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John Murphy Esq

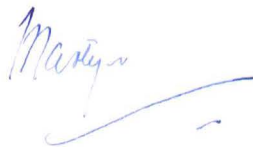
Dear John

Herewith a first draft for a reply to the TLS letter(\*). Don't hesitate, of course, to mould and remould it in whatever way you want.

(\*) The moving spirit behind the letter was David Farrer, I understand, though Giles is the noisiest member of the co-signatories.

Warmest greetings

Yours

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marty", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

London EC4

February 15<sup>th</sup> 1971

The Editor  
Times Literary Supplement  
Printing House Square  
London EC4

Dear Sir

Booker Prize

A  
B  
We agree with the points made by your distinguished correspondents (T.L.S: 5.2.71). Everything possible should be done to discourage a concentration of fiction publishing in the late autumn. On the other hand we have learnt by experience that it is difficult to revive a novel a year to fifteen months after its original publication, whatever its merits; and the French have demonstrated the value of prize and publication being as nearly simultaneous as possible.

Publishers already have to resist authors' requests to be published in the late autumn. Their task will be made a little harder by our experiment. But the great increase in prestige and sales that the new system may well achieve surely justifies the change.

Yours faithfully

John Murphy, Chairman  
Booker Prize Committee