

The Publishers Association,  
BOOKER PRIZE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at  
The Publishers Association, 19  
Bedford Square, London, W.C.1 on  
Wednesday 2 February 1972 at 3.15 p.m.

Present

Mr John Murphy (Chairman)  
Mr Martyn Goff  
Lord Hardinge  
Mr Tom Maschler  
Mr Rayner Unwin  
Mr Michael Weekes  
  
Miss Marilyn Edwards

1. 1972 BOOKER PRIZE RULES

It was decided by the Committee as a result of complaints received from the 1971 Judges about the terms of reference for the 1971 Booker Prize Rules, that the phrases 'full-length novel' should stay in the rules but that Martyn Goff would draft a further clause to be added into rule 2a. In order that the judges for the 1972 and all future prizes should not suffer the same confusion, Marilyn Edwards agreed to draft a 'guidance to judges' drawing their attention to specific areas of responsibility. Rule 3b was also changed so that the list of titles submitted by the publisher for the judges' consideration should be no longer than four.

2. TIMING FOR 1972 PRIZE

- (a) The period for entry of titles by publishers was extended. It now runs from 31 July 1972 to 16 November 1972
- (b) It was decided that the time of announcement should be 16 November 1972 and that a reception should be held in the Café Royal as in 1971 (i.e. formal, but limited in terms of number, dinner). The announcement of the short list would be a month before that.

3. LETTER FROM DAVID HOLLOWAY

Lord Hardinge agreed to draft a reply letter to David Holloway explaining the Committee's feelings on the importance of the system as it stands at the moment.

4.

JUDGES FOR 1972 PRIZE

The Judges that were considered were:-

- (a) Norman Mailer, Nadine Gordimer, Patrick White.
- (b) Bernard Levin, Kenneth Tynan, Alan Brien.
- (c) Elizabeth Bowen, Margaret Drabble, Melvyn Bragg.
- (d) George Steiner, Frank Kermode, C. P. Snow.
- (e) Marghanita Laski.

and others also considered were: Mary Renault, Jack Lambart, Cyril Connolly, Adrian Mitchell, Ted Hughes.

Tom Maschler agreed to write to Elizabeth Bowen and Norman Mailer and telephone Bernard Levin and George Steiner. Martyn Goff agreed to approach Marghanita Laski (as Chairman).

5.

JUDGES' EXPENSES

It was agreed by the Committee that a return airfare should be paid for Norman Mailer from the U.S.A. to the U.K. if he accepted. The Judges would be paid their fee as normal, and it would be understood that for the Judges resident in the U.K. that this fee would cover their out-of-pocket expenses.

No date was fixed for a further meeting, as this was dependent on the acceptance or not of the potential Judges.