

To: M E

From: M G

Subject: Booker Prize

Date: 10 9 73

I contacted Mary Mcarthy, as you know, and confirmed the 19th for the Judges' meeting. A few days later she telephoned to say that she could no longer manage the date due to changes in the Watergate programme.

I contacted Karl Miller who could really only manage the 26th. Having secured Edna O'brien's agreement to this, I telephoned Mary Macarthy, who also agreed. I also checked that Bookers could handle you at noon on that date, and Peter confirmed that this was so.

Mary M wanted to stay at the Stafford, but despite using the influence of Collins etc, we have not been able to get a room there. We next tried Duke's, but that too is full and are now(Monday)going to try Browns. Failing this too, Peter Smith is willing to have a shot via his travel agency(Booker-owned). I have therefore written to Edna O'Brien & Karl Miller confirming new arrangements but NOT to Mary Macarthy pending being able to tell her where she is staying(Sept 25/6).

I am trying to contact Tom(Maschler)for Peter Smith re-Lord Butler, but the former has been in the Dordogne to date. I shall try again today(Monday).

Brian Alderson Exhibition

The Observer in the person of Alan Road are VERY INTERESTED. Would you please phone him as soon as possible: he wants much more detail, but I didn't want him at the early stage to see your hand-out with its reference to Brian as Childrens' Book Editor of the Times(!). Nor has money yet been discussed: I thought exciting colourful detail should come first.

I don't think there's any chance of Arts Council money - I'll explain this to you personally. This makes it absolutely essential for us to raise money elsewhere with the minimum delay.

Later - 12 9 73: Mary Macarthy now booked in at the Bristol for 25th and 26th; and have written to tell her so. She does not know venue of meeting from me(if not from you, then letter at hotel to await her is needed). Tom says he thinks he told you that Lord Butler said 'yes' (?).

*we write both meeting places for M. McCarthy*