

March 1973

GUIDANCE TO JUDGES OF BOOKER PRIZE

This is simply a guidance to judges, drawing their attention to specific areas of responsibility incumbent upon them as set out in the Rules of the Booker Prize for fiction. (Please see attached Rules).

If any question should arise in an individual judge's mind as to the eligibility of a book either submitted by a publisher or called in by another judge, he should inform the administrator who will then accordingly inform the other judges in order to seek their opinions. It is extremely important that the judges should be satisfied as to the eligibility of a short-listed or winning title, as the decision of the judges as to whether a book is eligible shall be binding (see Clause 2).

Judges may call in any novel deemed eligible published between 1 January 1973 and 28 November 1973, and to aid them in this publishers are invited to submit lists of titles that they feel qualify as possible entries for the Prize. The Judges may not call in any titles after 1 September 1973.

Publishers may submit up to two titles with publication dates between 31 July and 16 November 1973, which they should submit by 1 July 1973, and at the latest 31 July 1973 (see Clause 3a and 3b). When a Judge wishes to call in a title he simply informs the administrator who will then obtain and distribute copies to each of the Judges who will then be strongly recommended to read it as a 'call-in' title.

It is hoped that the Judges will be ready to announce a short-list of six titles in mid-October and that the winner will be announced on 28 November 1973.

Normally the books start arriving from February/March onwards with the bulk of the titles coming in during June and July, but of course during the whole period Judges may call in further titles through the administrator. It is expected that the Judges will have two meetings, ideally one in late September followed by another meeting two weeks later to bring the bulk of the books down to a short-list and then to select the winner. The number of books involved all in all does not usually exceed 50 and may be as low as 35.