

Note for File

2nd February 1972

BOOKER PRIZE 1972

Booker Prize Committee meeting held at Publishers Association.

Present:-

- Rayner Unwin
- Martyn Goff
- Tom Maschler
- George Hardinge
- Marilyn Edwards
- JNM
- MJW

The rules for the 1972 Prize are discussed and various amendments suggested. Martyn Goff is going to draft some words to define 'full-length novel'. Amendments to the eligibility of books are also agreed and various redrafting of the rules is proposed.

George Hardinge is going to draft a suitable letter to David Holloway and circulate it to members of the committee.

Judges for the 1972 Prize are discussed and the first selections were as follows:-

- Norman Mailer
- Elizabeth Bowen
- Bernard Levin
- George Steiner
- Marghanita Laski

Tom Maschler will approach the first four individuals and Martyn Goff will approach Marghanita Laski who, it is proposed, should be Chairman of the Judges.

Antonia Fraser's suggestion that the runners up should be given a small prize (say £100) is discussed. It is agreed not to give a money prize but to give each short-listed author a specially bound copy of their novel.

Tom Maschler raises the question of the guest speaker for the 1972 Prize presentation. He says that Grahame Green will approach Roy Jenkins again if it is so desired. It is agreed that Roy Jenkins should be approached and the suggested date for the presentation is Thursday, 16th November at the Cafe Royal.



MJW