

THE PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

BOOKER PRIZE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held at Bucklersbury House, 83 Cannon Street, London, E.C. 4, on Thursday 11 March 1971 at 5 pm

PRESENT:

Mr. Martyn Goff
Lord Hardinge
Mr. John Murphy
Mr. Peter Smith

Miss Marilyn Edwards

Apologies for Absence

Mr. Mark Longman
Mr. Tom Maschler

1. ARTICLE FOR TIMES LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

Mr. Murphy suggested that an article in the Times Literary Supplement on literary prizes in general and the Booker Prize specifically would be useful in view of the recent correspondence, and views expressed in "Commentary" the previous week. It was agreed that Mr. Goff would discuss the whole subject of literary prizes with the Editor of the Times Literary Supplement, with a view to such an article being written.

2. LITERARY EDITORS

It was reported that a certain amount of discontent was apparent among some literary editors over the new timing of the Prize. The Committee felt that a dinner party should be given for the benefit of the literary editors of the: Times, Guardian, Daily Telegraph, Observer, Sunday Telegraph, Sunday Times, TLS, Financial Times to be held in a private room at the Cafe Royal. The suggested dates for this meeting were 4 May, 11 May or 18 May. The purpose of the dinner party would be to keep the literary editors informed of plans and in return receive their views on the Booker Prize and literary prizes in general. Miss Edwards to arrange the invitations and to seek assistance from members of the Committee as required.

3. It was agreed that Miss Edwards should keep a careful eye on the entries coming in from publishers and where necessary chase them up.



The Publishers Association

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BOOKERS BOOKS	Date Recd 18/3/71
ACTION:	Copies
My action plan	BGM
	RS
	JFWH
	RBN

12 March 1971

Dear John,

Booker Prize Committee

I enclose these most sketchy Minutes of our meeting on Thursday evening. Perhaps, as the meeting was of a fairly confidential nature, it would be better not to have official Minutes at all, but if we do need them shall I circularise these to the other members?

Thank you so much for a very pleasant evening on Thursday, the meeting was very useful I think.

Yours sincerely,
Love

Marilyn Edwards

Enc. 1.

P.S. Since the typing - what did you think of the Hugh Herbert piece?

P.P.S. 4th May & 11th May OK for Tom H.
11th May better for Rayner to win but he does most urgently want a briefing from the Attee - or some of it - (perhaps you + Tom/Marilyn?) before that evening as he knows little of the internal workings.