

G.C.Faber, Chairman C.W.Stewart R.H.I.de la Mare Morley Kennerley (U.S.A.) T.S.Eliot W.J.Crawley

FABER AND FABER LTD PUBLISHERS

FABBAF, WESTCENT, LONDON

MUSEum 9543 (4lines)

24 Russell Square London WC1

JUN -6 45	30th May 1945.	401R
JM		
		U. of Birmingham
		Literary Awards

John Marshall Esq.
The Rockefeller Foundation,
49 West 49 Street,
New York 20.

Dear Mr. Marshall,

I have your long letter of April 25th and have been thinking about it off and on for some days. The first question in my mind is how widely you interpret "experience of the war": both as a qualification for beneficiaries of your scheme and as a limitation of such matter. One danger is that the people who are the most gifted for giving literary expression to experience of war are not always those who want to write about it immediately afterward. Some of the best books about the last war, if I remember, came out six or more years after the war was over. It seems to me that if what you want to do is to help the start of young writers who, as has been mostly the case in this country, have been prevented from writing for five or six years, it would be better not to limit the nature of their work in advance, but to take each case on its merits. Now as to the body in whose hands the choice of beneficiaries is to lie. That is a very difficult matter and candidly I cannot think of any existing organisation which I should trust to take it over. I am afraid that what you would have to do to ensure the best choice of nominees would be to form a committee of people here specially for this purpose. I think also that they should be asked to serve only for

NEW YORK
30th May 1945

a limited number of years. It is not altogether a good thing to have the same people making these choices over a long period of time. I don't know how you are to make this selection. Some of the people might be ex officio and some people not necessarily connected with anything might be included because of their standing, contacts and powers of discrimination. One man who I am sure would be excellent on such a body is Professor Bonamy Dobree of Leeds. Is there any possibility of your being over here again before long? It would be in the end much more satisfactory if you could come and discuss the whole matter with myself and other people.

If anything more coherent develops in my mind meanwhile I will write to you again.

Yours sincerely,

P. S. Eliot