

12 April 1972

ME/EG

Miss Elizabeth Bowen, CBE.

Dear Miss Bowen,

Booker Prize 1972

I am writing to you as administrator of the Booker Prize. On behalf of the Committee may I say how delighted we are that you have agreed to be a Judge this year. The other Judges are Dr George Steiner and Mr Cyril Connolly who has agreed to be Chairman. We originally considered having five Judges, but after some discussion now feel that three is a more workable number.

I am sending out a Press Release embargoed for Friday 21 April and announcing the Judges for this year's Prize. At the same time I shall be writing to publishers asking them to submit books. I would like to include your biographical details in the Press Release and enclose a potted version from Who's Who; I would be very grateful if you would let me know as soon as possible if you want any alterations or additions made.

I will be sending you a copy of the rules and information on previous prizes within the next few days. We should expect the first books to start arriving in proof form at the beginning of May; and of course the Judges are entitled to call in books which have been published since 1 January this year. All this will be made clearer when you have a copy of the rules in front of you.

I believe Tom Maschler told you that the Judges receive a fee of £250 to cover all their expenses. There will be two meetings of the Judges: the first will probably be held in early October and the second in mid or late October, if the dates are convenient for the three Judges. A short list of six titles is announced publicly in the third week of October and the winner is announced on 23 November. The gap of a month is to encourage speculation on who the winner might be.

If I do not hear from you I shall assume that the biographical details are correct.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Elizabeth Bowen , C.B.E., Hon.D.Litt., TCD., C.Lit., was born in Dublin and educated in the South of England. Her first story was written when she was 20 and appeared in 1923 called Encounters. Her first novel was called The Hotel and was published in 1927.

She spent the war years in London working at the Ministry of Information by day and as an air raid warden by night. Her books include The Last September (1929), Joining Charles (Short stories) (1929), Friends and Relations (1931), To the North (1932), The Cat Jumps (short stories) 1934, The House in Paris (1935), The Death of the Heart (1938), Look at all Those Roses (short stories) 1941, Bowen's Court (1942), Seven Winters (1943), The Demon Lover (short stories) 1945, The Heat of the Day (1949), Collected Impressions (essays), 1950, The Shelbourne (1951), A World of Love (1955), A Time in Rome (1960), Afterthought (essays) 1962, The Little Girls (1964), A Day in the Dark (1965), Eva Trout (1969).- winner of the James Tait Black Memorial Prize. She is currently working on another book.