



# The Publishers Association

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President MARK LONGMAN Secretary RONALD BARKER

30 December 1970

John Murphy, Esq.  
Booker McConnell Ltd.,  
Bucklersbury House,  
83 Cannon Street,  
London E.C. 4.

Dear John,

I enclose the draft ~~press~~ release which I have sent to Tom. I am sorry that I did not send it through before, but at the last moment I realized that I had not really explained enough - my fear now is that although it is not very long it might have said too much - anyway!

The biographical notes which are allegedly attached I am awaiting from Cape, but those will be straightforward enough.

I feel rather guilty in that I never chased you on the  
\*Booker paper front - do you have any views.

Yours,

*Maileys*

\* Booier Prize notepaper, I mean.

BOOKERS BOOKS	Date Recd 31.12.70
ACTION:	Copies
<i>MR</i>	

## 1971 BOOKER PRIZE FOR FICTION

Booker McConnell Limited and the Publishers Association, joint sponsors of the Booker Prize for Fiction, Britain's largest fiction prize, worth £5,000 to its winner, have announced the panel of judges to choose the winner of the 1971 award. Four of the five judges, John Gross (who is to act as Chairman) Saul Bellow, John Fowles and Malcolm Muggeridge will be newcomers to the panel, while the fifth judge, Lady Antonia Fraser, will continue from the 1970 panel. Biographical notes on all the judges are attached.

The format of the 1971 Booker Prize is to be different from previous years in that the date of the announcement of the winner of the prize will be brought as close as is reasonably practical to the publication date of the winning novel. To achieve this, publishers will be invited to submit full-length novels, written in English by citizens of the Commonwealth, Eire and South Africa, with scheduled publication dates between September and November 1971 only. However the judges will be entitled to call in for consideration any full length novel conforming to the same writing criteria, first published in the United Kingdom at any time during 1971. Whilst it is hoped that the winning book will be an Autumn novel, which would greatly enhance the promotional value of the Prize, the prime consideration of the judges will, of course, remain merit.

A short list will be announced when the judges have narrowed their choice to the final six contenders. The announcement of the winner of the Prize will follow shortly afterwards.

The Booker Prize for Fiction was created in October 1968 by Booker McConnell and the Publishers Association for the best novel written by a citizen of the Commonwealth and published for the first time in Britain. The first winner of the Prize in 1969 was "Something to Answer For" by P. H. Newby. The 1970 winner was "The Elected Member" by Bernice Rubens.

Further details etc.