



The Publishers Association

19 BEDFORD SQUARE, LONDON, WC1

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President MARK LONGMAN Secretary RONALD BARKER

8 December, 1970

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

Dear John,

I enclose a draft copy of the Minutes of our last meeting and the slightly amended "New Policy for the Booker Prize for Fiction". As you will see Tom has suggested a slight alteration in paragraph four in words only and the insertion of "some of the books are published" in paragraph five and of course the final paragraph. If you approve these I will circulate them in stenciled form to the rest of the Committee.

I have just been going through the new Rules again and picked up something which had not occurred to me earlier - analogies. In the new insertion 2b, we state that judges may call for any book published between 1 January and 31 August 1971 but in Rule 3b publishers are invited to submit a list of titles published or to be published by them between 1 January 1971 and 15 November 1971. Surely it is slightly pointless for them to submit titles published by them between 31 August and 15 November if the judges are not entitled to call them in?

I am sorry to throw this one in at the last minute but look forward to hearing your views by which time perhaps we will have heard from Tom about Pritchett.

Best wishes.

Yours,

BOOKERS BOOKS	Date Recd 9/11/70
ACTION:	Copies
	JN:
	JNWD:
	RDN:

THE PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

Booker Prize Committee

Minutes of the meeting of the Committee
held on Tuesday 1 December 1970 at
19 Bedford Square, London W.C.1. at 11.45 a.m.

Present: Mr. John Murphy (Chairman)
Mr. Martyn Goff
Lord Hardinge
Mr. Tom Maschler
Mr. Peter Smith
Miss Marilyn Edwards

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. Mark Longman

1. Panel of Judges

Acceptances have been received from: Antonia Fraser

John Gross

Malcolm Muggeridge

Angus Wilson was approached but he is unable to accept.

In the light of this refusal further names were suggested by the Committee for a fifth member of the panel. They were:

Paul Bailey, V. S. Pritchett, Julian Symonds, C. P. Snow.

(other names that had been suggested previously were, F. R. Leavis, Christopher Logue, George Steiner, Anthony Tanner, Christopher Ricks, Elizabeth Bowen, Norman Mailer, V. S. Pritchett and in the event of his refusal, Iris Murdoch. It was agreed that if both these people refused an emergency meeting should be held on 17 December at 11.45 a.m. at the Publishers Association.

2. Change in Rules

A new set of Rules were drawn up and approved by the Committee together with a statement headed "New Policy for the Booker Prize for Fiction". Tom Maschler suggested slight emendations to the policy which is circulated with these minutes.

3. Announcement of Change in Rules

It was agreed that as the Judges are likely to be known in the near future publishers, the trade press and national press should all receive an announcement in the change of procedure and a list of judges shortly. Publishers should also receive a set of rules and the entry forms at the same time.

Note

Since this meeting was held Tom Maschler has reported that Saul Bellow has accepted the role of judge. Members of the Committee are reminded that at this stage this must remain confidential.

New Policy for The Booker Prize for Fiction

The timing of the Prize and the system whereby novels are submitted for it will be altered for 1971.

The date of the announcement of the Prize should be brought as close as is reasonably practical to the publication date of the winning novel.

As the Autumn is broadly the main publishing season and in order to try and achieve the object in the second paragraph above the Booker Prize will become an Autumn Prize.

A short list will be announced approximately on 1 October, 1971 and the winner on 15 November at the latest.

Under this arrangement the panel of judges will, of course, be making their decisions before some of the books are published (there could be exceptions to this - see next paragraph) and will be reading proofs, or advance quires, or conceivably finished copies should the book happen to be printed some time before publication.

It is of course possible that the prizewinning novel will be a book called in under ~~2b~~, ³ ~~3b or 3c~~ of the detailed rules attached. Whilst it is hoped that the winning book will be an Autumn novel, since in that event the promotional value of the Prize will be considerably enhanced, the prime consideration of the judges ~~will~~, of course, ^{remain} be merit. It is naturally also hoped that the Prize will whenever possible encourage publishers to issue their leading contenders during the Autumn season.