

12 April 1972

ME/EG

Cyril Connolly, Esq.

Dear Mr Connolly,

Following my telephone call of this afternoon I now write formally on behalf of the Booker Prize Management Committee to express our delight that you have agreed to be a Judge and the Chairman for this year.

I am sending out a Press Release, embargoed for Friday 21 April, announcing the Judges for this year's Prize. At the same time I shall be writing to publishers asking them to submit books. I would like to include your biographical details in the Press Release and enclose a potted version from Who's Who; I would be very grateful if you would let me know as soon as possible if you want any alterations or additions made.

I will be sending you 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.

If I do not hear from you I shall assume that the biographical details are correct.

Yours sincerely,

Marilyn Edwards

Enc.

C. Lit. FRSL

Mr. Cyril Connolly, author and journalist, Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur was educated at Eton and Balliol. He has written for the New Statesman from 1927; in 1939 he founded Horizon, which he edited from 1939 to 1950. He was Literary Editor of the Observer from 1942 to 1943 and currently contributed weekly to the Sunday Times. His books include The Rock Pool (1935), Enemies of Promise (1938), The Unquiet Grave (1944-45), The Condemned Playground (1944), Put out the Light (1944) translation, Ideas and Places (1953), The Missing Diplomats (1953), (ed.) The Golden Horizon (1953), (ed.) Great English Short Novels (1953), The Pavillions (with Jerome Zerbe) 1962, Previous Convictions (1963), The Modern Movement (1965).

If you were working on a book at the moment it would be nice to say that, even if it were to remain as vague as "book" without any further explanations.

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