

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 12 JANUARY 2018

Slightly Foxed



The Biographers' Club
Supporting, promoting and connecting
biographers at all levels



LIBRARY

THE SLIGHTLY FOXED BEST FIRST BIOGRAPHY PRIZE 2017 SHORTLIST ANNOUNCEMENT

- Thomas Dilworth, *David Jones: Engraver, Soldier, Painter, Poet* (Cape)
- Edmund Gordon, *The Invention of Angela Carter: A Biography* (Chatto & Windus)
- Adam Kay, *This Is Going to Hurt: Secret Diaries of a Junior Doctor* (Picador)
- Gareth Russell, *Young & Damned & Fair: The Life & Tragedy of Catherine Howard* (Collins)
- Helen Smith, *The Uncommon Reader: A Life of Edward Garnett* (Cape)
- James Stourton, *Kenneth Clark: Life, Art and Civilisation* (Collins)

THE PRIZE

This is the fourth year of the literary quarterly and independent publisher Slightly Foxed's sponsorship of the *Slightly Foxed Best First Biography Prize*, with a winner's award of £2,500. Previous winners: Hisham Matar, *The Return*; Alan Cumming, *Not My Father's Son*; Claudia Renton, *Those Wild Wyndhams*; Charles Moore, *Margaret Thatcher: The Authorized Biography*; Thomas Penn, *Winter King: The Dawn of Tudor England*; and Matthew Hollis, *Now All Roads Lead to France*.

PRIZE GIVING

The Prize will be awarded on 6 March 2018 with a drinks reception at The Library Club, St Martin's Lane.

THE JUDGES

The judges for the 2017 Prize are **Caroline Moorehead**, **Ian Kelly** and **Sam Leith**.

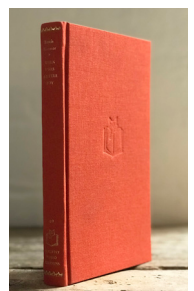
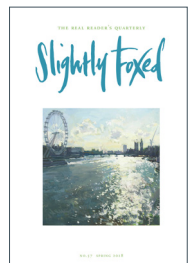
- **Caroline Moorehead** has written biographies of Bertrand Russell, Freya Stark, Iris Origo and Martha Gellhorn, and is currently at work on a quartet about resistance in France and Italy during the Second World War.
- **Ian Kelly** is an actor, and author of lives of Beau Brummell, Casanova and Samuel Foote: his prize-winning *Mr Foote's Other Leg: Comedy, Tragedy and Murder in Georgian England* was adapted for the stage with great success.
- **Sam Leith** is Literary Editor of *The Spectator*.

SLIGHTLY FOXED

Slightly Foxed: The Real Reader's Quarterly and its acclaimed list of classic limited-edition memoirs have become something of an institution in the literary world. Contributors to the magazine include **Diana Athill**, **Quentin Blake**, **Ronald Blythe**, **Margaret Drabble**, **Adam Foulds**, **Melissa Harrison**, **Michael Holroyd**, **Amy Liptrot**, **Penelope Lively**, **Richard Mabey**, **Robert Macfarlane**, **Dervla Murphy**, **Sarah Perry**, **Jane Ridley**, **Christopher Rush**, **Posy Simmonds**, **Adam Sisman** and **Ali Smith**. A subscription to the quarterly includes access to the full digital archive and offers from partner organizations, including: **The Library Club**, **The National Trust** and **The Royal Society of Literature**. The Slightly Foxed series of memoirs includes works by: **Edward Ardizzone**, **Adrian Bell**, **Graham Greene**, **Diana Holman-Hunt**, **Michael Holroyd**, **Hilary Mantel**, **Gavin Maxwell**, **Rosemary Sutcliff** and, forthcoming: **Jennie Erdal**, **Jan Morris**, **Eric Newby** and **Ernest Shepard**. Single issues from £11; Subscriptions from £40; Books from £16 • Worldwide shipping.

THE BIOGRAPHERS' CLUB

Founded in 1997, the Club is committed to supporting, promoting and connecting biographers at all levels. It offers three prizes each year: the *Slightly Foxed Best First Biography Prize*; the *Tony Lothian Prize* and the *Exceptional Contribution to Biography Award*. President: **Andrew Lownie**. Committee & Associates: **Jane Ridley** (Chairman); **Sarah Anderson**; **Nicholas Clee**; **Caroline Knox**; **Anne de Courcy**; **Ariane Bankes** (Prize Administrator) and **Jane Mays** • www.biographers.club



THE SHORTLIST

Thomas Dilworth, *David Jones: Engraver, Soldier, Painter, Poet* (Jonathan Cape)

This comprehensive life of the great Modernist poet-artist David Jones is the fruit of a lifetime's research and understanding, and brings new light to shine on Jones's rare originality and genius.

Edmund Gordon, *The Invention of Angela Carter: A Biography* (Chatto & Windus)

In this finely judged and elegantly written biography, Gordon teases out the truth behind Angela Carter's fictions about her own life, while recounting the brilliant and volatile career of this born writer, critic and fabulist.

Adam Kay, *This Is Going to Hurt: Secret Diaries of a Junior Doctor* (Picador)

A best-selling, no-holds-barred account of life at the coalface of the NHS by a comedian and former doctor, hilarious, horrifying and heartbreaking by turns.

Gareth Russell, *Young & Damned & Fair: The Life & Tragedy of Catherine Howard at the Court of Henry VIII* (William Collins)

A stunning reappraisal of Henry VIII's fifth wife, as scholarly as it is readable, that uses extensive research into her household to bring her chequered story vividly to life.

Helen Smith, *The Uncommon Reader: A Life of Edward Garnett* (Jonathan Cape)

An exemplary life of the writer and editor with a gift for spotting genius, champion of Conrad, Galsworthy, D.H. and T.E. Lawrence and Somerset Maugham, literary godfather to the Edwardian age.

James Stourton, *Kenneth Clark: Life, Art and Civilisation* (William Collins)

As a new version of *Civilisation* comes to our screens, the complex figure of Kenneth Clark, aesthete, broadcaster, writer and cultural panjandrum, is dissected in this perceptive and entertaining biography.

Hisham Matar on winning the Slightly Foxed Best First Biography Prize 2016 for *The Return* (Viking)

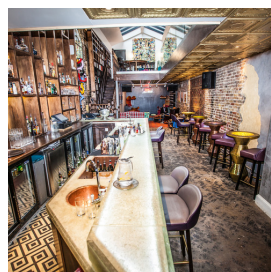
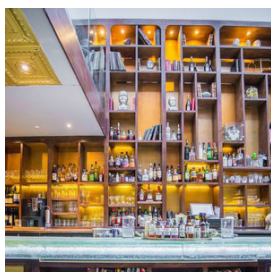
"I would, before anything, like to express my appreciation to my fellow shipmates, David Aaronovitch, David Hare, Juliet Nicolson and Philippe Sands. I thank you for your books, and I am honoured to be included in your company.

Every book arises from conversations with the consciousness of our culture and our history, and, in my case and particularly with this book, conversations with other books, several paintings and buildings, and many individuals, living and dead, who are, in one way or another, and like me, embroiled in these events . . . My deep thanks to the judges – Richard Davenport-Hines, Flora Fraser and Ysenda Maxtone Graham – and everyone else involved in the *Slightly Foxed Best First Biography Prize*. I am honoured and accept the prize with the deepest gratitude and humility."

THE LIBRARY CLUB

LIBRARY is a beautifully designed private members club for bookworms, right in the heart of London's theatre land on St Martin's Lane.

Slightly Foxed subscribers can enjoy a 50% discount on annual membership. www.lib-rary.com



Slightly Foxed

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