

## MINUTES OF MEETING

HELD AT BOOKER plc

on May 7th 1991

Present :            Anne Riddoch                    Booker  
                   Christine Shaw                    Book Trust  
                   Angela James                    Designer Bookbinders  
                   Lisa von Clemm  
                   Gail Taylor  
                   John Gabriel

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a) the sequence of actions that will be involved in the designing and production of the bindings for the books of the six Booker Finalists by six Designer Bookbinders, and b) opportunities for Designer Bookbinders in terms of the publicity that could be obtained.

## 1      Timing

AR advised that the short list will now only be being announced on Tuesday September 24th, a week later than previously thought, as one of the judges will be away. In view of this the time available for the binders will be even less. It may, however, be possible to provide the binders with an "intelligent guess" of some three of the most likely contenders after the previous meeting on September 5th. This would be a great help as three of the binders could at least have a chance to read the books prior to the formal announcement. This information will be passed to AJ by AR.

Action - AR

## 2      Binders

The binders who will be undertaking these special bindings are, with their understudies :-

James Brockman	(Andrew Cotton)
Jeff Clements	(Katinka Keus)
Jenni Grey	(Jan Ascoli)
Angela James	(Jen Lindsay -tbc)
Lou Smith	(Margaret Chandler)
Philip Smith	(Lester Capon)

Should anything befall the nominated binder the understudy will take over. If the project is well under way the credit will remain with the original binder, however if the understudy takes over before the design is complete then the understudy will get the credit.

Designer Bookbinders are responsible for ensuring that the bindings are completed on time, up to standard and that they reach the Guildhall in good time.

Action - DB

### 3 Dinner

The awards dinner will be held on Tuesday October 22nd in the Guildhall. Drinks will be served first in the Old Library.

It will be necessary for a Winner and a Finalist bookplate to be prepared for each author/book. These will be prepared in advance by Flora Ginn, of Designer Bookbinders, who is also a calligrapher. The design of the plate is left to the discretion of Designer Bookbinders, but should incorporate the Booker Prize logo, artwork for which is available from AR if required. The plates will also carry a notation of the name of the binder and that s/he is a Fellow of Designer Bookbinders.

Action - AJ

The plates will only be fixed into the books after the guests have gone into dinner. AR will ensure that the Designer Bookbinders representative is informed in time. At this point the books will be passed into the care and responsibility of Booker (AR) and placed in a convenient alcove for their later presentation.

Action - AR, DB

It was agreed that the slip covers for the books would not be presented with the books, but handed to a representative of the author, (agent, publisher etc) after the dinner for safe keeping. (Designers should keep in mind that the books are likely to be thoroughly and roughly handled at the dinner).

Action - AJ, CS

The possibility of some, or all, of the binders being able to attend the dinner itself will be investigated. They will all be able to attend the drinks before.

Action - AR

### 4 Publicity

Both Booker and Book Trust are very happy, and keen, to include mentions of Designer Bookbinders in all relevant Press Releases. There will be a mention of the designers and Designer Bookbinders in the Press Release about the short list. There will also be a special Press Release, after the short list one, that will concentrate on Designer Bookbinders.

Action - CS

In order to ensure that the specialist press are included DB will provide a list of those publications seen as being most suitable.

Action - DB

The possibility of getting coverage on either local or national TV for Designer Bookbinders was also discussed in broad terms. Whilst the BBC appear already to have an agreed formula for their programme, it may be possible to interest them in the Designer Bookbinders angle.

Action - AR

The feasibility of interesting the local stations in covering one of their local binders through the course of the four weeks from the announcement of the short list to the actual award will need further investigation. Book Trust offered any help that may be needed. This was gratefully accepted and a meeting will be set up to discuss this.

Action - JG

It is likely that 50 media people will attend the dinner and this is seen as a good opportunity for Designer Bookbinders to spread the word. To this end the possibility of displaying the six finalists books in closed cases will be checked. Designer Bookbinders do own some cases and the practicability of using these will be checked, as will the availability of any from the Corporation of London.

Action - AR, AJ

In addition to the display of the books, it is hoped that Designer Bookbinders will also be able to have a number of other materials available. From past experience Designer Bookbinders were advised that anything not tied down may well disappear during the course of the evening. Any display will need to be put up during the day. (Book Trust usually start to put up their display in the morning).

Action - CS, JG

Both Booker and Book Trust are happy for Designer Bookbinders to undertake any publicity activities of their own. Booker would like their involvement in the Prize to be mentioned along with some comment about the type of organisation that Booker is. This will be cleared with AR before being distributed.

Action - JG

## 5 General

In the interests of good communication all those present at the meeting will be copied with the minutes of future meetings and all relevant correspondence.

Action - All

All the designers must be reminded that it is essential that they arrange for print quality photographs of their binding to be taken. These will be needed for inclusion in the next TNB, and for Designer Bookbinders publicity.

Action - AJ