

9 October 1969

Ross Higgins, Esq.,
John B. Wylie & Co. Ltd.,
406 Sauchiehall Street,
Glasgow C.2.

Dear Mr. Higgins,

Thank you for your letter of 7 October addressed to Jill Mrtimer, on whose behalf I am replying as she is unfortunately still away from the office.

I really do apologize for the appalling short notice is arranging a lunch for the judges to meet each other, but due to Jill's illness and the fact that Dame Rebecca West and Lady Antonia Fraser are both about to leave the country for a short period rather suddenly, it was a matter of acting in haste. A lunch has been arranged for 17 October a day which, I know, is impossible for you, but I do hope that when the two ladies return, it will be possible to arrange a meeting in more leisure and this time at your convenience.

There are no Rules as such laid down for the judges, but I enclose a copy of the Rules which are sent to the participating publishers. The basis on which the judging has operated before is that I send you copies of the books as they arrive in at this office, and as you read them you send me a list of the books simply stating 'In' or 'Out' which I then circulate to the other judges and equally their comments to you. The winner is to be announced in April 1970, and four weeks earlier a short-list of 6 books is released to the Press, so really I suppose at the beginning of March a last meeting should take place between the judges at which they can come to their final decisions. Other than the introductory meeting of the judges, all other meetings are called only at the Chairman's discretion and are not really very necessary at the early stages, as the judges have frequently not read the same books and so no useful discussion can take place until much later in the proceedings.

I will also be circulating lists of books proposed as possible 'call ins' by their publishers in case you should feel you would like them to be considered, but again no liaison is necessary with other judges on this, it is a matter of your individual decision.

I hope that this makes sense, but if I have not been clear of you have any further questions please contact me at any time. Again, I am very sorry about this lunch, but I hope we can rectify it!

Yours sincerely,

Marilyn Edwards