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3rd December 1970

Miss Marilyn Edwards  
The Publishers Association  
19 Bedford Square  
London WC 1

Dear Marilyn

Herewith. And I leave it to you to circulate.

Yours

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Tom Maschler'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent vertical stroke on the left side.

enc

TM: jm

3-DEC 1970

Proposed amendments to the NEW POLICY FOR THE BOOKER PRIZE FOR FICTION

Delete in the first paragraph 'and for the ensuing years should the new plan prove successful'. Think we should take that for granted.

In para 4 I think we should say 'a short list will be announced approximately on October 1st 1971 ...'.

Para 5, insert after 'before' 'some of the books are published'.

And now to the final paragraph. I suggest something like the following:

'It is of course possible that the prizewinning novel will be a book called in under 2b, or 3b or 3c of the detailed rules attached. Whilst it is hoped that the winning book will be an autumn novel since in that event the promotional value of the Prize will be considerably enhanced, the prime consideration of the judges will of course be merit. It is naturally also hoped that the Prize will whenever possible encourage publishers to issue their leading contenders during the autumn season.'