

21 January 1971

Tom Maschler, Esq.

Dear Tom,

Sorry to be the eternal bore, but have just had a call from Antonia Fraser. A point she raises rather strongly is that publishers should be encouraged to send in final copies of books to the judges as soon as they are ready - preferably instead of proofs if they are ready in time (I would assume that they will do this automatically) but certainly as well as: i.e. proofs must be in by 1 July or the warning of their coming, but could be followed by the finished copy when it is ready - at the beginning of September or whatever.

Her point is that proof copies can be changed. Although no publisher likes it happening an author may insist on alterations at proof stage and she feels that the judging must finally be done on the article which will ultimately reach, and be meant by the author to ultimately reach, the public.

Do you think that it is unreasonable or inadvisable to ask publishers if they will submit six finished copies of any book they submit in proof as soon as the finished copies are ready?

Yours,

I really am sorry to keep troubling you, but in this case (as in so many) you really are the only person who can reasonably say yea or nay.