



Press Release

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*1 December 2011, London*

**The London Library and Heywood Hill announce ‘The London Library Life in Literature Award’ sponsored by Heywood Hill**

*2011 posthumous joint-winners: Josephine Hart and Sir Patrick Leigh Fermor*

A unique literary award was today revived by two of Britain’s most prestigious, independent literary institutions. *The London Library Life in Literature Award*, sponsored by Heywood Hill, recognises those who have made an exceptional contribution to literary life and the enjoyment of books.

*The London Library Life in Literature Award* for 2011, sponsored by Heywood Hill, has been awarded jointly to Josephine Hart and Sir Patrick Leigh Fermor, both of whom died earlier this year. While the award will not ordinarily be made posthumously, the judges felt it was important to honour the contribution of these two remarkable literary figures. This year’s awardees were chosen by Sir Tom Stoppard, playwright and President of The London Library; the Duke of Devonshire, majority shareholder of Heywood Hill, the famous Mayfair bookshop; Lottie Cole, Development Director of the London Library; and Nicky Dunne, Chairman of Heywood Hill.

The award was announced at The London Library Heywood Hill Christmas Party in the Library’s Reading Room, which featured ‘winter readings’ by Dominic West, Natascha McElhone and Bill Nighy.

Announcing the award, Sir Tom Stoppard said, ‘Josephine Hart was a magnificent advocate for poetry and the literary arts in general. Paddy Leigh Fermor was the most inspirational travel writer of the twentieth century. Both their lives were glorious examples of precisely the kind of literary spirit this award has been revived to celebrate, and so we chose to make the 2011 award jointly.’

The Duke of Devonshire said, ‘The London Library and Heywood Hill are very special places indeed. Both are devoted to quality and both were much loved by my father who helped support the first incarnation of the Heywood Hill prize and was for many years Vice President of the

Library. It gives me enormous pleasure to see his prize coming back to life, thanks to the vision of The London Library and the renaissance taking place at Heywood Hill.'

Lottie Cole, Development & Communications Director, at The London Library said, 'Since its founding in 1841 The London Library has held a unique place in this country's cultural firmament: it has been and continues to be both holder of knowledge and engine-room for thoughtful creativity. *The London Library Life in Literature Award sponsored by Heywood Hill* alongside *The London Library Student Writing Prize* embody the latter role and we're delighted to have launched them both in 2011, our 170th year'.

Nicky Dunne, Chairman Heywood Hill said, 'Linking up with the London Library and reviving the Heywood Hill prize is wonderfully exciting news for us. I know our customers will be delighted that the prize is back, and that two of Mayfair's literary landmarks are linking arms. It is also a sign of renewed confidence in the future of our shop, and its cultural importance.'

## **Notes to Editors**

### ***About The London Library Life in Literature Award***

*The London Library Life in Literature Award*, sponsored by Heywood Hill, recognises those who have made an exceptional contribution to literary life and the enjoyment of books.

The judging panel for the 2012 award will be announced in the New Year. The 2012 winner will be presented with their award and a cheque for £10,000 at The London Library's Annual Literary Dinner in early May.

### ***About The London Library***

The London Library, St James's Square, was founded in 1841 and is the world's largest independent lending library. Its broad and eclectic collection covers a vast number of subjects across the humanities, with books dating from the 16th Century to the latest print and digital resources. It has over one million volumes, stored on 15 miles of open-access shelves which may be freely browsed with over 97% available for loan.

With over 7000 current members, the Library has provided an invaluable resource to writers, researchers and avid readers for over 160 years. Past and present members include Charles Darwin, George Eliot, Virginia Woolf, T.S. Eliot, Bruce Chatwin, Sebastian Faulks, Jeremy Paxman, Antonia Fraser and current president Sir Tom Stoppard. Membership of The London Library is open to all.

The Library is a registered charity and receives no government or statutory funding and is funded entirely by members' subscriptions, donations and bequests. In summer 2010 the Library completed the second phase of its historic refurbishment designed by Haworth Tompkins Architects.

For further information and images please contact Aimee Heuzenroeder, Communications and Public Affairs Manager on 020 7766 4734 or email [aimee.heuzenroeder@londonlibrary.co.uk](mailto:aimee.heuzenroeder@londonlibrary.co.uk)

The London Library, 14 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LG.  
Nearest underground: Piccadilly, Green Park  
[www.londonlibrary.co.uk](http://www.londonlibrary.co.uk)

### ***About G Heywood Hill Ltd***

*Heywood Hill* is an independent bookshop which has served the literary establishment for 75 years. Established in 1936 by Heywood Hill and his wife Anne, the bookshop is a remarkable survival. In December 1942, when Heywood was called up to join the British Army, Nancy Mitford and a small group of loyal helpers enabled the bookshop to remain open. Heywood Hill is now part-owned by Nancy Mitford's nephew, Stoker, 12<sup>th</sup> Duke of Devonshire.

Heywood Hill sells new, old and antiquarian books as well as producing catalogues on numerous themes. The emphasis remains *literature, history, architecture, biography* and *travel* as well as keeping a well-stocked *children's* department. In 2011 Heywood Hill was awarded a Royal Warrant by Her Majesty The Queen.

Heywood Hill offers a unique, personalized recommendation service to customers, helping to source any new, old or antiquarian book and posting books to locations across the world. Heywood Hill also offers subscription services, book restorations, valuations and other services.

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10 Curzon Street, London W1J 5HH [www.heywoodhill.com](http://www.heywoodhill.com)

### ***About The Heywood Hill Prize 1995-2004***

The **Heywood Hill Literary Prize** was awarded yearly to a writer, editor, reviewer, collector or publisher for a lifelong contribution to the enjoyment of books. Andrew Cavendish, 11th Duke of Devonshire personally sponsored the award.

#### **The Heywood Hill Literary Prize**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Recipient</b>
1995	Patrick O'Brian
1996	Penelope Fitzgerald
1997	John Nicoll
1998	Norman Lewis and Richard Ollard
1999	Jane Gardam
2000	Charles Causley
2001	Michael Holroyd
2002	Michael Frayn

2003            Mark Amory and Hilary Spurling  
2004            Beryl Bainbridge

### ***The London Library Student Prize***

The London Library is looking to discover the next generation of writers, thinkers and opinion formers.

This is an opportunity for students to expose their talent to thousands of readers – the winning piece will be published in the comment pages of *The Times* and in *The London Library Magazine*.

The first prize winner will also receive £5000, 1 year's membership of The London Library and 1 year's subscription to *The Times*. 3 Runners-Up will receive £1000, 1 year's membership of The London Library and 1 year's subscription to *The Times*.

The winner and runners-up will also have the opportunity to spend some time with journalists at *The Times* as part of a mini-internship.

The theme of the competition is 'The future of Britain lies with the right-hand side of the brain'. Students from all degree disciplines are encouraged to enter and the winner will be the entrant whose work, in the opinion of the judges, demonstrates creativity, clarity and originality of thought, and confident handling of the subject matter.

The judging panel will include journalist and Chairman of The London Library Trustees Bill Emmott, *The Times* Deputy Books Editor Tom Gatti, actress and author Sheila Hancock OBE, FreshMinds' Head of Marketing Sophie Murray and *The Times* Books Editor Erica Wagner.

Submissions should be no longer than 800 words and the deadline for entries is midnight on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012. The judging panel will select a shortlist of four entries, to be announced in April 2012, with the winner from this shortlist to be announced in June 2012.

For further information and to enter visit [www.londonlibrarystudentprize.com](http://www.londonlibrarystudentprize.com)