

The logo for The Man Booker Prize 2013 is a white speech bubble with rounded corners. Inside the bubble, the text "The Man Booker Prize" is written in a blue, sans-serif font. A small white tab extends from the bottom of the bubble, containing the year "2013" in a blue, sans-serif font.

The Man  
Booker  
Prize

2013

Fiction at  
its finest

[www.themanbookerprize.com](http://www.themanbookerprize.com)



# About the prize

The [Man Booker Prize](#) is the leading literary award in the English speaking world, and has brought recognition, reward and readership to outstanding fiction for over four decades. Each year, the prize is awarded to what is, in the opinion of the judges, the best novel of the year written by a citizen of the Commonwealth or the Republic of Ireland (and Zimbabwe) and it transforms the winner's career.

The winner of the Man Booker Prize receives £50,000 as well as £2,500 which is awarded to each of the six shortlisted authors. Both the winner and the shortlisted authors are guaranteed a worldwide readership plus a dramatic increase in book sales.

The [Man Booker International Prize](#) was established in 2005, rewarding an author for a body of work originally written in any language as long as it is widely available in English. The International Prize is awarded once every two years. In addition, a number of one-off prizes have been created, from the [Lost Man Booker Prize](#) to the [Man Booker Best of Beryl](#), each aimed at spreading the word about the finest in fiction.



Innovating to perform

The logo for The Booker Prize Foundation, consisting of a grey rounded rectangle with the text 'The Booker Prize Foundation' inside in a white, sans-serif font.

The  
Booker  
Prize  
Foundation

“The Man Booker remains a truly important prize because it’s about so much more than the winner, or the shortlist. It has become the indispensable literary thermometer with which to take the temperature of contemporary fiction.”

Robert McCrum, *The Observer*

“...the opinion of the world matters and the quickest way to gain its notice as a writer is to win a prize, and of all prizes to win for a writer of fiction in English, the Man Booker is the biggest and the best.”

Howard Jacobson, *The Independent*

Winner of the 2010 prize

“The Man Booker Prize is the best-known, most hotly debated and eagerly sought literary award in Britain. The announcement of the names of the six final contestants – the famous Booker shortlist – has been known to cause furious rows in pubs and taxis across London, along with debates over who was excluded and why the winners were chosen.”

*The New York Times*

“What does the annual Man Booker Prize ceremony have in common with the Oscars?... in the vaulted dining room of London’s Guildhall, there is a certain glamour, and it undoubtedly changes the life of one artist and his or her supporting cast.

“The prominence given to these books is a gift to the reading world. In Hollywood, actors sometimes use their moment on the podium to draw attention to some good cause, but here there is no need: the good cause is the main event.”

*Daily Telegraph*

# Winners, shortlists & judges

Since 1969

# 1969

## Winner

P.H. Newby

*Something to Answer For*

Faber & Faber



In the early days the judges came to their decision a full month before the announcement was made. This first awards ceremony was on 22 April 1969 and consisted of a drinks reception at Stationers' Hall, where P. H. Newby was presented with the winner's cheque for £5,000. The prize had only a modest impact, but *Something to Answer For* immediately appeared on the *Evening Standard* bestseller list, the first time that a British novel had made its way onto such a list purely as the result of winning a prize.

## Shortlisted authors

Barry England

*Figures in a Landscape*

Cape

Nicholas Mosley

*The Impossible Object*

Hodder & Stoughton

Iris Murdoch

*The Nice and the Good*

Chatto & Windus

Muriel Spark

*The Public Image*

Macmillan

G.M. Williams

*From Scenes like These*

Secker & Warburg

## Judges

W.L. Webb (Chair)

David Farrer

Frank Kermode

Stephen Spender

Dame Rebecca West

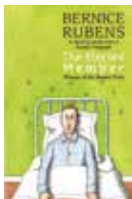
# 1970

## Winner

Bernice Rubens

*The Elected Member*

Eyre & Spottiswoode



The running of the Booker Prize transferred from the Publishers Association to the National Book League (later Book Trust). The winner that year was *The Elected Member* by Bernice Rubens.

## Shortlisted authors

A.L. Barker

*John Brown's Body*

Hogarth Press

Elizabeth Bowen

*Eva Trout*

Cape

Iris Murdoch

*Bruno's Dream*

Chatto & Windus

William Trevor

*Mrs Eckdorf in O'Neill's Hotel*

Bodley Head

T.W. Wheeler

*The Conjunction*

Angus & Robertson

## Judges

David Holloway (Chair)

Lady Antonia Fraser

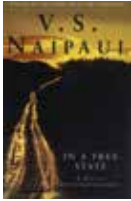
Ross Higgins

Richard Hoggart

Dame Rebecca West

# 1971

Winner  
V.S. Naipaul  
*In a Free State*  
Deutsch



The Booker Prize had its first controversy, in the form of one of the judges, Malcolm Muggeridge. Having read his way through most of the submissions he found himself 'out of sympathy' with them and withdrew his services, 'nauseated and appalled'. At the same time critics questioned whether V. S. Naipaul's *In a Free State* should win the prize as it consisted of five works – two short stories, two novellas and a short novel – linked by a common theme.

## Shortlisted authors

Thomas Kilroy

*The Big Chapel*

Faber & Faber

Doris Lessing

*Briefing for a Descent into Hell*

Cape

Mordecai Richler

*St Urbain's Horseman*

Weidenfeld & Nicolson

Derek Robinson

*Goshawk Squadron*

Heinemann

Elizabeth Taylor

*Mrs Palfrey at the Claremont*

Chatto & Windus

## Judges

John Gross (Chair)

Saul Bellow

John Fowles

Lady Antonia Fraser

Phillip Toynbee

# 1972

Winner  
John Berger  
G  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson



John Berger announced he would give half his prize money for his novel *G* to the Black Panther movement in protest at what he alleged was Booker's colonialist policy in the West Indies. In fact Booker had had its sugar plantations and refineries confiscated ten years previously – and the Black Panther movement had dissolved two years before.

## Shortlisted authors

Susan Hill

*Bird of Night*

Hamish Hamilton

Thomas Keneally

*The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith*

Angus & Robertson

David Storey

*Pasmore*

Longman

## Judges

Cyril Connolly (Chair)

Elizabeth Bowen

Dr George Steiner

# 1973

## Winner

J.G. Farrell

*The Siege of Krishnapur*

Weidenfeld & Nicolson



J.G. Farrell used his winner's speech at the awards ceremony to denounce capitalism, as represented by prize sponsors Booker. Unlike John Berger he retained his £5,000 prize in its entirety for his winning novel, *The Siege of Krishnapur*, which depicted the siege of an Indian town during the Indian Rebellion of 1857.

## Shortlisted authors

Beryl Bainbridge

*The Dressmaker*

Duckworth

Elizabeth Mavor

*The Green Equinox*

Michael Joseph

Iris Murdoch

*The Black Prince*

Chatto & Windus

## Judges

Karl Miller (Chair)

Edna O'Brien

Mary McCarthy

# 1974

## Winners

Nadine Gordimer

*The Conservationist*

Cape

Stanley Middleton

*Holiday*

Hutchinson



The shortlist this year included Kingsley Amis's *Ending Up*, which caused many raised eyebrows as Elizabeth Jane Howard, his wife, was one of the three judges. Despite her assertion that this was 'easily Kingsley's best book', Amis was beaten by the first Booker Prize tie, Nadine Gordimer's *The Conservationist* and Stanley Middleton's *Holiday*.

## Shortlisted authors

Kingsley Amis

*Ending Up*

Cape

Beryl Bainbridge

*The Bottle Factory Outing*

Duckworth

C.P. Snow

*In Their Wisdom*

Macmillan

## Judges

Ion Trewin (Chair)

A.S. Byatt

Elizabeth Jane Howard



# 1975

## Winner

Ruth Praver Jhabvala

*Heat and Dust*

John Murray



Authors were insulted that the judges found only two books worthy of shortlisting out of a total of 83 submissions. Thus Ruth Praver Jhabvala's *Heat and Dust* had only one runner up – Thomas Keneally's novel *Gossip from the Forest*.

## Shortlisted author

Thomas Keneally

*Gossip from the Forest*

Collins

## Judges

Angus Wilson (Chair)

Peter Ackroyd

Roy Fuller

Susan Hill

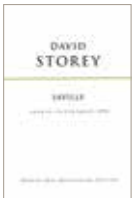
# 1976

## Winner

David Storey

*Saville*

Cape



Harold Wilson, having recently resigned as prime minister, came to the Booker Prize dinner because his wife Mary was one of the judges, but was only in time for pudding since he had spent the first part of the evening at an international boxing match. David Storey won the prize that year with *Saville*.

## Shortlisted authors

André Brink

*An Instant in the Wind*

W.H. Allen

R.C. Hutchinson

*Rising*

Michael Joseph

Brian Moore

*The Doctor's Wife*

Cape

Julian Rathbone

*King Fisher Lives*

Michael Joseph

William Trevor

*The Children of Dynmouth*

Bodley Head

## Judges

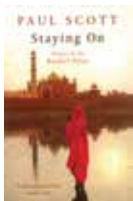
Walter Allen (Chair)

Francis King

Mary Wilson

# 1977

Winner  
Paul Scott  
*Staying On*  
Heinemann



Chair Philip Larkin threatened to jump out of the window if Paul Scott's *Staying On* didn't win. Luckily it did. *Staying On* focuses on Tusker and Lucy Smalley, characters briefly mentioned in the latter two books of Paul Scott's celebrated Raj Quartet.

Shortlisted authors  
Paul Bailey  
*Peter Smart's Confessions*  
Cape

Caroline Blackwood  
*Great Granny Webster*  
Duckworth

Jennifer Johnston  
*Shadows on our Skin*  
Hamish Hamilton

Penelope Lively  
*The Road to Lichfield*  
Heinemann

Barbara Pym  
*Quartet in Autumn*  
Macmillan

Judges  
Philip Larkin (Chair)  
Beryl Bainbridge  
Brendan Gill  
David Hughes  
Robin Ray

# 1978

Winner  
Iris Murdoch  
*The Sea, The Sea*  
Chatto & Windus



The prize money doubled to £10,000 this year. By the time she came to write *The Sea, The Sea*, Iris Murdoch had already published 18 novels and had been shortlisted for the Booker Prize three times.

Shortlisted authors  
Kingsley Amis  
*Jake's Thing*  
Hutchinson

André Brink  
*Rumours of Rain*  
W.H. Allen

Penelope Fitzgerald  
*The Bookshop*  
Duckworth

Jane Gardam  
*God on the Rocks*  
Hamish Hamilton

Bernice Rubens  
*A Five-Year Sentence*  
W.H. Allen

Judges  
Sir Alfred (A.J.) Ayer (Chair)  
Clare Boylan  
Angela Huth  
Derwent May  
P.H. Newby

# 1979

Winner

Penelope Fitzgerald

*Offshore*

Collins



*Offshore* recalls Penelope Fitzgerald's time spent on boats in Battersea by the Thames. It is the shortest novel to have won the Booker Prize at only 132 pages; a fact often cited when the question of 'how to define a novel' arises.

Shortlisted authors

Thomas Keneally

*Confederates*

Collins

V.S. Naipaul

*A Bend in the River*

Deutsch

Julian Rathbone

*Joseph*

Michael Joseph

Fay Weldon

*Praxis*

Hodder & Stoughton

Judges

Lord (Asa) Briggs (Chair)

Benny Green

Michael Ratcliffe

Hilary Spurling

Paul Theroux

# 1980

Winner

William Golding

*Rites of Passage*

Faber & Faber



Anthony Burgess made it plain from the moment his novel *Earthly Powers* was shortlisted that he was not willing to attend the awards ceremony at the Guildhall unless he was assured in advance that he had won. He hadn't, so he sulked at the Savoy Hotel while William Golding collected the prize for *Rites of Passage*.

Shortlisted authors

Anthony Burgess

*Earthly Powers*

Hutchinson

Anita Desai

*Clear Light of Day*

Heinemann

Alice Munro

*The Beggar Maid*

Allen Lane

Julia O'Faolain

*No Country for Young Men*

Allen Lane

Barry Unsworth

*Pascali's Island*

Michael Joseph

J.L. Carr

*A Month in the Country*

Harvester

Judges

Professor David Daiches (Chair)

Ronald Blythe

Margaret Forster

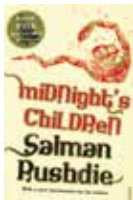
Claire Tomalin

Brian Wenham

# 1981

## Winner

Salman Rushdie  
*Midnight's Children*  
Cape



Helena Kennedy later praised Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* as 'a feast of sensations. A world was created full of clamour and scent, food smells, flowers and colour. I can still remember the thrill of its magic, the nosebleed turning to rubies on the page.'

## Shortlisted authors

Molly Keane  
*Good Behaviour*  
Deutsch  
Doris Lessing  
*The Sirian Experiments*  
Cape  
Ian McEwan  
*The Comfort of Strangers*  
Cape  
Ann Schlee  
*Rhine Journey*  
Macmillan

Muriel Spark  
*Loitering with Intent*  
Bodley Head

D.M. Thomas  
*The White Hotel*  
Gollancz

## Judges

Professor Malcolm Bradbury (Chair)  
Brian Aldiss  
Joan Bakewell  
Samuel Hynes  
Hermione Lee

# 1982

## Winner

Thomas Keneally  
*Schindler's Ark*  
Hodder & Stoughton



The controversy this year revolved around whether or not Thomas Keneally's *Schindler's Ark* was fiction or non-fiction. It became the bestselling Booker Prize winner ever, selling over two million copies. Steven Spielberg turned it into a moving film under the book's American title, *Schindler's List*, which won seven Academy Awards.

## Shortlisted authors

John Arden  
*Silence among the Weapons*  
Methuen  
William Boyd  
*An Ice-Cream War*  
Hamish Hamilton  
Lawrence Durrell  
*Constance or Solitary Practices*  
Faber & Faber

Alice Thomas Ellis  
*The 27th Kingdom*  
Duckworth

Timothy Mo  
*Sour Sweet*  
Deutsch

## Judges

Professor John Carey (Chair)  
Paul Bailey  
Frank Delaney  
Janet Morgan  
Lorna Sage

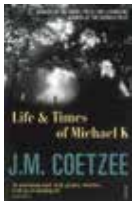
# 1983

## Winner

J.M. Coetzee

*Life & Times of Michael K*

Secker & Warburg



Chair Fay Weldon, put in the difficult position of having to choose between J. M. Coetzee's *Life & Times of Michael K* and Salman Rushdie's *Shame*, told Martyn Goff (the prize's administrator) that she never made decisions at home. 'My husband makes them all.'

## Shortlisted authors

Malcolm Bradbury

*Rates of Exchange*

Secker & Warburg

John Fuller

*Flying to Nowhere*

Salamander

Anita Mason

*The Illusionist*

Hamish Hamilton

Salman Rushdie

*Shame*

Cape

Graham Swift

*Waterland*

Heinemann

## Judges

Fay Weldon (Chair)

Angela Carter

Terence Kilmartin

Peter Porter

Libby Purves

# 1984

## Winner

Anita Brookner

*Hotel du Lac*

Cape



No one was more astonished than Anita Brookner herself when *Hotel du Lac* won – she had backed J. G. Ballard to win. The novel was adapted for television by Christopher Hampton and went on to be nominated for nine BAFTA awards.

## Shortlisted authors

J.G. Ballard

*Empire of the Sun*

Gollancz

Julian Barnes

*Flaubert's Parrot*

Cape

Anita Desai

*In Custody*

Heinemann

Penelope Lively

*According to Mark*

Heinemann

David Lodge

*Small World*

Secker & Warburg

## Judges

Professor Richard Cobb (Chair)

Anthony Curtis

Polly Devlin

John Fuller

Ted Rowlands

# 1985

## Winner

Keri Hulme

*The Bone People*

Hodder & Stoughton



*The Bone People* was Keri Hulme's first and only novel. One review described it as 'a disaster'. The first British print-run of the book was 1,500 copies, but having won the prize, the book went on to sell 34,000 copies in hardback. Joanna Lumley, one of the judges, said of her experience: 'The so-called bitchy world of acting was a Brownie's tea party compared with the piranha-infested waters of publishing.'

## Shortlisted authors

Peter Carey

*Illywhacker*

Faber & Faber

J.L. Carr

*The Battle of Pollocks Crossing*

Viking

Doris Lessing

*The Good Terrorist*

Cape

Jan Morris

*Last Letters from Hav*

Viking

Iris Murdoch

*The Good Apprentice*

Chatto & Windus

## Judges

Norman St John-Stevás (Chair)

Nina Bayden

J.W. Lambert

Joanna Lumley

Marina Warner

# 1986

## Winner

Kingsley Amis

*The Old Devils*

Hutchinson



There was surprise when *The Old Devils* by Kingsley Amis (a reputed misogynist) won since four of the five judges were women. In his acceptance speech he repented about his previous criticism of the prize saying, 'Now I feel it is a wonderful indication of literary merit'. He also said that he planned to buy new curtains with his prize money.

## Shortlisted authors

Margaret Atwood

*The Handmaid's Tale*

Cape

Paul Bailey

*Gabriel's Lament*

Cape

Robertson Davies

*What's Bred in the Bone*

Viking

Kazuo Ishiguro

*An Artist of the Floating World*

Faber & Faber

Timothy Mo

*An Insular Possession*

Chatto & Windus

## Judges

Anthony Thwaite (Chair)

Edna Healey

Isabel Quigley

Gillian Reynolds

Bernice Rubens

# 1987

Winner

Penelope Lively

*Moon Tiger*

Deutsch



Penelope Lively won this year with her novel *Moon Tiger*, the story of a woman journalist's reflections on a troubled life as she lies dying in a hospital bed, overshadowed by the memories of a love affair with a young soldier during the Second World War. Penelope Lively was also shortlisted for the prize in 1977 and 1984.

Shortlisted authors

Chinua Achebe

*Anthills of the Savannah*

Heinemann

Peter Ackroyd

*Chatterton*

Hamish Hamilton

Nina Bawden

*Circles of Deceit*

Macmillan

Brian Moore

*The Colour of Blood*

Cape

Iris Murdoch

*The Book and the Brotherhood*

Chatto & Windus

Judges

P.D. James (Chair)

Lady Selina Hastings

Allan Massie

Trevor McDonald

John B Thompson

# 1988

Winner

Peter Carey

*Oscar and Lucinda*

Faber & Faber



Content in *The Satanic Verses* by Salman Rushdie led the Iranian leadership to issue a fatwa against him. The novel was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and Michael Foot, chair of judges, was accused of backing *The Satanic Verses* because Rushdie was a member of the Labour Party. In the end Peter Carey won for *Oscar and Lucinda*.

Shortlisted authors

Bruce Chatwin

*Utz*

Cape

Penelope Fitzgerald

*The Beginning of Spring*

Collins

David Lodge

*Nice Work*

Secker & Warburg

Salman Rushdie

*The Satanic Verses*

Viking

Marina Warner

*The Lost Father*

Chatto & Windus

Judges

Michael Foot (Chair)

Sebastian Faulks

Philip French

Blake Morrison

Rose Tremain

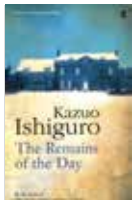
# 1989

Winner

Kazuo Ishiguro

*The Remains of the Day*

Faber & Faber



Controversy arose when Martin Amis's *London Fields* was excluded because of feminist objections from the two women judges, Maggie Gee and Helen McNeil, who were offended by the character of Nicola Six, a vampish, sexually reckless young woman who organises her own murder. The eventual winner, Kazuo Ishiguro's *Remains of the Day*, was later turned into the Oscar-nominated film starring Anthony Hopkins.

Shortlisted authors

Margaret Atwood

*Cat's Eye*

Bloomsbury

John Banville

*The Book of Evidence*

Secker & Warburg

Sybille Bedford

*Jigsaw*

Hamish Hamilton

James Kelman

*A Disaffection*

Secker & Warburg

Rose Tremain

*Restoration*

Hamish Hamilton

Judges

David Lodge (Chair)

Maggie Gee

Helen McNeil

David Profumo

Edmund White

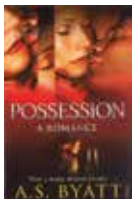
# 1990

Winner

A.S. Byatt

*Possession*

Chatto & Windus



A.S. Byatt told the audience at the prize-giving dinner at the Guildhall that she planned to spend her prize money on building a swimming pool at her house in Provence. Edwina Currie later praised *Possession* saying 'It was clever and beautifully written but also entertaining and a compulsive read. I wish I could write like that!'

Shortlisted authors

Beryl Bainbridge

*An Awfully Big Adventure*

Duckworth

Penelope Fitzgerald

*The Gate of Angels*

Collins

John McGahern

*Amongst Women*

Faber & Faber

Brian Moore

*Lies of Silence*

Bloomsbury

Mordecai Richler

*Solomon Gursky Was Here*

Chatto & Windus

Judges

Sir Denis Forman (Chair)

Susannah Clapp

A. Walton Litz

Hilary Mantel

Kate Saunders



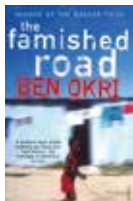
# 1991

## Winner

Ben Okri

*The Famished Road*

Cape



Ben Okri became the youngest-ever winner of the Booker in 1991 at the age of 32 with *The Famished Road*. One of the judges, Nicholas Mosley, resigned when he failed to persuade his fellow judges to include Allan Massie's novel *The Sins of the Father* on the shortlist.

## Shortlisted authors

Martin Amis

*Time's Arrow*

Cape

Roddy Doyle

*The Van*

Secker & Warburg

Rohinton Mistry

*Such a Long Journey*

Faber & Faber

Timothy Mo

*The Redundancy of Courage*

Chatto & Windus

William Trevor

*Reading Turgenev (from Two Lives)*

Viking

## Judges

Jeremy Treglown (Chair)

Penelope Fitzgerald

Jonathan Keates

Nicholas Mosley

Ann Schlee

# 1992

## Winners

Michael Ondaatje

*The English Patient*

Bloomsbury

Barry Unsworth

*Sacred Hunger*

Hamish Hamilton



The judges, chaired by Victoria Glendinning, came under fire for splitting the prize between Michael Ondaatje's *The English Patient* (later an evocative film directed by the late Anthony Minghella) and Barry Unsworth's *Sacred Hunger*. As a result the Booker Prize management committee changed the rules so that in future only one book could win. On jointly winning the prize, Ondaatje said, 'For a short time, I was a legend in my own lunchtime.'

## Shortlisted authors

Christopher Hope

*Serenity House*

Macmillan

Patrick McCabe

*The Butcher Boy*

Picador

Ian McEwan

*Black Dogs*

Cape

Michèle Roberts

*Daughters of the House*

Virago

## Judges

Victoria Glendinning (Chair)

John Coldstream

Professor Valentine Cunningham

Dr Harriet Harvey Wood

Mark Lawson

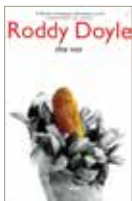
# 1993

## Winner

Roddy Doyle

*Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha*

Secker & Warburg



To mark the 25th anniversary of the prize, three former chairmen of the judges - Malcolm Bradbury, David Holloway and W. L. Webb – were asked to choose their 'Booker of Bookers'. Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* originally won the prize in 1981. Rushdie described it as 'the greatest compliment I have ever been paid as a writer.' Roddy Doyle's *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha* won the annual prize that year.

## Shortlisted authors

Tibor Fischer

*Under the Frog*

Polygon

Michael Ignatieff

*Scar Tissue*

Chatto & Windus

David Malouf

*Remembering Babylon*

Chatto & Windus

Caryl Phillips

*Crossing the River*

Bloomsbury

Carol Shields

*The Stone Diaries*

Fourth Estate

## Judges

Lord Gowrie (Chair)

Professor Gillian Beer

Anne Chisholm

Nicholas Clee

Olivier Todd

# 1994

## Winner

James Kelman

*How Late It Was, How Late*

Secker & Warburg



James Kelman winning the prize gave Scotland its first Booker Prize success. It was a controversial choice with even one of the judges, Rabbi Julia Neuberger, describing *How Late It Was, How Late* as 'a disgrace' before disassociating herself from the decision.

## Shortlisted authors

Romesh Gunasekera

*Reef*

Granta Books

Abdulrazak Gurnah

*Paradise*

Hamish Hamilton

Alan Hollinghurst

*The Folding Star*

Chatto & Windus

George Mackay Brown

*Beside the Ocean of Time*

John Murray

Jill Paton Walsh

*Knowledge of Angels*

Green Bay

## Judges

Professor John Bayley (Chair)

Rabbi Julia Neuberger

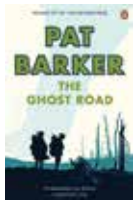
Dr Alastair Niven

Alan Taylor

James Wood

# 1995

Winner  
Pat Barker  
*The Ghost Road*  
Viking



*The Ghost Road* was the third novel in Pat Barker's World War I trilogy. On winning the prize, Barker told reporters that the Booker Prize was a good way to draw attention to contemporary fiction. 'I can't think of another way of promoting fiction, other than Hollywood films,' she said.

Shortlisted authors  
Justin Cartwright  
*In Every Face I Meet*  
Sceptre

Salman Rushdie  
*The Moor's Last Sigh*  
Cape

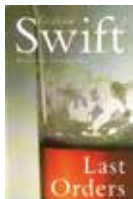
Barry Unsworth  
*Morality Play*  
Hamish Hamilton

Tim Winton  
*The Riders*  
Picador

Judges  
George Walden (Chair)  
Kate Kellaway  
Peter Kemp  
Adam Mars-Jones  
Ruth Rendell

# 1996

Winner  
Graham Swift  
*Last Orders*  
Picador



A controversy sprang up over the similarity of structure between the winner, Graham Swift's *Last Orders* and William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*. Swift gave an interview the following morning with BBC Radio 4 but was unable to name his favourite authors, 'because I have a massive hangover,' he explained.

Shortlisted authors  
Margaret Atwood  
*Alias Grace*  
Bloomsbury

Beryl Bainbridge  
*Every Man for Himself*  
Duckworth

Seamus Deane  
*Reading in the Dark*  
Cape

Shena Mackay  
*The Orchard on Fire*  
Heinemann

Rhinton Mistry  
*A Fine Balance*  
Faber & Faber

Judges  
Carmen Callil (Chair)  
Jonathan Coe  
Ian Jack  
A.L. Kennedy  
A.N. Wilson

# 1997

Winner  
Arundhati Roy  
*The God of Small Things*  
Flamingo



*The God of Small Things* was the first – and so far only – novel from Indian writer, Arundhati Roy. Gillian Beer, Professor of English literature at Cambridge and the chair of the judges, said the book was written with 'extraordinary linguistic inventiveness.'

## Shortlisted authors

Jim Crace  
*Quarantine*  
Viking  
Mick Jackson  
*The Underground Man*  
Picador  
Bernard MacLaverty  
*Grace Notes*  
Cape

Tim Parks  
*Europa*  
Secker & Warburg  
Madeleine St John  
*The Essence of the Thing*  
Fourth Estate  
**Judges**  
Professor Gillian Beer (Chair)  
Rachel Billington  
Jason Cowley  
Jan Dalley  
Professor Dan Jacobson

# 1998

Winner  
Ian McEwan  
*Amsterdam*  
Cape



Douglas Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary, and chair of the judges, called Ian McEwan's novel *Amsterdam* 'a sardonic and wise examination of the morals and culture of our time.' McEwan said he would probably spend the money on 'something perfectly useless,' rather than fritter it away on things like 'bus fares and linoleum.'

## Shortlisted authors

Beryl Bainbridge  
*Master Georgie*  
Duckworth  
Julian Barnes  
*England, England*  
Cape  
Martin Booth  
*The Industry of Souls*  
Dewi Lewis

Patrick McCabe  
*Breakfast on Pluto*  
Picador  
Magnus Mills  
*The Restraint of Beasts*  
Flamingo  
**Judges**  
Douglas Hurd (Chair)  
Professor Valentine Cunningham  
Penelope Fitzgerald  
Miriam Gross  
Nigella Lawson

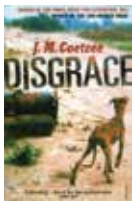
# 1999

Winner

J.M. Coetzee

*Disgrace*

Secker & Warburg



J. M. Coetzee became the first writer to win the Booker Prize twice – with *Life & Times of Michael K* (1983) and *Disgrace* (1999). Coetzee described it as the ‘ultimate prize to win in the English-speaking world’. Unable to attend the ceremony, his prepared speech said, ‘If I do win it’s only because the stars this October 25th are in a lucky conjunction for me.’

Shortlisted authors

Anita Desai

*Fasting, Feasting*

Chatto & Windus

Michael Frayn

*Headlong*

Faber & Faber

Andrew O’Hagan

*Our Fathers*

Faber & Faber

Ahdaf Soueif

*The Map of Love*

Bloomsbury

Colm Tóibín

*The Blackwater Lightship*

Picador

Judges

Gerald Kaufman (Chair)

Shena Mackay

Professor John Sutherland

Boyd Tonkin

Natasha Walter

# 2000

Winner

Margaret Atwood

*The Blind Assassin*

Bloomsbury



Robert MacFarlane wrote in *The Observer* two days before the winner announcement, ‘Ideally, the Booker Prize would be run like a criminal trial. Past offences (or past novels) would not be taken into account, and justice would be administered only according to the available evidence (the books in question).’ Margaret Atwood won this year for her novel *The Blind Assassin*, having been shortlisted for the prize three times before.

Shortlisted authors

Trezza Azzopardi

*The Hiding Place*

Picador

Michael Collins

*The Keepers of Truth*

Phoenix House

Kazuo Ishiguro

*When we were Orphans*

Faber & Faber

Matthew Kneale

*English Passengers*

Hamish Hamilton

Brian O’Doherty

*The Deposition of Father McGreevy*

Arcadia

Judges

Simon Jenkins (Chair)

Professor Roy Foster

Mariella Frostrup

Caroline Gascoigne

Rose Tremain

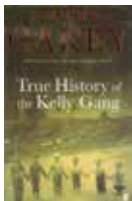
# 2001

## Winner

Peter Carey

*True History of the Kelly Gang*

Faber & Faber



For the first time in the prize's 33 year history, the judges revealed their final 24 books, 'the longlist' from which the shortlist and the ultimate winner would be chosen. The BBC renewed its partnership with the Booker Prize after four years when Channel 4 covered the Guildhall dinner, and Peter Carey became the second double-winner of the prize with *True History of the Kelly Gang*.

## Shortlisted authors

Ian McEwan

*Atonement*

Jonathan Cape

Andrew Miller

*Oxygen*

Sceptre

David Mitchell

*number9dream*

Sceptre

Rachel Seiffert

*The Dark Room*

Heinemann

Ali Smith

*Hotel World*

Hamish Hamilton

## Judges

Kenneth Baker (Chair)

Philip Hensher

Michèle Roberts

Kate Summerscale

Professor Rory Watson

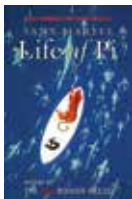
# 2002

## Winner

Yann Martel

*Life of Pi*

Canongate



Yann Martel's *Life of Pi* proved a hugely popular winner, but it was another novel to provoke a plagiarism row with the accusation that Martel had stolen the idea from a Brazilian author, Dr Moacyr Scliar. In his defence Martel said, 'I saw a premise I liked and told my own story with it.' This was the first year of the Man Group's sponsorship, making Martel the first writer to win the Man Booker Prize.

## Shortlisted authors

Rohinton Mistry

*Family Matters*

Faber & Faber

Carol Shields

*Unless*

Fourth Estate

William Trevor

*The Story of Lucy Gault*

Viking

Sarah Waters

*Fingersmith*

Virago

Tim Winton

*Dirt Music*

Picador

## Judges

Lisa Jardine (Chair)

David Baddiel

Russell Celyn Jones

Salley Vickers

Erica Wagner

# 2003

## Winner

D.B.C. Pierre  
*Vernon God Little*  
Faber & Faber



D.B.C. Pierre's win for *Vernon God Little* followed shortly after a confession that he had spent a ten year period betraying and fleeing friends over three continents. On winning the prize, D.B.C. Pierre said that the cheque would go straight to the people he owed.

## Shortlisted authors

Monica Ali  
*Brick Lane*  
Doubleday

Margaret Atwood  
*Oryx and Crake*  
Bloomsbury

Damon Galgut  
*The Good Doctor*  
Atlantic Books

Zoë Heller  
*Notes on a Scandal*  
Viking Penguin

Clare Morrall  
*Astonishing Splashes of Colour*  
Tindal Street Press

## Judges

Professor John Carey (Chair)  
A.C. Grayling  
Francine Stock  
Rebecca Stephens MBE  
D.J. Taylor

# 2004

## Winner

Alan Hollinghurst  
*The Line of Beauty*  
Picador



*The Line of Beauty* was dubbed by the media as 'the first gay novel' to win the prize. In describing his novel, Alan Hollinghurst said, 'The first part is a romance, the second one is more farcical and grotesque and the third one is more tragic in nature.'

## Shortlisted authors

Achmat Dangor  
*Bitter Fruit*  
Atlantic

Sarah Hall  
*The Electric Michelangelo*  
Faber & Faber

David Mitchell  
*Cloud Atlas*  
Sceptre

Colm Tóibín  
*The Master*  
Picador

Gerard Woodward  
*I'll go to Bed at Noon*  
Chatto & Windus

## Judges

Chris Smith (Chair)  
Tibor Fischer  
Robert Macfarlane  
Rowan Pelling  
Fiammetta Rocco

# 2005

## Winner

John Banville

*The Sea*

Picador



John Banville and Kazuo Ishiguro came head to head again on the prize shortlist. Ishiguro had pipped Banville to the post in 1989 with *Remains of the Day*, but this year Banville successfully picked up the prize with his novel *The Sea* over Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go*. John Sutherland, chair of judges that year, had to cast the deciding vote between the two novels. The Albanian writer Ismail Kadaré became the winner of the inaugural Man Booker International Prize.

## Shortlisted authors

Julian Barnes

*Arthur and George*

Jonathan Cape

Sebastian Barry

*A Long, Long Way*

Faber & Faber

Kazuo Ishiguro

*Never Let Me Go*

Faber & Faber

Ali Smith

*The Accidental*

Hamish Hamilton

Zadie Smith

*On Beauty*

Hamish Hamilton

## Judges

John Sutherland (Chair)

Lindsay Duguid

Rick Gekoski

Josephine Hart

David Sexton

# 2006

## Winner

Kiran Desai

*The Inheritance of Loss*

Penguin



Kiran Desai's win with her second novel, *Inheritance of Loss*, made her the youngest female author to have won the prize. Her mother Anita Desai, herself shortlisted for the Booker Prize three times, was delighted with the news. Desai told reporters her win felt 'like a family endeavour'.

## Shortlisted authors

Kate Grenville

*The Secret River*

Canongate

M.J. Hyland

*Carry Me Down*

Canongate

Hisham Matar

*In the Country of Men*

Viking

Edward St Aubyn

*Mother's Milk*

Virago

Sarah Waters

*The Night Watch*

Virago

## Judges

Hermione Lee (Chair)

Simon Armitage

Candia McWilliam

Anthony Quinn

Fiona Shaw



# 2007

Winner  
Anne Enright  
*The Gathering*  
Cape



With *The Gathering* Anne Enright became the third Irish novelist to win the Man Booker Prize. 'When people pick up a book they may want something happy that will cheer them up. In that case they shouldn't really pick up my book. It's the intellectual equivalent of a Hollywood weepie.'

## Shortlisted authors

Nicola Barker

*Darkmans*

Fourth Estate

Mohsin Hamid

*The Reluctant Fundamentalist*

Hamish Hamilton

Lloyd Jones

*Mister Pip*

John Murray

Ian McEwan

*On Chesil Beach*

Cape

Indra Sinha

*Animal's People*

Simon & Schuster

## Judges

Howard Davies (Chair)

Wendy Cope

Giles Foden

Ruth Scurr

Imogen Stubbs

# 2008

Winner  
Aravind Adiga  
*The White Tiger*  
Atlantic



The judges enjoyed culinary as well as literary delights this year, as Hardeep Singh Kohli cooked dinner for the panel to accompany their meetings. The meals were such a success that one was filmed for the BBC's *The One Show*. It is not known whether Hardeep's Indian cuisine influenced the eventual choice of winner.

## Shortlisted authors

Sebastian Barry

*The Secret Scripture*

Faber & Faber

Amitav Ghosh

*Sea of Poppies*

John Murray

Linda Grant

*The Clothes on Their Backs*

Virago

Philip Hensher

*The Northern Clemency*

Fourth Estate

Steve Toltz

*A Fraction of the Whole*

Hamish Hamilton

## Judges

Michael Portillo (Chair)

Alex Clark

Louise Doughty

James Heneage

Hardeep Singh Kohli

# 2009

## Winner

Hilary Mantel  
*Wolf Hall*  
Fourth Estate



*Wolf Hall* was a commercial as well as critical success becoming the fastest selling Man Booker winner ever. It sold over half a million copies in the UK alone, with rights sold to 37 countries world wide.

## Shortlisted authors

A.S. Byatt  
*The Children's Book*  
Chatto & Windus

J.M. Coetzee

*Summertime*  
Harvill Secker

Adam Foulds  
*The Quickening Maze*  
Cape

Simon Mawer  
*The Glass Room*  
Little, Brown

Sarah Waters

*The Little Stranger*  
Virago

## Judges

James Naughtie (Chair)  
Lucasta Miller  
John Mullan  
Sue Perkins  
Michael Prodger

# 2010

## Winner

Howard Jacobson  
*The Finkler Question*  
Bloomsbury



Accepting the prize, Jacobson joked he had been writing unused acceptance speeches for years. 'I note that my language in these speeches grows less gracious with the years. You start to want to blame the judges who have given you the prize for all the prizes they didn't give you. But they aren't, of course, the same judges. Tonight, I forgive everyone - they were only doing their job, those judges...'

## Shortlisted authors

Peter Carey  
*Parrot and Olivier in America*  
Faber & Faber

Emma Donoghue  
*Room*  
Picador

Damon Galgut  
*In a Strange Room*  
Grove Atlantic

Andrea Levy

*The Long Song*  
Headline Review

Tom McCarthy

*C*  
Cape

## Judges

Sir Andrew Motion (Chair)  
Rosie Blau  
Deborah Bull  
Tom Sutcliffe  
Frances Wilson

# 2011

## Winner

Julian Barnes

[The Sense of an Ending](#)

Jonathan Cape



Dame Stella Rimington chaired her panel of judges through a controversial year which culminated in Julian Barnes being crowned winner for his first novel for six years, *The Sense of an Ending*. The bookies' favourite to win, Barnes had been shortlisted three times previously and had in the past described the Man Booker Prize as 'posh bingo'. His winning book went on to sell over 300,000 hardback copies in the UK alone.

## Shortlisted authors

Carol Birch

[Jamrach's Menagerie](#)

Canongate

Patrick deWitt

[The Sisters Brothers](#)

Granta Books

Esi Edugyan

[Half-Blood Blues](#)

Serpent's Tail

Stephen Kelman

[Pigeon English](#)

Bloomsbury

A.D. Miller

[Snowdrops](#)

Atlantic Books

## Judges

Dame Stella Rimington (Chair)

Matthew d'Ancona

Susan Hill

Chris Mullin

Gaby Wood

# 2012

## Winner

Hilary Mantel

[Bring Up the Bodies](#)

Fourth Estate



Hilary Mantel triumphed for a second time with her successor to *Wolf Hall*, *Bring Up the Bodies*. In so doing, she achieved three 'firsts' - not only was she the first woman and the first British author to win the prize twice, but she was also the first person to win the prize for two novels in a trilogy. The RSC acquired the theatrical rights to both. 2013 was also significant in that three out of the six shortlisted authors were published by small, independent houses.

## Shortlisted authors

Tan Twan Eng

[The Garden of Evening Mists](#)

Myrmidon Books

Deborah Levy

[Swimming Home & Other Stories](#)

Faber & Faber

Alison Moore

[The Lighthouse](#)

Salt Publishing

Will Self

[Umbrella](#)

Bloomsbury

Jeet Thayil

[Narcopolis](#)

Faber & Faber

## Judges

Sir Peter Stothard (Chair)

Dinah Birch

Amanda Foreman

Dan Stevens

Bharat Tandon

# 2013 Judges

## Robert Macfarlane (Chair)

is a Fellow in English at Cambridge University, specialising in contemporary literature, and is well-known both as a critic and writer.

## Robert Douglas-Fairhurst

is a biographer and critic who is a Fellow and Tutor in English at Magdalen College, Oxford.

## Natalie Haynes

is a writer and broadcaster who writes a column for *The Independent*, and blogs for *The Guardian*.

## Martha Kearney

has developed a reputation as one of the BBC's most respected journalists. She presents *The World At One* on Radio Four and *The Review Show* on BBC2.

## Stuart Kelly

is a writer, critic and reviewer for *The Scotsman*, *Scotland On Sunday*, *The Guardian* and *The Times*. He was recently appointed Director of the Glasgow Literature Festival.



2013 Judges left to right: Stuart Kelly, Natalie Haynes, Robert Douglas-Fairhurst, Robert Macfarlane (Chair), Martha Kearney

# The Booker of Bookers

## 1993

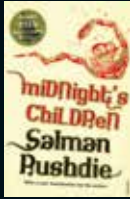
25th anniversary

Winner

Salman Rushdie

*Midnight's Children*

Vintage



To mark the 25th anniversary of the prize, three former chairs of the judges – Malcolm Bradbury, David Holloway and W.L. Webb – were asked to choose their 'Booker of Bookers'. Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* originally won the prize in 1981. Rushdie described it as 'the greatest compliment I have ever been paid as a writer.'

Judges

Malcolm Bradbury

David Holloway

W.L. Webb

# The Best of the Booker

## 2008

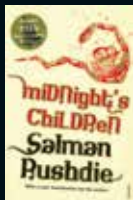
40th anniversary

Winner

Salman Rushdie

*Midnight's Children*

Vintage



To mark the 40th Anniversary of the prize, a panel of judges was asked to select a shortlist of the best books to have won the prize in the previous four decades. For the first time in the prize's history, the overall winner was selected by an online public vote.

Salman Rushdie was named winner of the Best of the Booker award for *Midnight's Children* with 36 per cent of the votes. Rushdie commented: 'Marvellous news! I'm absolutely delighted and would like to thank all those readers around the world who voted for *Midnight's Children*.'

Shortlisted authors

Pat Barker

*The Ghost Road*

Viking

Peter Carey

*Oscar and Lucinda*

Faber & Faber

J.M. Coetzee

*Disgrace*

Seckler & Warburg

J.G. Farrell

*The Siege of Krishnapur*

Weidenfeld & Nicolson

Nadine Gordimer

*The Conservationist*

Cape

Judges

Victoria Glendinning (Chair)

Mariella Frostrup

John Mullan

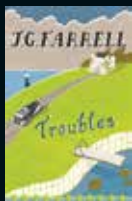
# The Lost Man Booker 2010

## Winner

Salman Rushdie

*Midnight's Children*

Vintage



The Lost Man Booker Prize was a one-off prize to honour the books that missed out on the opportunity to win the Booker Prize in 1970. In 1971, just two years after it began, the Booker Prize ceased to be awarded retrospectively and became a prize for the best novel of the year of publication. At the same time the award moved from April to November, resulting in a wealth of fiction published for much of 1970 not being considered for the prize.

In 2008, 40 years on, a panel of three judges - all of whom were born in or around 1970 - was appointed to select a shortlist of six novels from that year. They were poet and novelist Tobias Hill, television newsreader, Katie Derham, and the journalist and critic, Rachel Cooke.

The winner of the Lost Man Booker Prize was J.G. Farrell with *Troubles*. His family accepted a designer-bound copy of the novel on his behalf.

## Shortlisted authors

Nina Bowden

*The Birds on the Trees*

Virago

Shirley Hazzard

*The Bay of Noon*

Virago

Mary Renault

*Fire From Heaven*

Arrow

Muriel Spark

*The Driver's Seat*

Penguin

Patrick White

*The Vivisector*

Vintage

## Judges

Tobias Hill

Katie Derham

Rachel Cooke



# The Man Booker Best of Beryl 2011

Winner  
*Master Georgie*  
Duckworth



The late, much-loved, novelist Dame Beryl Bainbridge was shortlisted five times for the Booker Prize, but never actually won. Despite many other literary accolades, she was famous for being the 'Booker Bridesmaid.' In her honour, the Booker Prize Foundation created a special prize, The Man Booker Best of Beryl, and asked the public to consider which of her five shortlisted novels best deserved to win this special tribute prize.

The winning novel, as chosen by the public, was *Master Georgie* - originally shortlisted for the 1998 Man Booker Prize and described by the *Sunday Telegraph* as 'Truly extraordinary, heartbreakingly good.' The novel tells the story of George Hardy, a surgeon and photographer who leaves Victorian Liverpool to offer his services in the Crimea. He is followed by a small caravan of devoted followers, each driven onwards through the rising tide of death and disease by a shared and mysterious guilt.

All five novels have now been reissued by Abacus.

## Shortlisted novels

An Awfully Big Adventure  
Duckworth

Every Man for Himself  
Duckworth

Master Georgie  
Duckworth

The Bottle Factory Outing  
Duckworth

The Dressmaker  
Duckworth

# The Man Booker International Prize 2013

## Winner

Lydia Davis [USA](#)



The Man Booker International Prize recognises one writer for his or her achievement in fiction. Worth \$60,000, the prize is awarded every two years to a living author who has published fiction either originally in English or whose work is generally available in translation in the English language. The winner is chosen solely at the discretion of the judging panel and there are no submissions from publishers.

[U R Ananthamurthy India](#)  
[Aharon Appelfeld Israel](#)  
[Intizar Hussain Pakistan](#)  
[Yan Lianke China](#)  
[Marie NDiaye France](#)  
[Josip Novakovich Canada](#)  
[Marlynnne Robinson USA](#)  
[Vladimir Sorokin Russia](#)  
[Peter Stamm Switzerland](#)

Launched in 2005, The Man Booker International Prize is significantly different from the annual Man Booker Prize for Fiction in that it highlights one writer's overall contribution to fiction on the world stage. In focusing above all on literary excellence, the judges consider a writer's body of work rather than a single novel.

## Judges

[Christopher Ricks \(Chair\)](#)  
[Elif Batuman](#)  
[Aminatta Forna](#)  
[Yiyun Li](#)  
[Tim Parks](#)

# The Man Booker International Prize

## 2011

## 2009

Winner  
Philip Roth USA



### List of Finalists

Wang Anyi China  
John le Carré UK  
Juan Goytisolo Spain  
James Kelman UK  
Amin Maalouf Lebanon  
David Malouf Australia  
Dacia Maraini Italy  
Rohinton Mistry India/Canada  
Philip Pullman UK  
Marilynne Robinson USA  
Su Tong China  
Anne Tyler USA

### Judges

Dr Rick Gekoski (Chair)  
Carmen Callil  
Justin Cartwright

Winner  
Alice Munro Canada



### List of Finalists

Peter Carey Australia  
Evan S. Connell USA  
Mahasweta Devi India  
E.L. Doctorow USA  
James Kelman UK  
Mario Vargas Llosa Peru  
Arnošt Lustig Czech Republic  
V.S. Naipaul Trinidad/India  
Joyce Carol Oates USA  
Antonio Tabucchi Italy  
Ngugi Wa Thiong'O Kenya  
Dubravka Ugresic Croatia  
Ludmila Ulitskaya Russia

### Judges

Jane Smiley (Chair)  
Amit Chaudhuri  
Andrey Kurkov

# The Man Booker International Prize

## 2007

## 2005

Winner  
Chinua Achebe *Nigeria*



### List of Finalists

Margaret Atwood *Canada*  
John Banville *Ireland*  
Peter Carey *Australia*  
Don DeLillo *USA*  
Carlos Fuentes *Mexico*  
Doris Lessing *UK*  
Ian McEwan *UK*  
Harry Mulisch *Netherlands*  
Alice Munro *Canada*  
Michael Ondaatje *Canada*  
Amos Oz *Israel*  
Philip Roth *USA*  
Salman Rushdie *UK*  
Michel Tournier *France*

### Judges

Elaine Showalter (Chair)  
Nadine Gordimer  
Colm Tóibín

Winner  
Ismail Kadaré *Albania*



### List of Finalists

Margaret Atwood *Canada*  
Saul Bellow *Canada*  
Gabriel García Márquez *Colombia*  
Günter Grass *Germany*  
Milan Kundera *Czech Republic*  
Stanisław Lem *Poland*  
Doris Lessing *UK*  
Naguib Mahfouz *Egypt*  
Tomás Eloy Martínez *Argentina*  
Ian McEwan *UK*  
Kenzaburo Oe *Japan*  
Cynthia Ozick *USA*  
A.B. Yehoshua *Israel*

### Judges

John Carey (Chair)  
Azar Nafisi  
Alberto Manguel

# The sponsor

The Man Booker Prize is sponsored by [Man Group plc](#) (“Man”).

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The original business was founded in 1783. Today, Man Group plc is listed on the London Stock Exchange and is a member of the FTSE 250 Index. Man is a signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). Man also supports many awards, charities and initiatives around the world, including sponsorship of the Man Booker literary prizes. Further information can be found at [www.man.com](http://www.man.com).



# The people behind the prize

The trustees of the Booker Prize Foundation are former Chairman of Booker plc, Jonathan Taylor CBE (Chair); Lord Baker of Dorking CH; writer, critic and broadcaster, Bidisha; playwright and President of the Royal Literary Fund, Sir Ronald Harwood CBE; former Chair of the British Council and Principal of Mansfield College, Oxford, Baroness Kennedy QC; Professor of Creative Writing, Royal Holloway College University of London and former Poet Laureate, Sir Andrew Motion; broadcaster, James Naughtie; biographer, Victoria Glendinning CBE and former Finance Director of Rentokil plc, Christopher Pearce. Martyn Goff CBE, former Man Booker Prize Administrator, is President of the Foundation and Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne and Baroness Neuberger are Vice Presidents.

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The Advisory Committee is chaired by Ion Trewin, Literary Director of the Booker Prize Foundation.

Four Colman Getty handles PR, marketing and event management for The Man Booker Prizes and provides administrative back-up.

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“The most toffee-nosed among the literati may still regard the very notion of a prize as vulgar. But every year – from the unveiling of the longlist until the winner is revealed – the Man Booker gets us all talking about books, in a way that nothing else can match.”

*The Guardian*

“Even when the Booker isn’t controversial, it’s controversial for not being controversial enough. There’s a peculiar circularity at the heart of its cultural significance. It’s important because it’s controversial, and it’s controversial because it’s important.”

Mark O’Connell, *The New Yorker* blog