

THE PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

BOOKER PRIZE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Committee
held on Thursday, 10 September 1970 at
19 Bedford Square, London W.C.1. at 9.45 a.m.

PRESENT Mr. John Murphy (Chairman)
Mr. Martyn Goff
Lord Hardinge
Mr. Mark Longman
Mr. Tom Maschler
Mr. Peter Smith
Miss Marilyn Edwards

1. PANEL OF JUDGES

After some discussion, during which it was agreed that the original "Categories" should not necessarily be adhered to, the Committee drew up the following blueprint to be revised in the light of refusals from the individuals concerned:

Saul Bellow
Antonia Fraser
John Gross
Malcolm Muggeridge
Angus Wilson

Martyn Goff agreed to approach Angus Wilson, George Hardinge to approach Malcolm Muggeridge, Tom Maschler to approach John Gross and Saul Bellow and Mark Longman to approach Antonia Fraser. The other names considered were, F. R. Leavis, Christopher Logue, George Steiner, Anthony Tanner, Christopher Ricks, Elizabeth Bowen and Norman Mailer.

2. CHANGE IN PROCEDURE

It was unanimously agreed by the Committee that the timing and organization of the Prize should be changed, and that the Prize should be a late autumn prize.

The new procedure would be as follows:-

a) Publishers would be invited to submit proof copies between 1 January 1971 and 1 July 1971 of a maximum of two full-length novels with scheduled publication dates between 1 September 1971 and 15 November 1971.

If publishers know they will have a proof copy available between 1 July and 1 August 1971 which they wish to submit they must inform the organizers by 1 July 1971.

b) As well as submitting proof copies publishers may submit to the judges lists of any novels published by them between 1 January and 15 November (i.e. Already published or still in proof)

c) The panel of Judges are entitled to call in any book which has been published between 1 January 1971 and 15 November 1971 above and beyond the proof copies submitted by publishers.

d) The short-list will be announced at the beginning of October and the prize winning Novel approximately 15 November 1971.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CHANGE IN RULES

Publishers and trade press would shortly receive an announcement of change in procedure and a new set of Rules. A further set of Rules and the entry forms will be sent to publishers on 1 January - the opening entry date.

4. CHANGE OF RULES

It was agreed that a new draft should be drawn up incorporating the above but still asking publishers to pay £40 for co-operative advertising for the publicity of the short-list. It was agreed that the winning publisher would pay £500 in direct paid-for advertising of winning book including winning poster.

The organizers would provide a small typographical card for the winning book.

5. ANNOUNCEMENT OF JUDGES TO PRESS

The press would be informed of the new judges along with the change in procedure as soon as the judges were known - or if the time were not suitable, at the first suitable opportunity.