

LW/EAW

28th March, 1969.

Letter No. LBS 49

D. Blackman Esq.,
Bookers Stores Ltd.

Dear David,

You will know I believe of the Booker Prize for fiction. This is one of the biggest literary prizes given. It is £5,000 and the winner is to be announced on April 22nd. One of the problems about this particular prize is that nobody will know the name of the book or the author until the 22nd April. There is bound to be a good deal of publicity when the presentation is made. Indeed only today there was a certain amount of discussion on the morning news and there is a programme on Saturday dealing with this particular award.

I have arranged for John Murphy to send twelve copies of the winning book personally addressed to you and with it there will be six posters each 30" x 20", and one replica of the statue that is being given to the prizewinner. It is awfully difficult to ensure that nobody knows the name of the prizewinner before April 22nd, but as no copy of the order will be sent to you and no reference to the title of the book will appear on the documents accompanying the books, and so long as you can arrange for the parcel not to be opened until the 22nd, the necessary degree of secrecy should be preserved.

It was difficult to know how many books to send you. I hope twelve turns out to be too few. It seemed to me that at this stage I could commit you to an unlimited number.

Yours sincerely,

L. Wharrad.