

Private and Confidential

THE PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

BOOKER PRIZE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held at The Publishers Association, 19 Bedford Square, London W.C.1., on Tuesday, 10th August, 1971, at 11.30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mr. Rayner Unwin (Chairman)
Mr. Martyn Goff
Lord Hardinge
Mr. Tom Maschler
Mr. John Murphy
Mr. Michael Weekes

Miss Marilyn Edwards
Miss Elaine Purcell
Mr. Peter Smith

1. LUNCHEON FOR LITERARY EDITORS

This was considered successful. At this meeting the following points were raised:-

- (a) The Prize should be a Spring Prize rather than an Autumn Prize.
- (b) The dates of entry for books submitted by publishers should be the same as the dates of books called in by the judges.
- (c) A shorter period between the final submission date and publication date should be considered to avoid problems with proof and galley proof copies.

2. RESIGNATION OF MALCOLM MUGGERIDGE

Lord Hardinge offered to collect the books in Malcolm Muggerridge's possession.

Tom Maschler offered to write to Philip Toynbee thanking him on behalf of the Committee for accepting the position as judge.

3. PUBLICITY

It was felt that exclusive "Aquarius" TV coverage was not a good idea.

The Committee decided that the announcement of the Shortlist would be scheduled for 3rd October and the announcement of the winner for Wednesday, 10th November.

Subsequently, the decision was altered in the light of the Literary Editors opinions on the "Sunday Telegraph", the "Observer" and the "Sunday Times" who felt it was worthwhile to embargo the announcement of the winner for a Sunday, but this decision was reversed again in the light of four publishing publicity managers who felt that it would be better to get daily coverage, and that the Sunday papers need too much advance notice.

4. AWARD OF PRIZE

It was agreed that the occasion for the award should be exclusive, a maximum of 75-100 people. Nontransferable tickets and the presence of only the winning publisher were suggested as limiting factors. A dinner was decided as most appropriate with approximately eight people per table. The following were suggested:-

Cafe Royal
Cavendish
Martinez Terrace (New Zealand House)
Ritz

Peter Smith will contact the Cafe Royal about costs and the room. the Grill or Red Room (if they are different) being preferable.

The following names were suggested for a speaker:-

Rab Butler
Samuel Beckett
Isaiah Berlin
Lord David Cecil
Saul Bellow
John Mortimer
Bernard Levin
John Osborne
Harold Pinter
Roy Jenkins

Tom Maschler offered to approach John Osborne as first choice.

Rayner Unwin suggested that the speaker's speech might be reproduced in the TLS.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Payment was to be made to the judges very shortly. One return air fare will be paid to Mr. Bellow.
- (b) Martyn Goff suggested that a survey of 6 bookshops and 10 libraries be made after the announcement of the Shortlist to discover if any of these titles had been ordered as a result of the Shortlist.
- (c) The total number of titles submitted for this year's Prize is 42, of which 5 titles were called in by the judges.