

19

RULES FOR 1973 BOOKER PRIZE FOR FICTION

Details and rules of the competition for the Prize to be awarded in 1973

1. The Prize

- (a) The Prize is £5,000 and it will be awarded on 28 November to the author of 'the best full-length novel in the opinion of the judges' that is eligible for the Prize.
- (b) The panel of judges will be chosen jointly by the Publishers Association and Booker McConnell Ltd, and the prize administered by the National Book League.

2. Eligible Books

- (a) Any full length novel, written in English by a citizen of the British Commonwealth, Eire and South Africa, is eligible. Such a book must be a unified and substantial work. Neither a book of short stories nor a novella is eligible. Entry of books is dealt with under Rules 3a, b and c.
- (b) Any English translation of a book written originally in some other language is not eligible.
- (c) Previous publication of a book outside the United Kingdom does not disqualify it.
- (d) The decision of the judges as to whether a book is eligible shall be binding.

3. Entry of Books

- (a) Any United Kingdom publisher who publishes works of fiction may enter not more than two full-length novels, with scheduled publication dates between 31st July 1973 and 28th November 1973. These may be submitted in the form of proofs or advance sewn quires or finished copies, should the last happen to be available sufficiently early. Entries must be submitted between 1st January 1973 and 1st July 1973; but if publishers know that copies of an eligible book, which they wish to submit, will be available between 1st July 1973 and 31st July 1973, they must inform the judges by 1st July and submit copies by 31st July 1973. Four copies of each entry must be submitted to the Judges of the 1973 'Booker Prize for Fiction', care of the National Book League, 7 Albemarle Street, London W.1 and not direct to the judges.
- (b) Each publisher is also asked to submit a list of up to four further titles published or to be published by them between 1st January 1973 and 28th November 1973 (i.e. already published or still in proof). This list will be passed on to the judges who will decide whether the books listed should be called in for consideration. Four copies of each such list must be submitted to the address above by 1st July 1973. If requested by the judges four copies of any book called in - which will then become eligible - must be sent.

3. Entry of Books (continued)

- (c) The judges may also, not later than 1st September 1973, call for any book published or to be published between 1st January 1973 and 28th November 1973, even if such a book does not appear on publishers' lists referred to in (b) above. In that event the publisher will be asked to submit four printed copies of the book to the above address.

No books entered by publishers or called in by the judges will be returned to publishers.

4. Conditions of Award

An eligible book which is entered for the Prize shall not qualify for the award unless its publisher agrees:

- (i) to spend not less than £500 on direct, paid for, media advertising of the winning book, including a winning poster or show card, within the three months following the announcement of the award, and
- (ii) to contribute up to £100 towards a co-operative poster if the book reaches the short list, and
- (iii) to have not less than 3,000 copies of the winning book in stock and available to booksellers on the day of the announcement of the award. (A minimum of five weeks' notice will be given to the publisher of the winning author's book), and
- (iv) not to divulge the name of the winning author or book before the award is announced by the judges.

It is hoped that all short-list publishers will use every means available including sale or return ~~see-safe~~ etc. to get short-listed books into bookshops.

March 1973