Canada.



First Prize

*Lines of Country: An Atlas of Railway and  
Waterway History in Canada*

[by] Christopher Andreae;  
cartography, Geoffrey Matthews.

Erin: Boston Mills Press. ix, 227 pp.

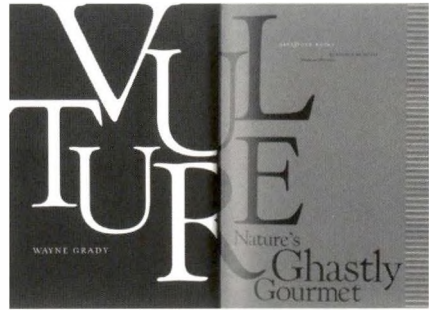
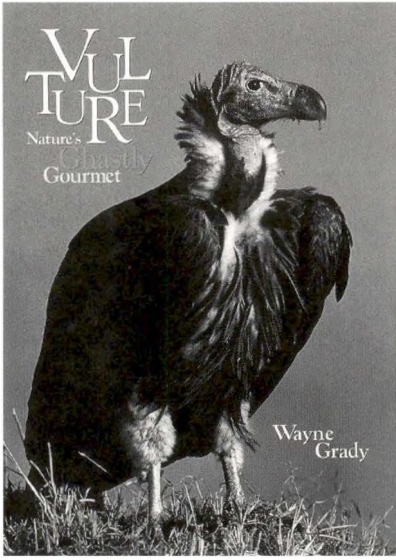
ISBN 1-55046-133-8 (hbk)

Designer: Mark Fram.

Printed in Hong Kong for Book Art Inc., Toronto

The striking title page is only a prelude to this tour de force of the book designer's art. And art it surely is when you see completely harmonious integration of a wealth of maps, photographs, drawings, captions, and text in this complex book. Incredible!

## Text and Reference



Second Prize

*Vulture: Nature's Ghastly Gourmet*

[by] Wayne Grady.

Vancouver: Greystone Books,  
Douglas & McIntyre. xi, 110 pp.

ISBN 1-55054-545-0 [hbk]

Designer: Tom Brown

Printing: C&C Offset, Hong Kong

An exotic exercise in typographical originality that never flags throughout the entire book. Even if the vultures aren't attractive, the typography certainly is.

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THE UNIQUE GUIDEBOOK  
TO MONTREAL'S HIDDEN  
SITES, SOUNDS, & TASTES

tr.:J

by TOD HOFFMAN



Third Prize

*Secret Montreal: The Unique Guidebook to  
Montreal's Hidden Sites, Sounds, & Tastes*

[by] Tod Hoffman; with photographs  
by Linda Rutenberg.

Toronto: ECW Press. 159 pp.

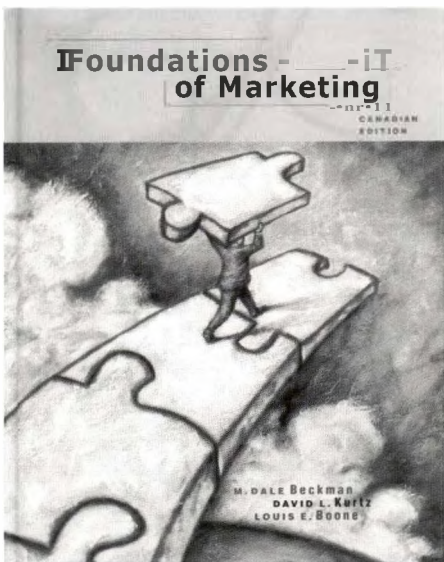
ISBN 1-55022-311-9 [pbk]

Designer: Paul Davies

Printer: Imprimerie Interglobe

A uniquely designed, readable little guide book that works beautifully in its own tasteful way- a pure piece of typography. The clever use of "off-the-wall" coloured photographs fits in perfectly with the book's mood.

# Text and Reference



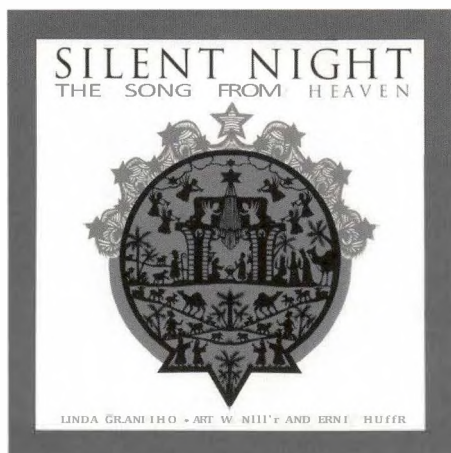
Honourable Mention

*Foundations of Marketing* [by] M Dale Beckman, David L. Kurtz, Louis E. Boone. 6th Canadian edition. Toronto: Harcourt Brace. xviii, 489 pp. ISBN 0-03-923107-0 [hbk] Designer: Opus House Printer: Metro pole Li tho

A text book, pure and simple, but those qualities are not easily obtained. The designer worked a miracle by integrating the disparate parts into a harmonious whole. The tint colours used throughout are especially fine.

## Children's

There were a number of very pleasant books in this category, and the publishers should be complimented on the high standards that prevail in the field of children's book publishing. A few books did stand out over all of the others, however, and these are the award winners.

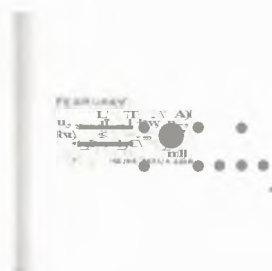
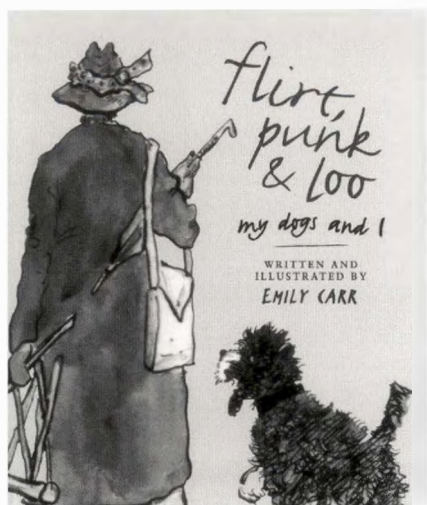


## First Prize

*Silent Night: The Song from Heaven* [by]  
Linda Granfield; art by Nelly and Ernst Hofer.  
Toronto: Tundra Books. [24] pp.  
ISBN 0-88776-395-2 [hbk]  
Designer: Brian Bean  
Printer: Friesens

This book leapt off the table into the hearts of all of the judges. A thing of beauty is a joy forever, and so this book will be. Printing the book in Canada allowed the designer to use a creamy white paper, which enhances the book's appeal no end.





## Second Prize

*Flirt, Punk & Loo My Dogs and I*, written and illustrated by Emily Carr.

Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre. 89 pp.

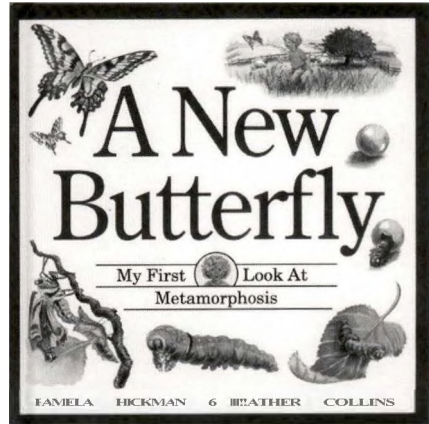
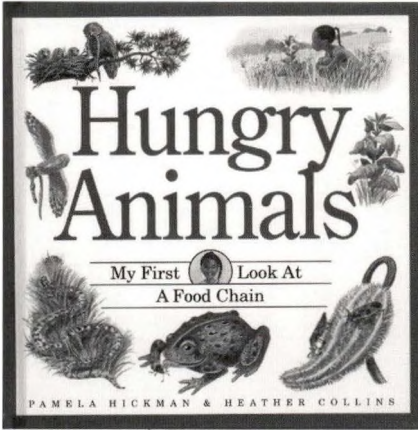
ISBN 1-55054-598-1 (hbk)

Designer: Rose Cowles

Printer: Friesens

A charming little book with the most original handling of chapter openings the judges have seen in a long time. Again, off-white paper adds to the atmosphere of the book.

## Children's



Third Prize

Tie for three volumes in a series

*Hungry Animals: My First Look at a Food Chain*,  
written by Pamela Hickman;  
illustrated by Heather Collins.

Toronto: Kids Can Press. 16 pp., most folded.

ISBN 1-55074-204-3 [hbk]

Designer: Blair Kerrigan/Glyphics

Printer: Wing King Tong, Hong Kong

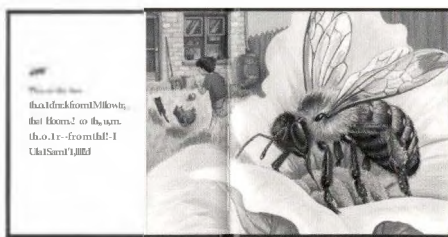
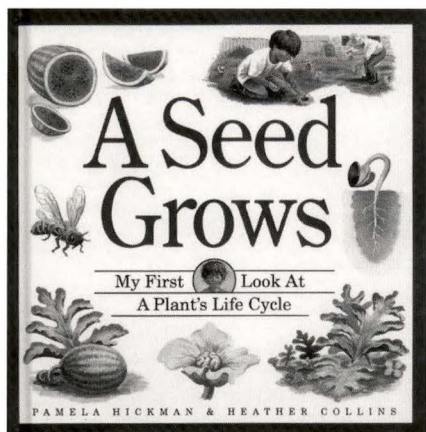
*A New Butterfly: My First Look at  
Metamorphosis*, written by Pamela Hickman;  
illustrated by Heather Collins.

Toronto: Kids Can Press. 16 pp., most folded.

ISBN 1-55074-202-7 [hbk]

Designer: Blair Kerrigan/Glyphics

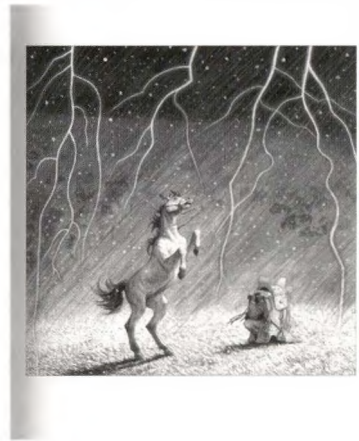
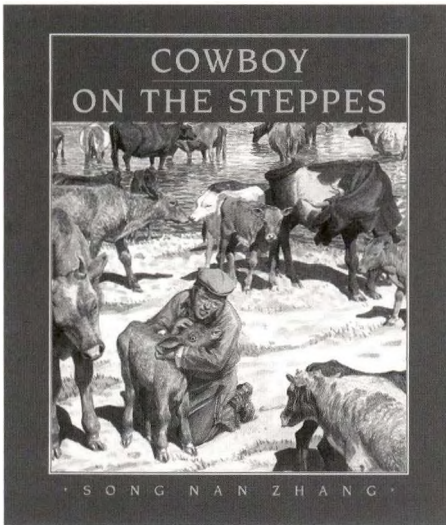
Printer: Wing King Tong, Hong Kong



*A Seed Grows: My First Look at a Plant's Life Cycle*, written by Pamela Hickman; illustrated by Heather Collins.  
 Toronto: Kids Can Press. 16 pp., most folded.  
 ISBN 1-55074-200-0 [hbk]  
 Designer: Blair Kerrigan/Glyphics  
 Printer: Wing King Tong, Hong Kong

A delightful trio of little books with a very clever integration of text and illustrations into a foldout for every spread. The concept works perfectly and the judge's congratulations go to the publisher for going along with the designer's novel idea.

# Children's



Honourable Mention

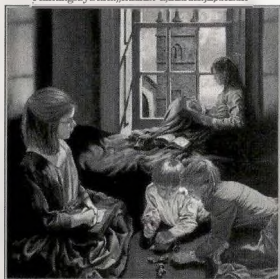
*Cowboy on the Steppes* [by] Song Nan Zhang.  
Toronto: Tundra Books. 32pp.  
ISBN 0-88776-410-X [hbk]  
Designer: K.T. Njo  
Printer: Friesens

A good interplay between excellent large illustrations and small details that give real life to the pages.

# GLASS TOWN

by Michael Bedard

Paintings by Laura Fernandez and Rick Jacobson



The Secret World of the Brontë Children



Honourable Mention

*Glass Town*, [by] Michael Bedard; paintings by Laura Fernandez and Rick Jacobson.

Toronto: Stoddart. 38 pp.

ISBN 0-7737-2997-6 [hbk]

Designer: Andrew Smith

Printed in Hong Kong

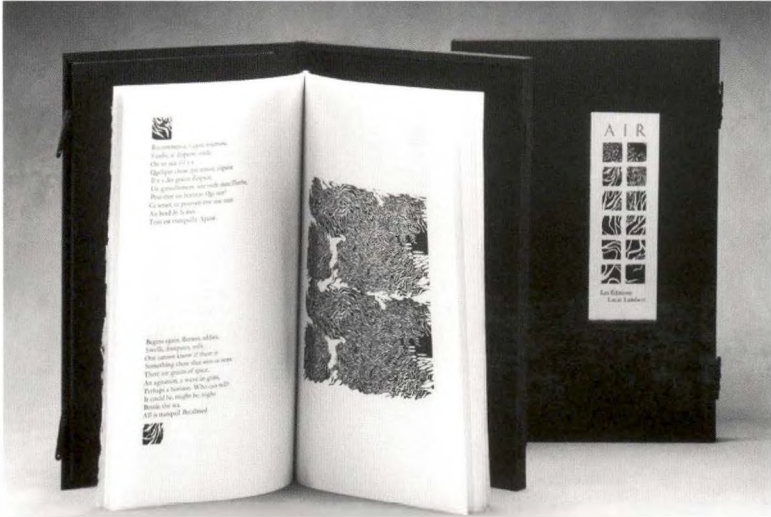
The beautiful full-page illustrations here are intermingled with black and white details to enliven the pages, and the coloured endpapers added their touch as well.

## Limited Editions

Limited editions are, of course, the most exciting books to judge. Here we have a celebration of the book in all its aspects, by true lovers of beautiful books—classic type faces, gorgeous paper, flawless presswork, sturdy bindings of the most sensual leathers, textured linens, and decorative papers. This year's entries did not disappoint the expectations of the judges, and it was a joy to look upon them and to handle them.



# Limited Editions

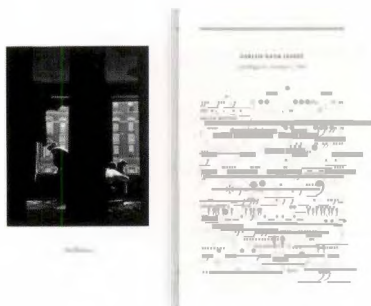
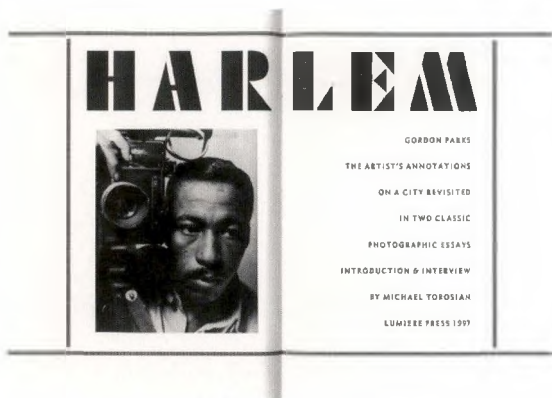


## Second Prize

*Air, poemes/poems*, Robert Melan on;  
traduction/translation, Philip Stratford;  
bois de filjwoocuts, Lucie Lambert.  
Vancouver: Les Editions Lucie Lambert.  
9 woodcuts/9 poems.  
ISBN 2-980249-9-7 [boxed] 35 copies.  
Designer: Lucie Lambert  
Printer: Barbarian Press

La grande conception of the artist/designer was carried out to perfection by both the printer and the binder. A true edition deluxe.





Third Prize

*Harlem* [by] Gordon Parks: The Artist's Annotations on a City, Revisited in Two Classic Photographic Essays; introduction and interview by Michael Torosian. (Homage, vol. 8). Toronto: Lumiere Press. 49 pp. ISBN 0-921542-10-0 [hbk] 200 copies. Designer: Michael Torosian Printer: Lumiere Press

The fine letterpress printing, the superb photographic reproduction, the unpretentious but charming binding, and the substantial content make this book an all-around gem.

## Concluding Comments

The Society's requests for submissions to this competition go to every known Canadian publisher and as many designers and design companies as are known to its Awards Committee to work on books. In January 1998, the Committee sent out approximately 450 notices of this competition. We were delighted to receive some 347 submissions, a substantial increase from the 250 submissions in 1997. The judges would always like to see more submissions; some fine Canadian design is surely being missed in these awards.

Judging any artistic endeavour involves the discussion of objective evidences as seen by each judge from a

subjective point of view. Instant unanimity that a particular prize should be awarded to a particular book does occur, but it is not typical of the day's discussions. No single judge among us would, independently, have arrived at all and only the above list of awards.

This list is the result of com promises of initial reactions with reflective assessment of those reactions during discussion. Robert Reid trusts that in this report, his compilation of hours of the comments of his fellow judges, constitutes a balanced summary of their views as well as his own.

#### Judges

Roberto A. Dosil  
Praxis Design,  
Vancouver

Dennis Nagy  
Studio Allsorts,  
Vancouver

Robert R. Reid  
Retired Book Designer  
Vancouver

Bibliographic data  
supplied by  
Dr. Ronald Hagler.

Comments supplied  
by Robert R. Reid  
for the judges.

## The Alcuin Society

The Alcuin Society was founded in 1965 by G.A. Spencer for booklovers world-wide to promote a wider appreciation of what goes into finely-wrought books. 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 too, which he rescued from the proliferation of bastard styles of the period. As, in effect, Charlemagne's "Minister of Culture", Alcuin selected the most pleasing and certainly the most legible script of his day, and gave it official blessing. Known as the "Caroline Minuscule", it ultimately led to our modern lower-case alphabet.

To further its aims, The Alcuin Society engages in a wide range of activities, many in collaboration with the Canadian Centre for Studies in Publishing at Simon Fraser University: lectures, workshops, exhibitions, and competitions. Annual design awards are made by a panel of judges for the best in Canadian book design. *Amphora*, the Society's quarterly journal, covers a wide range of topics related to the book arts: collecting, typography, type design, type-setting, calligraphy, paper-making, ornamentation, illustration, printing and binding.

# The Alcuin Society

Honorary  
past chairs

G.A. Spencer  
Bryan Peet  
Peter Quartermain  
Gwen Murray  
Allen Segal  
Ron McAmmond  
M.S. Batts  
Madeline Williams  
Neil Brearley  
Don Atkins  
Anne Tayler  
Richard Hopkins

Directors whose  
term of office  
expires in:

2001  
John King  
Geoff Spencer  
Don Polak  
2000  
Stuart Isto  
Ann Cowan  
Frances Woodward  
Sylvia Smallman  
1999  
Mary Conibear  
Richard Hopkins  
Jim Rainer  
Brenda Peterson

Membership in the  
Society has the  
following categories:

Individual  
\$40.00 per year  
Corporate  
\$40.00 per year  
Patron  
\$100.00 per year  
Student  
\$20.00 per year  
three years maximum

