

WAYZGOOSE

*Third Alcuin Wayzgoose draws
new presses and visitors*

The third biannual Alcuin Society Wayzgoose attracted over 400 members of the public to the main branch of the Vancouver Public Library last November 17 (the day following Reidfest). More than 20 presses and book artists from British Columbia—many participating in the Wayzgoose for the first time—displayed a wide variety of letterpress-printed books. Several of the most recently published ones (not mentioned in last issue's preview of the event) are featured below.

ALCUIN FAVOURITE Jim Rimmer had on hand a new broadside announcing the pending publication of his long-awaited edition of *Tom Sawyer*. This will surely prove to be the cornerstone of any PIE TREE PRESS collection: the folio-sized book will run to more than 200 pages. The entire text has been set in the Hannibal type that Jim created specially for this project and is undergoing an extensive proofreading process. Printing the text and numerous multicolour linocuts will take up the first few months of 2008, then Jim will bind the edition of 100 copies uniformly in quarter leather with printed paper sides of his design. The book, priced at \$1,000, is slated for publication this summer. Collectors interested in reserving a copy can contact Rimmer at rimmertype@shaw.ca.



A FEW early copies of the debut publication from Jarrett Morrison's BOWLER PRESS (www.thebowlerpress.ca) were on display at the Wayzgoose. Titled "Chesterton Cheese," it's a broadside featuring an original wood engraving by Morrison and brief text set

in Cheltenham bold extra condensed. Printed on Arches Cover in an edition of 32 signed and numbered copies, it's priced at \$35 (8 by 11 inches, issued in paper envelope).



ALEX WIDEN, who relocated (with all his printing equipment) from Vancouver to Clinton, B.C., last year, made the trek into town to display his latest publication. Marking the 250th anniversary of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's birth, the book reprints a letter written in 1765 by the Honourable Daines Barrington, a British jurist, introducing the English-speaking world to the young musical prodigy. Widen's book reproduces the long-forgotten 1771 publication of the letter in the Royal Society's journal (complete with original spellings and typography). The book (which actually appears under the Turtle Press imprint) was set in Caslon and printed letterpress on Somerset paper. It was hand bound (16mo, 14 pp.) by Widen in quarter leather with silk-covered boards and is priced at \$150. More information can be had from Widen, alden@bcwireless.com.

A FLORIATED ALPHABET is the debut publication from STRATHCONA PRESS partners Jennifer Van de Pol and Adrian Robertshaw, printed on a Vandercook with type previously owned by Victoria book designer Bev Leech (former student of Robert Reid). The book (8½ by 5½ inches, 17 pp., printed rectos only, sewn into printed wrap of Reg Lissel's handmade paper) reproduces the alphabet in 72-point Goudy Initials. The edition was limited to 26 copies, each identified by a letter (A–Z) in 36-point Goudy Initials on the colophon. The first eight copies (A–H) had the alphabet

fully painted in a variety of palettes by Van de Pol. These, priced at \$100, were snapped up during the first few hours of the Wayzgoose. Regular copies were priced at \$50, and few remained by the end of the day. Cagey collectors walked their copy over to Reid's table and had him sign it.



IN HER ongoing efforts to confound collectors and cataloguers, BARBARA HODGSON included in her Wayzgoose display a diminutive companion to her latest limited edition, *The Temperamental Rose* (octavo, 40 pp., leather spine and onlays, 19th-century paper over boards, edition of 30 copies). That book—a collaboration with binder CLAUDIA COHEN—features 15 colour wheels and charts drawn from or based on various literary sources, all coloured and embellished by hand. The miniature version is one of three exact replicas of *TTR*, digitally printed from her layouts and fully embellished just like the editioned copies. The idea was sparked by *TTR*'s publisher's request to keep the grungy miniature Hodgson made up for the book's printer as an imposition reference. Although none of the miniatures are for sale, there was lively speculation about whether one might fetch a price higher even than the full-sized original!



THE WAYZGOOSE organizers were particularly pleased to have Emily Carr students from Shin-suke Minegishi's book arts class participating and displaying a variety of interesting and innovative projects.



IN ADDITION to the presses and artists, the Wayzgoose included demonstrations of bookbinding by Alanna Simenson, creating paste papers by Reg Lissel, and suminagashi paper marbling by Candace Thayer-Coe (below).

