

Dear Mr. Bellow,

I am writing to you as the "administrator" of the Booker Prize for fiction and it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Panel of judges for the 1971 Booker Prize which is now formalized but will not be released to the Press until 8 January.

The Panel will be chaired by John Gross and the other members will be Lady Antonia Fraser, John Fowles and Malcolm Muggeridge.

In the two preceding years of the Prize Publishers have submitted two titles (of books already published) to the judges who have also had the right to call in further titles not submitted by Publishers. This system has meant the lapse of a large period of time between original publications and the announcement of the Prize. In order to overcome the problem this year, Publishers will be invited to submit proof copies or advanced sewn quires of books with scheduled publication dates between 1 September '71 and 15 November '71 only, but in order that important books published earlier in the year are not overlooked the judges may ask Publishers to submit for consideration books published at anytime.

For ease of reference I enclose the new Rules which will be sent to all Publishers and the formal description of the "New Policy".

From mid-January onwards I hope to be forwarding titles to you although I think the main bulk will come through later. As you will see from the Rules, Publishers may not submit later than July. I would be very grateful if you could send your comments to me on the books you have read, ideally as you read them; I will then circulate the comments to the other judges and the same will, of course, apply to them. In this way a table can be kept of the "Ins" and "Outs" which usually automatically eliminate a large proportion of the books submitted,

It would be preferably for the judges to meet together twice but in your case I realize this may be impossible. I understand from Tom Maschler that a convenient time for you to be in London would be the week-end at the end of September which would be an ideal time for the final selection to be made i.e. the short-list of six and the winner. It is hoped that the short-list will be announced at the beginning of October and the winner on 15 November.

Booker McConnell Ltd. who supply the £5,000 for the Prize will also pay the judges a fee of £250 each.

I do apologise for the length of this letter and hope that it is clear. I will be very happy to supply you with information on any aspect of the Prize. It only remains for me, on behalf of the Publishers Association and Booker McConnell Ltd. to express our complete delight that you have accepted the role as judge.

Very best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Marilyn Edwards