

20 October 1969

Dear Mr. Holloway,

Thank you very much for all that you did on Friday. I think that the lunch was successful, although it is a pity that the judges were not able to talk to each other more!

I have now had a reply from Eyre & Spottiswoode confirming that J.P. Donleavy is a citizen of Eire, so I am afraid that it is eligible. I am sending your books under separate cover, and you will see included a book by Lise Roche who is French-born but married to Melvyn Bragg. From her publishers' letter it is suggested that she is therefore eligible, but I am checking on this at the moment.

After the lunch on Friday John Murphy and the others started pressing for a solid date on which the award will be made, which is, of course, your decision. As we are not tied down to a television commitment of the kind last year, it is reasonably fluent. Antonia Fraser was anxious to know what date in February the final meeting would be, as she is to go to Mexico at some stage in February or March, but will organize it around that date. I know it all seems a little early to fix immovable dates, but I thought I ought to tell you.

I enclose the judges' comments so far, and the proposed books by publishers. Again, many thanks for being so nice.

Yours sincerely,

Marilyn Edwards