

12 April 1972

ME/EG

Dr George Steiner,

Dear Dr Steiner,

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 Miss Elizabeth Bowen 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. For the purpose of the Press Release I would be very grateful if you would send me brief details as soon as possible.

I will be sending 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.

I look forward to receiving the biographical details and will be writing to you again very soon.

Yours sincerely,