

19 April 1972

ME/EG

Miss Elizabeth Bowen, CBE.

Dear Miss Bowen,

Booker Prize 1972.

Thank you for your letter of 15 April and for returning the corrected biographical details. I am glad that you are happy about the choice of the other judges and that the panel is to be restricted to three.

I now enclose a copy of the Rules which we send to publishers, and which should be fairly self-explanatory. There is one point which the Management Committee has asked me to make: 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 seek the opinions of the other two judges. In the event of a difference of opinion majority opinion will prevail. 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 shall be binding (see clause 2 in the Rules).

You will see from clauses 3b and 3c that judges may call in any novel deemed eligible published between 1 July and 23 November 1972; and to aid them in this publishers are invited to submit lists of up to four titles that they feel will qualify as possible entries for the prize. The judges may not call in any titles after 1 September 1972. As shown in clause 3a, publishers may submit up to 2 titles with publication dates between 31 July and 23 November 1972 which should be submitted by 1 July. I hope that this seems clear.

The prize was created in 1968 by Booker-McConnell Ltd and the Publishers Association and will last for seven years with renewal of that period possibly at the end of the seven years. In 1969 the prize was awarded to P.H. Newby for 'Something to Answer For'; in 1970 it went to Bernice Rubens for 'The Elected Member'; in 1971 the winner was V. S. Naipaul for 'In a Free State'.

I look forward to being in touch with you shortly.

With very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,