

18 September 1971

Dear John,

I am so sorry I have not sent these rules through to you before, there have been various hitches - but herewith they are. I have, as you see, kept within the framework of the previous rules, but there are one or two things which worry me slightly.

In 1a I could not put "entered" for the prize as some of the books which will be considered will not be entered indeed cannot be entered but merely claied in by the judges, so "eligible" seemed the best way round that.

3c - I had no idea what closing date ought to be for judges calling in books, but as they must know the short-list by 1 October it seemed to me that that was the absolute limit of time allowed them. Perhaps you feel their closing date should be earlier. It used to be 31 December, about a month after submissions stopped.

Another thing that slightly worries me is that we make no mention of when the short-list will be published - we never have done. I feel it might be a good idea to mention this in the first para when I say that the prize will be awarded in November - what do you think?

4iii - it is all very well for Tom to say that it would be much better if the winner was not known at the time of the announcement of the short list, but it is difficult to see how we can give the winning publisher six weeks warning to get a reprint done if necessary (and it still may be if the judges pick an already published book) under these circumstances. I have reduced the period to five weeks, which is cutting it a bit fine but this does mean it is just possible to announce the short-list and then for the judges to get together immediately afterwards.

Anyway these are just guide lines. I hope that this proves practical - but publishers like everyone else never read things properly! I never asked you - what happens if we have a situation like last year when the publishers refuse to submit a book, presumably that is that, as it is a condition of award that the publisher agrees to pay £500 etc.

I go to Frankfurt on Tuesday until the beginning of the following week, but will be in the office on Monday if you want me, I am afraid that I will not be able to send these round to publishers until I return, but I do not think the urgency is that great. The beginning of October is soon enough?

Best wishes,

Yours,

Marilyn Edwards