



Supported by:

THE  TIMES



THE LONDON LIBRARY STUDENT PRIZE 2012 - WINNER ANNOUNCED!

The London Library, the UK's leading literary institution, today announced the winner of its inaugural Student Prize writing competition.

Ben Mason, a final year Philosophy and German student at Trinity College, Oxford, was awarded first prize, with Caroline Criado-Perez, Sylvia Christie and Andrew McCormack named as runners-up.

In launching the Student Prize, The London Library set out to discover the next generation of writers, thinkers and opinion formers. Final year undergraduate students at all UK higher education institutions were encouraged to enter, and entries from a huge range of disciplines were received from universities across the country.

Entrants were asked to submit an 800-word piece responding to the Prize theme, "The future of Britain lies with the right-hand side of the brain."

A distinguished panel of judges – former editor of *The Economist* and Chairman of The London Library Trustees Bill Emmott, *The Times* Books Editor Erica Wagner, actress and author Sheila Hancock OBE, *The Times* Deputy Books Editor Tom Gatti, and FreshMinds' Head of Marketing Sophie Murray - thoroughly enjoyed reading all the entries and were impressed with the quality, originality of approach and great effort demonstrated.

The Prize winner receives a cheque for £5,000 and the three runners-up receive cheques for £1,000. The winner and runners-up will also receive a year's membership of The London Library and a year's subscription to *The Times*, as well as the opportunity to take part in a mini-internship at *The Times*.

Ben Mason's winning entry will be published in *The Times* and The London Library Magazine later this year.

On being named as the Prize's inaugural winner, Ben Mason said, "I am surprised and delighted to have won. I thoroughly enjoyed researching and writing my entry, and it was very refreshing to engage with a broad and fascinating topic totally unrelated to my studies. There is a certain amount of pessimism in some quarters about the prospect of graduating in such uncertain times, and I think this prize, providing great opportunity whilst simultaneously encouraging young people to think creatively about solutions to the challenges facing us, sends an important positive message. On a personal level, the generous prize will make a great difference to me next year, and it has prompted me to consider pursuing a career in journalism after I graduate. A mini-internship at *The Times* will of course be an excellent start with this,

and membership of the London Library will give me access to invaluable resources. I would like to sincerely thank The London Library and its partners at *The Times* and FreshMinds, and the Student Prize judges, for organising the competition and giving such a fantastic opportunity to me and many others."

Erica Wagner, Literary Editor at *The Times* and one of the judges, said "What a delight it is being involved in the London Library Student Prize. We're keen at *The Times* to foster talent in the brightest and the best - this is a wonderful way to do that. The quality of entries received, including Ben's particularly fine effort, show the depth of talent out there among students whose original thinking and clear, persuasive communication indicate they have exciting futures ahead of them."

With reduced rates for young people and supported memberships available, The London Library offers access to a university-quality collection of over 1 million books and periodicals, available borrow and take home, as well as the very latest electronic resources. The London Library is a valuable resource for new graduates wishing to pursue a career in writing, academia or journalism – or for those who wish to simply read for pleasure.

The London Library Student Prize will continue for the next three years, offering final year undergraduates a fantastic opportunity to kick-start a career in writing.

Ends

The London Library Student Prize 2012

Winner:

Ben Mason, Trinity College, Oxford

Runners-up:

Caroline Criado-Perez, Keble College, Oxford

Sylvia Christie, Homerton College, Cambridge

Andrew McCormack, Mansfield College, Oxford

For further information and images please contact Elena Smith on 020 7766 4704 or email elena.smith@londonlibrary.co.uk

NOTES FOR EDITORS

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

The London Library, 14 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LG.
Nearest underground: Piccadilly, Green Park

www.londonlibrary.co.uk