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Booker

4 January 1973

V. S. Pritchett, Esq. C.B.E.

Dear Mr Pritchett,

I have been asked by the Organizing Committee of the Booker Prize - a £5,000 literary prize awarded annually for a novel published in the year of the award - to ask you if you would honour us by acting as Chairman of a panel of judges for the 1973 award. As your answer is all-important to us when considering the other judges we have not yet approached anyone else, but we envisage having three judges including yourself if you agree. The task of judging normally involves reading a minimum of thirty and a maximum of fifty novels and there is a fee of £250 for each judge.

The Prize, which was initiated in 1969 was awarded in the first year to P. H. Newby; in 1970 to Bernice Rubens; in 1971 to V. S. Naipaul; and in 1972 to John Berger. It is jointly sponsored by Booker-McConnell Ltd and the Publishers Association, but administered by the National Book League. I shall be delighted to give you any further information or background on the Prize.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Marilyn Edwards