

Press Conference - 3rd October 1968 - The Booker Prize

Speech by Mr. Peter du Sautoy on behalf of the Publishers Association

1. Welcome those present and introduce the panel of judges.
2. Background to the Prize - why fiction - intention of Prize to change literary climate of the country to get everyone concerned with literature and reading at least one book a year - Publishers' opinion and point of view on Prize. Prime object of £5000 to give the Prize status.
3. Bookers' generosity in giving Prize.
4. Occasion of presentation of Prize - stimulation of interest in Prize by issuing of short list - presentation to be major literary occasion with possible television coverage.
5. Judges - covering wide spectrum - rota of retirement.