

THE WALTER
SCOTT PRIZE
FOR HISTORICAL
FICTION



The Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction 2024 PRIZE RULES

1. Books must be written in English and must have been first published in the **UK, Ireland or the Commonwealth**, between **1st January and 31st December 2023**.
2. Books written in English by **authors of British nationality** first published outside the UK, Ireland or the Commonwealth in 2023 are also eligible provided they are **also published in the UK in that calendar year**.
3. Authors who have already **won** the prize twice are precluded from submitting a new work until a period of seven years has elapsed since they last won the Prize. For example a second-time winner in 2021 could not submit again until 2028. This rule does not apply to previously shortlisted authors, only winners.
4. For the purposes of this prize, 'historical' means that the **majority of the book**, ie more than 50%, must be set **at least 60 years before its publication date**, ie 1963 or earlier. This definition comes from the subtitle of Walter Scott's novel *Waverley; Or, 'Tis Sixty Years Since*.
5. The criteria for judging the works are, in the judges' opinion, **ambition, innovation and enduring appeal**, with **quality of writing** as the deciding factor. It is suggested that entrants look at previous winners and shortlists for the prize (listed at the end of this document) to determine the calibre of work likely to be considered.
6. Books must be submitted by publishers. The submission of an author's work by the publisher will be taken as agreement by the author that they are willing for the submitted work to be considered. Self-published books are not eligible, either where the author is the publisher or where a company has been specifically set up to publish that book.
7. Publishers may submit up to three titles per imprint. The judges and administrators reserve the right to call in further books for consideration, beyond the submission limit.
8. Hardback and paperback originals are eligible. Finished copies or bound proofs may be submitted, and in certain circumstances, e-Book files and pdfs.
9. Entries must be submitted by **31st October 2023**.
10. There is no charge for submitting a book, but a fee of £1,200 + VAT per shortlisted title will be levied to contribute to promotion and marketing of the shortlist. By entering, publishers agree to pay this contribution should their book be shortlisted, and agree that future reprints of the book carry approved Walter Scott Prize stickers or artwork on the front cover.
11. A longlist will be announced in February 2024. Publishers of the longlisted books will be notified as soon as the longlist is decided and will be able to promote the book's longlisting

after the announcement date. We regret that we are not able to notify publishers whose titles have not been successful in reaching the longlist.

12. A shortlist will be announced in March or April 2024. Publishers of the shortlisted books will be notified as soon as the shortlist is decided and will be able to promote the book's shortlisting on an agreed date. Shortlist stickers and artwork will be provided for this purpose.
13. Shortlisted authors will be invited to the Walter Scott Prize prizegiving event in the Scottish Borders in June 2024. Shortlisted authors will be guests of the Prize, and accommodation will be covered, but publishers are expected to cover their authors' travel expenses.
14. The winner is awarded £25,000. Other shortlisted authors receive £1,500 each, which is awarded after the winner is announced.
15. No books or proofs will be returned.
16. The judges' decision is final. Discussion or correspondence concerning any decision cannot be entered into.
17. **Six copies** of each entry should be submitted with one submission form, by **31st October 2023**, to:

Rebecca Salt, The Walter Scott Prize
Room 10, Brewery Park Business Centre,
Haddington, East Lothian, EH41 3HA
Scotland
United Kingdom

A submission form is attached or available to download at www.walterscottprize.co.uk.

PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE WALTER SCOTT PRIZE FOR HISTORICAL FICTION

2023

Winner: *These Days* by Lucy Caldwell

Shortlist: *The Geometer Lobachevsky* by Adrian Duncan
Act Of Oblivion by Robert Harris
The Chosen by Elizabeth Lowry
The Sun Walks Down by Fiona McFarlane
Ancestry by Simon Mawer
I Am Not Your Eve by Devika Ponnambalam

2021

Winner: *The Mirror and the Light* by Hilary Mantel

Shortlist: *The Tolstoy Estate* by Steven Conte
A Room Made of Leaves by Kate Grenville
Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell
The Dictionary of Lost Words by Pip Williams

2019

Winner: *The Long Take* by Robin Robertson

Shortlist: *A Long Way From Home* by Peter Carey
After The Party by Cressida Connolly
The Western Wind by Samantha Harvey
Now We Shall Be Entirely Free by Andrew Miller
Warlight by Michael Ondaatje

2022

Winner: *News of the Dead* by James Robertson

Shortlist: *Rose Nicolson* by Andrew Greig
Fortune by Amanda Smyth
The Magician by Colm Tóibín

2020

Winner: *The Narrow Land* by Christine Dwyer Hickey

Shortlist: *The Parisian* by Isabella Hammad
To Calais, in Ordinary Time by James Meek
Shadowplay by Joseph O'Connor
The Redeemed by Tim Pears
A Sin of Omission by Marguerite Poland

2018

Winner: *The Gallows Pole* by Benjamin Myers

Shortlist: *Manhattan Beach* by Jennifer Egan
Sugar Money by Jane Harris
Grace by Paul Lynch
The Wardrobe Mistress by Patrick McGrath
Miss Boston and Miss Hargreaves by Rachel Malik

2017

Winner: *Days Without End* by Sebastian Barry
Shortlist: *A Country Road, A Tree* by Jo Baker
The Vanishing Futurist by Charlotte Hobson
The Good People by Hannah Kent
Golden Hill by Francis Spufford
Mothering Sunday by Graham Swift
The Gustav Sonata by Rose Tremain

2015

Winner : *The Ten Thousand Things* by John Spurling
Shortlist : *The Zone of Interest* by Martin Amis
The Lie by Helen Dunmore
Viper Wine by Hermione Eyre
In the Wolf's Mouth by Adam Foulds
Arctic Summer by Damon Galgut
A God in Every Stone by Kamila Shamsie

2013

Winner: *The Garden Of Evening Mists* by Tan Twan Eng
Shortlist: *Toby's Room* by Pat Barker
The Daughters Of Mars by Thomas Keneally
Bring Up The Bodies by Hilary Mantel
The Streets by Anthony Quinn
Merivel by Rose Tremain

2011

Winner: *The Long Song* by Andrea Levy
Shortlist: *C* by Tom McCarthy
The Thousand Autumns of Jacob de Zoet by David Mitchell
Ghost Light by Joseph O'Connor
Heartstone by C J Sansom

2016

Winner: *Tightrope* by Simon Mawer
Shortlist: *Sweet Caress* by William Boyd
A Place Called Winter by Patrick Gale
Mrs Engels by Gavin McCrea
End Games in Bordeaux by Allan Massie
Salt Creek by Lucy Treloar

2014

Winner : *An Officer and a Spy* by Robert Harris
Shortlist : *Life After Life* by Kate Atkinson
The Luminaries by Eleanor Catton
Harvest by Jim Crace
Fair Helen by Andrew Greig
The Promise by Ann Weisgarber

2012

Winner: *On Canaan's Side* by Sebastian Barry
Shortlist: *The Sisters Brothers* by Patrick de Witt
Half Blood Blues by Esi Edugyan
The Stranger's Child by Alan Hollinghurst
Pure by Andrew Miller
The Quality of Mercy by Barry Unsworth

2010

Winner: *Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel
Shortlist: *Hodd* by Adam Thorpe
Lustrum by Robert Harris
Sacred Hearts by Sarah Dunant
Stone's Fall by Iain Pears
To Kill a Tsar by Andrew Williams
The Glass Room by Simon Mawer
The Quickening Maze by Adam Foulds

The Walter Scott Prize for Historical Fiction,
 Room 10, Brewery Park Business Centre
 Haddington, East Lothian, Scotland, EH41 3HA

Telephone: 01620 829800 Email: rebecca@stonehillsalt.co.uk

