

EDWIN: (CONT'D)

The Cezanne exhibition has its last day at the Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle tomorrow. Then it travels to London where it opens at the Hayward Gallery on 14th November.

72. 4
MCU Melvyn

8. MELVYN: The short list for this year's Booker Prize has just been announced. This is the most lucrative prize in England for any novelist, worth £5,000. So far it has had a rather odd history. For example, neither P.G. Wodehouse, Angus Wilson, nor Anthony Powell, nor Kingsley Amis have been on the short list.

There does seem a constant indecision about the prize: whether to give it to the most promising - as sometimes happens. Or the worthiest, as nearly always happens to prizes in English letters. Or simply to the best writer around - which never happens often enough. However, having said that, the short list this year looks well balanced and interesting.

73. 1
CU Books

There is 'The Dressmaker' by Beryl Bainbridge, 'The Black Prince' by Iris Murdoch, 'A Green Equinox' by Elizabeth Mavor, and 'The Siege of Krishnapur' by J.G. Farrell./

74. 4
MCU Melvyn

Looking at it as a four-horse race, which we are invited to do over the next few weeks while the Committee come to a decision about the winner, I would back Iris Murdoch very heavily./ It seems to me that since

75. 5
Caption: Iris Murdoch

MELVYN: (CONT'D)

her novel 'An Accidental Man' - which is the best novel she has written I think - she has come right back into form and has re-~~established~~ ^{re-established} herself as a very formidable ~~writer~~ ^{novelist}, both highly intelligent and totally entertaining./

76. 3
Caption: Farrell

J.G. Farrell is a strong writer, with 'The Siege of Krishnapur' faithfully researched and economically written fiction about an incident in our imperial past/- Farrell is leagues ahead of the normal historical novelist and is making a proper place for himself with this kind of meticulous and well-researched fiction.

77. 4
MCU Melvyn

78. 5
Caption: Bainbridge

The two dark horses are Beryl Bainbridge/ with her very tense and contemporary novel, and/ Elizabeth Mavor with her subtle, extremely civilised book./

79. 3
Caption: Mavor

80. 4
MCU Melvyn

The winner will be announced on 28th November; but, of course, the biggest prize for literature is the Nobel Prize, worth about £45,000 and, for the first time for 20 years, it has gone to an English born novelist, Patrick White./

81. 3
Caption: White

Patrick White has lived most of his life in Australia, in a state of siege against journalists, and even friends sometimes. He is an extreme example of the artist who insists on being alone, private, and/ though we'll try again to get a television interview when he comes to collect the prize in Sweden, we are unlikely to succeed. I rather like his cantankerous sense of privacy.

82. 4
MCU Melvyn