



The Publishers Association

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President RAYNER UNWIN Secretary RONALD BARKER

9 February 1972

Peter Smith, Esq.

Dear *Peter*,

I enclose the draft Rules for the Booker Prize for your approval, or amendments, particularly drawing your attention to the two changed Clauses, 2a and 3a. A set of the previous Rules is also attached for comparison.

Also enclosed is a draft of the Guidance to Judges, equally for your approval or amendment.

As a result of Tom Maschler's invitations, George Steiner has said "Yes", Bernard Levin "No", and he has not yet heard from Elizabeth Bowen and Norman Mailer. Martyn Goff has received a "No" from Marghanita Laski, after some considerable thought on her part, which means we are Chairmanless and there was no second choice for her. Tom has suggested approaching Julian Symonds as a replacement for B. Levin (as opposed to K. Tynan - who is a bit suspect?) do you have any strong feelings on this? Also urgent thought is needed on a Chairman. All suggestions will be gratefully received and circulated rapidly.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Marilyn Edwards', written in dark ink.

Marilyn Edwards

DRAFT REVISED RULES FOR 1972 BOOKER PRIZE FOR FICTION

Details and rules of the competition for the Prize to be awarded in 1972

1. The Prize

- (a) The Prize is £5,000 and it will be awarded in November 1972 to the author of "the best full-length novel in the opinion of the judges" that is eligible for the Prize.
- (b) The panel of judges will be chosen jointly by the Publishers Association and Booker McConnell Ltd.

2. Eligible Books

- (a) Any full length novel, written in English by a citizen of the British Commonwealth, Eire and South Africa, is eligible. Such a book must be a single work of not less than 50,000 words. A book of short stories is not eligible. It must be published, or scheduled for publication, in the United Kingdom between 31st July and 16th November 1972 by a United Kingdom publisher (but pay particular attention to Rules 3a and 3b below).
- (b) Any English translation of a book written originally in some other language is not eligible.
- (c) Previous publication of a book outside the United Kingdom does not disqualify it.
- (d) The decision of the judges as to whether a book is eligible shall be binding.

3. Entry of Books

- (a) Each United Kingdom publisher who publishes works of fiction may enter not more than two full-length novels, with scheduled publication dates between 31st July 1972 and 16th November 1972. These may be submitted in the form of proofs or advance sewn quires or finished copies, should the last happen to be available sufficiently early. Entries must be submitted between 1st January 1972 and 1st July 1972; but if publishers know that copies of an eligible book, which they wish to submit, will be available between 1st July 1972 and 31st July 1972, they must inform the judges by 1st July and submit copies by 31st July 1972. Six copies of each entry must be submitted to the "Judges of the 1972 Booker Prize for Fiction", care of the National Book League, 7 Albemarle Street, London, W. 1, and not direct to the judges.

3. Entry of Books (continued)

- (b) Each publisher is also asked to submit a List of up to four further titles published or to be published by them between 1st January 1972 and 16th November 1972 (i.e. already published or still in proof). This list will be passed on to the judges who will decide whether the books listed should be called in for consideration. Six copies of each such list must be submitted to the address above by 1st July 1972. If requested by the judges six copies of any book called in - which will then become eligible - must be sent.
- (c) The judges may also, not later than 1st September 1972 call for any book published or to be published between 1st January 1972 and 16th November 1972, even if such a book does not appear on publishers' lists referred to in (b) above. Any book so called for becomes an eligible book. In that event the publisher will be asked to submit six printed copies of the book to the above address.

Any book entered by publishers or called in by the judges will not be returned to the publishers.

4. Conditions of Award

An eligible book which is entered for the Prize shall not qualify for the award unless its publisher agrees:

- (i) to spend not less than £500 on direct, paid for, media advertising of the winning book, including a winning poster, within the three months following the announcement of the award, and
- (ii) to contribute up to £40 towards co-operative advertising if the book reaches the short list, and
- (iii) to have not less than 3,000 copies of the winning book in stock and available to booksellers on the day of the announcement of the award. (A minimum of five weeks' notice will be given to the publisher of the winning author's book), and
- (iv) not to divulge the name of the winning author or book before the award is announced by the judges.

February 1972

DRAFT

GUIDANCE TO JUDGES OF BOOKER PRIZE

This is simply a guidance to judges, drawing their attention to specific areas of responsibility incumbent upon them as set out in the Rules of the Booker Prize for fiction. (Please see attached Rules).

Judges' attention is drawn to the whole of Clause 2, and particularly to Clause 2a. If any question should arise in an individual judge's mind as to the eligibility of a book either submitted by a publisher or called in by another judge, he should inform the administrator who will then accordingly inform the other judges in order to seek their opinions. It is extremely important that the judges should be satisfied as to the eligibility of a short-listed or winning title, as the decision of the judges as to whether a book is eligible shall be binding.

Judges may call in any title published between 1 January 1972 and 16 November 1972, and to aid them in this publishers are invited to submit lists of titles that they feel qualify as possible entries for the Prize. The judges may not call in any titles after 1 September 1972. Publishers may submit up to two titles with publication dates between 31 July and 16 November 1972, which they should have submitted by 1 July 1972 and at the latest 31 July 1972 (see Clause 3a and 3b).

It is hoped that the judges will be ready to announce a short-list of six titles in mid-October and that the winner will be announced on 16 November 1972.