



Booker Prize for Fiction

Administrator:
Marilyn Edwards

File	Date
Booker Prize 1973	20/3/73
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The National Book League

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The National Book League, administrator of Britain's largest fiction prize, worth £5,000 to its winner, announces the panel of Judges for the 1973 Booker Prize. They are MARY McCARTHY, EDNA O'BRIEN and KARL MILLER, who will be Chairman of the Panel.

Biographical notes on the Judges are attached.

The format of the 1973 Booker Prize is similar to that of the previous two years in that the date of the announcement of the winner of the prize will be brought as close as is reasonably practical to the publication date of the winning novel. To achieve this publishers are invited to submit full-length novels, written in English by citizens of the Commonwealth, Eire and South Africa, with scheduled publication dates between 31 July 1973 and 23 November 1973 only. However, the judges will be entitled to call in for consideration any full-length novel conforming to the same writing criteria first published in the UK at any time during 1973. While it is hoped that the winning book will be an Autumn novel, so that, coming close to publication, the award will have greater impact, the prime consideration of the judges will, of course, remain merit.

A short list of titles will be announced in October and the announcement of the winner of the prize will be made at a dinner on 28 November. The Booker Prize for Fiction was created in October 1968 between Booker McConnell Ltd and the Publishers Association. This is the second year that the National Book League has been responsible for the administration.

Previous winners have been:

- 1969 SOMETHING TO ANSWER FOR, P. H. Newby (Faber & Faber)
- 1970 THE ELECTED MEMBER, Bernice Rubens (Eyre & Spottiswoode)
- 1971 IN A FREE STATE, V.S. Naipaul (Andre Deutsch)
- 1972 G. John Berger (Weidenfeld & Nicolson)

Further information is available from

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Mary McCarthy, novelist and critic, was born in Seattle, Washington in 1912 of mixed Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish descent. She and her three younger brothers were orphaned as young children. Since graduating at Vassar College, New York, she has been an editorial assistant in a publishing house, an editor and theatre critic, and an instructor in English at Bard College and Sarah Lawrence College. Her second husband was Edmund Wilson, the famous American critic. Mary McCarthy, who is now married to James West and has a son, lives in Paris. Her books include The Company She Keeps (1942), The Oasis (1949) awarded the Horizon Prize, Cast a Cold Eye (1950), The Groves of Academe (1952), A Charmed Life (1955), Venice Observed (1956), Sights and Spectacles 1957-1958 (1956), Memories of a Catholic Girlhood (1957), The Stones of Florence (1959), On the Contrary (1962), The Group (1963) (filmed 1966), Vietnam (1967), Hanoi (1968), The Writing on the Wall and other literary essays (1970), Birds of America (1971).

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Karl Miller was born in 1931 and educated at Edinburgh and Downing College, Cambridge. He was Assistant Principal at Her Majesty's Treasury from 1956 to 1957 and then became a BBC TV Producer for a year until 1958, when he became Literary Editor of the Spectator. He moved to the New Statesman as Literary Editor in 1961 and then took on the Editorship of the Listener in 1967, which he still maintains. His books include Poetry from Cambridge 1952-54 (ed.) (1955), Writing in England Today: the Last Fifteen Years (ed. with introduction) (1968), Memoirs of a Modern Scotland (ed.) (1970), A Listener Anthology: August 1967 to June 1970 (ed.) (1970).

Edna O'Brien was born in 1932 in the West of Ireland where she was brought up as a Catholic. After a convent education she studied pharmacy and published her first novel, The Country Girls in 1960. She lives in London with her two sons and frequently talks to sixth formers in schools 'in the hope of reviving a love of good fiction and thereby improving the state of humanity'. As well as her many novels, she wrote the screenplay for Three into Two Wont Go and her new play Faryhouse will be produced in London later this year.

Her books include 'The Country Girls (1960), The Lonely Girl (1962), which was filmed as The Girl with Green Eyes, Girls in Their Married Bliss (1964), August is a Wicked Month (1965), Casualties of Peace (1966), The Love Object (1968), A Pagan Place (1970) which won the 1970 Yorkshire Post Fiction Award of the Year, Zee and Co (1971) and Night (1972).

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