

BOOKER PRIZE DINNER

NOTES FOR MR D POWELL'S SPEECH

1. Congratulate the winner of the 1971 Booker Prize - Mr V S NAIPAUL for his book 'In a Free State'.

V S Naipaul was born in Trinidad of a Hindu family, and educated at Queen's Royal College, Port-of-Spain and at University College, Oxford. After leaving Oxford, he worked as a freelance broadcaster and for nearly two years edited a weekly literary programme for the BBC Colonial Service. He gained a considerable reputation as a reviewer of fiction, particularly in the New Statesman. THE MYSTIC MASSEUR was published in 1957 and won the John Llewellyn Rhys Memorial Prize; THE SUFFRAGE OF ELVIRA came out in 1958 and MIGUEL STREET in 1959. The latter won the Somerset Maugham Award in 1961. A HOUSE FOR MR BISWAS was published in 1961 and THE MIDDLE PASSAGE - a personal portrait of the Caribbean - in 1962. In 1963 he published THE STONE AND THE KNIGHTS COMPANION for which he won The Hawththeden Prize. He was awarded a Phoenix Trust Grant in 1963 for his book on India, AN AREA OF DARKNESS: An Experience of India, published in 1964. In 1967 he published THE MIMIC MEN which was awarded The W H Smith & Son £1,000 Annual Literary Award. A FLAG ON THE ISLAND was published in 1967, THE LOSS OF EL DORADO: A History in 1969.

In October 1971, Andre Deutsch published his latest novel: IN A FREE STATE.

V S Naipaul is married and lives in England.

2. Congratulate and thank the judges.

Mr John Gross (chairman)

John Gross was born in London in 1935. He read English at Oxford after which he worked for a time in publishing. He has taught at both London and Cambridge Universities. He has contributed to many papers and magazines and has worked basically as a freelance writer for the last six years. His publications include Rise and Fall of the Man of Letters (1969) and his latest book James Joyce is about to be published.

Mr Saul Bellow

Saul Bellow was born in 1915. He was educated at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University. Hon.D.Litt. Northwestern University 1962. He lives in Chicago and is at present a member of the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago. He is the author of three short plays and his other publications include The Adventures of Augie March (1953) and Herzog (1964) both of which won the National Book Award for Fiction and Herzog was also awarded the International Literary Prize, The Victim (1947),

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Seize the Day (1956), Henderson the Rain King (1959) and Mr Sammler's Planet (1970).

Mr John Fowles

John Fowles was born in 1926. He was educated at Bedford School and Oxford University, where he read French. He has lived in France and in Greece. He is the author of the bestselling The Collector (1963), The Aristos (1965), The Magus (1966) and The French Lieutenant's Woman (1969) which won the first Silver P.E.N. Award for Fiction. Both The Collector and The Magus have been filmed.

Lady Antonia Fraser

Serving as a judge for the second year running, Lady Antonia Fraser was born in London in 1932. She read History at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford and, after graduating, worked for a publisher for three years. She is married to Hugh Fraser M.P. In 1969 her much-praised biography Mary, Queen of Scots was published and she is now working on a book about Oliver Cromwell.

Mr Philip Toynbee

Philip Toynbee was born in 1916. He was educated at Rugby School and Christchurch Oxford. He was literary editor of Contact publications from 1945 to 1946 and has been a member of the editorial staff of the Observer since 1950. He is the author of The Savage Days (1937), School in Private (1941), The Barricades (1943), Tea with Mrs Goodman (1947), The Garden to the Sea (1953), Friends Apart (1954), Dialogue Across a Generation (1963), Thanatos: A Modern Symposium (1963), Two Brothers (1964), A Learned City (1966), and Views from a Lake (1968).

3. Thank the Publishers Association (President: Mr Rayner Unwin) for their co-operation and joint sponsorship of the 1971 Booker Prize.
4. Thank the members of the Booker Prize Committee for their organisation of all the arrangements for the Award and Presentation of the 1971 Prize. They consist of:

Rayner Unwin)	Joint chairmen
John Murphy)	
Mr Martyn Goff	-	The director of the National Book League.

Lord Hardinge of Penshurst
 Mr Tom Maschler - Chairman of Jonathan Cape, publishers.
 Miss Marilyn Edwards - The Booker Promotions Officer of the Publishers' Association, who acted as secretary and public relations officer for the 1971 Prize.

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5. Mention the contribution the Booker Prize makes to the human involvement by a large company such as Booker McConnell.
6. Booker McConnell will again be sponsoring the Booker Prize in 1972, and we look forward to seeing you all next year. Thank you very much for coming here to-night. Goodnight!

24 November, 1971