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2001 Southern Books Competition

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2001 Southern Books Competition

The competition represents the Southeastern Library Association's commitment to the printed book as a vital part of library service. Awards are made on the basis of design, typography, and quality of production. Judges are knowledgeable book people associated with book design, printing, bookselling, publishing, and librarianship. For more information go to the Committee's web page - <http://sela.lib.ucf.edu/sbooks.html>

SELA's Southern Books Competition committee winners of the Competition for 2001, are as follows:

Overall Excellence

Small Deaths by Kate Breakey, University of Texas Press; Designer: D.J. Stout & Julie Savaska, Pentagram Design

Truly enchanting, this is a wonderful example of how valuable intellectual content is enhanced and enriched by thoughtful book design. From the breathtaking front and back covers to the informative colophon at the end, this is an exceptional book. Color continuity from jacket to the text pages rewards the reader and enhances legibility. The dramatic frontispiece dazzles, and the title page is clear and elegant. Section openings mirror the title page opening. Plates and captions combine in bright, clean two-page spreads that inform and reward the viewer.

Award of Excellence

Designer: Ellen McKie, University of Texas Press

Three books rose to this category. Each was designed by Ellen McKie of the University of Texas Press. Each book looks and feels completely different from the next, and is a testament to the vision and creativity of the designer. In How to Grow Native Plants of Texas and the Southwest, lovely green cloth binding opens to stunning title page typography that sits upon faint leaves. The typographic design is classic without being boring. Details,

like the screened-back ornaments on the Contents page speak to the refinement of the design. The austere black and white Contemporary Ranches of Texas with its barbed-wire rule and powerfully understated photographs captures the essence of Texas. You could not find a lovelier title page spread than that in Of Birds and Texas. The sensitive calligraphy and the well-designed two-column text pages support the stunning bird prints. Kudos to this imaginative book designer whose efforts are supported and encouraged by the University of Texas Press.

Award of Merit

Ghost Dogs of the South by Randy Russell & Janet Barnett, John F. Blair, Publisher. Book jacket designer: Debra Long Hampton

Ghost Dogs of the South presents itself to us through an evocative hand-colored photograph of a boy and his dog in times of old. And it just gets better. Wonderful photographs in interesting faded-edge shapes change from chapter to chapter. The book is hand-sized, almost a prayer-book testimonial to the dogs in our lives. The designer has created a book begging to be read.

Honorable Mention

Alabama Architecture: Looking at Building and Place by Alice Meriwether Bowsher with photographs by M. Lewis Kennedy, Jr., University of Alabama Press; Designer: Robin McDonald

A dramatic front cover, a striking half title page and a bright, cheerful title quickly tell the reader that is a special book. Architecture needs to be seen to be appreciated, and this book does that very well. Photographs are most effectively presented, and the images are exceptional. Quite readable captions guide and inform. Chapter openings dazzle and invite the reader to turn the pages.

The Face of Tibet by William R. Chapman, University of Georgia Press; Designer: Erin Kirk New

An unusually effective travel album beacons the reader with a truly dramatic dust jacket. Exceptional end papers charm and lead the reader forward. Color and theme continue from the clear, attractive dedication page. Bright, energetic color images engage the reader in a simple, easily viewed format.

Mexican Suite: a History of Photography in Mexico by Olivier Debrouse, University of Texas Press. Translated and revised in collaboration with the author by Stella De Sa Rego. Designer: Jose Clemente Orozco Farias.

One of the challenges of book design is to thoughtfully create a readable and engaging package for outstanding intellectual content. Jose Orozco Farias has done an exemplary job here and deserves warm praise. Color continuity from jacket through title page to chapter openings is exceptional. The table of contents is clear, simple and easy to use. Chapter openings are beautiful. Images are thoughtfully and effectively arranged. The text is extremely readable with thoughtful use of white space.

Special Recognition for Book Covers

Dust jacket design

Myrna Baez: Una Artista Ante Su Espejo = An Artist and Her Mirrors, edited by Margarita Fernandez Zavala, Universidad del Sagrado Corazon; Designers: Lydimarie Aponte and Mara A. Robledo

The vibrant colors grab your attention and hold it while your eyes travel across the pictorial and typographical elements that are "mirrored" on the front and back portions of the jacket. The result is truly striking.

Laminated hardcover design

Meet Me at the Garden Gate by the Junior League of Spartanburg, Favorite Recipes Press. Book design: Starletta Polster. Art by Melissa Strickland Sullivan.

A first look at this cookbook conveys a spirit of anticipated enjoyment -- to be fulfilled when the fruits of the recipes are sampled. The spring colors attract the eye, and the illustration beautifully reflects the garden theme.

Paperback cover design

Habeas Circus: Illegal Humor by Alan Gerson, NewSouth Books; Designer: Dana Bartelt

Elements of playfulness and anger combine to produce a striking result. The concept of treating a serious topic with humor is effectively conveyed.

Ancient Egyptian Literature: an Anthology translated by John L. Foster, University of Texas Press; Book jacket designer: Heidi Haeuser. Cover art: Lyla Pinch Brock

The photographic, typographic, and color elements work together in a clean and pleasant way to produce a most attractive package.