

Lady Antonia Fraser

Dear Antonia,

I was delighted to hear from Mark Longman that you had accepted the role as Booker Prize judge again, and I do apologise for not writing earlier; I was waiting to see what the Panel was going to be. It is now formalized but will not be released to the Press until 8 January and is:-

John Gross (chairman)  
Saul Bellow  
Malcolm Muggeridge  
John Fowles

and, of course, your lovely self.

The system has slightly changed this year in an attempt to coincide the announcement of the Prize with Publication. Publishers will be invited to submit proof copies or advanced sewn quires of books with scheduled Publication dates between 1 September '71 and 15 November '71 only, but ~~an~~ Order that important books published earlier in the year are not overlooked the judges may ask Publishers to submit for consideration any book published at anytime during 1971.

For ease of reference I enclose the new Rules which will be sent to all Publishers and the formal description of the "New Policy".

From mid-January onwards I hope to be forwarding titles to you although I think the main bulk will come through later. As you will see from the Rules, Publishers may not submit later than July. I would be very grateful if you could send your comments to me on the books you have read, ideally as you read them. In this way a table can be kept of the "Ins" and "Outs" which usually automatically eliminate a large proportion of the books submitted.

It will probably be necessary for the judges to meet together twice, possibly in late August/early September (or a time which is mutually convenient) to break the list down to twenty or under and again in late September/early October to break it down to a short-list of six and the winner. It is hoped that the short-list will be announced at the beginning of October and the winner on 15 November.

I apologise for the length of this letter. The Publishers Association and Bookers are delighted that you have accepted. Hope you approve of the panel!

I look forward very much to seeing you again. Best wishes and a happy New Year.

Yours,

Marilyn Edwards