"BOOKER PRIZE 1894"

Ion Trewin is working with Humphrey Carpenter of the Cheltenham Literary Festival; they are at an early stage in the planning and welcome ideas from us; but here are some details thus far:

judges
Gillian Beer; Martyn Goff; possibly Bernard Levin; and another couple of well-known names yet to be decided. Their agreed fee is a full set of all £200 Everyman Library books.

shortlist
Ella Hepworth Dixon
George Gissing
Thomas Hardy
Rudyard Kipling
George du Maurier
George Moore
The story of a modern woman
In the year of jubilee
Life's little ironies
The jungle book
Trilby
Esther Waters

reserves
Arthur Conan Doyle
Antony Hope
Robert Louis Stevenson
Hall Caine
Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes
The prisoner of Zenda
The ebb tide
The Manxman
(The reserves are needed at this stage in case Orion cannot resolve a problem over the authoritative text of the Gissing.)

promotion
Everyman will publish the six in a special edition and market them as "Booker books". The judging will take place at the Cheltenham Festival, possibly on the last Saturday evening. They are trying to work out an entertaining way to award the prize (since the author, obviously, is dead), and to involve the audience. Ion also recognises that the twin aims - of entertaining the reader, and protecting the literary credibility of the Booker Prize - need to be borne in mind.

Ion recognises that he must work closely with us to ensure that dates do not conflict with or overshadow the main Booker Prize. If Dotti Irving gets the contract for this year's Festival then this will be easier.

They are not yet ready to make any public announcements and so we should not discuss these ideas and plans outside.

Maggie
THE BOOKER PRIZE SHORTLIST

1894

Rudyard Kipling THE JUNGLE BOOK
George du Maurier TRILBY
Robert Louis Stevenson THE EBB-TIDE
Anthony Hope THE PRISONER OF ZENDA
George Gissing IN THE YEAR OF JUBILEE
George Moore ESTHER WATERS