



## The Michael Marks Awards for Poetry Pamphlets 2020

The Wordsworth Trust and The British Library, with the generous support of the Michael Marks Charitable Trust, present The Michael Marks Awards for Poetry Pamphlets, in association with the National Library of Scotland, National Library of Wales, the TLS and Harvard University's Center for Hellenic Studies (CHS), in Washington DC and in Nafplio, Greece.

The Awards aim to raise the profile of poetry pamphlets, recognising the enormous contribution they make to the world of poetry.

There are four awards:

**The Michael Marks Poetry Award** recognises an outstanding poetry pamphlet published in the UK between August 1st 2019 and September 30<sup>th</sup> 2020. The judges will take into account the quality of the pamphlet as well as the poetry.

### **Prize**

The winning poet will receive a cheque for £5,000. They will also be given the opportunity to be Poet in Residence with the Harvard Alumni Association/Center for Hellenic Studies 'Spring Break to Greece'. The residency will take place in Spring 2021, exact date to be confirmed.

**The Michael Marks Publishers' Award** recognises an outstanding UK publisher of poetry in pamphlet form, based on their publishing programme between August 1st 2019 and September 30<sup>th</sup> 2020. The judges will take into account the publishers' philosophy, aims, plans, design ethos and marketing strategy as well as the quality of the poetry.

### **Prize**

The winning publisher will receive a cheque for £5,000.

**The Michael Marks Poetry in a Celtic Language Award** is an award that recognises an outstanding poetry pamphlet published in the UK during the period between August 1st 2019 and September 30<sup>th</sup> 2020, and written in a Celtic language (Welsh, Scottish Gaelic, Irish, Cornish or Manx Gaelic). The judges will take into account the quality of the pamphlet as well as the poetry.

### **Prize**

The winning poet will receive a cheque for £2,000. They will also be given the opportunity to be Poet in Residence with the Harvard Alumni Association/Center for Hellenic Studies 'Spring Break to Greece'. The residency will take place in Spring 2021, exact date to be confirmed.

**The Michael Marks Illustration Award** will recognise outstanding illustration of a poetry pamphlet published between August 1st 2019 and September 30<sup>th</sup> 2020. The judge will consider illustration in any medium and will be looking for a subtle and sustained relationship between image and text, as well as the overall quality of the images.

#### **Prize**

The winning illustrator will receive a cheque for £1,000.

#### **Winners**

The Awards will be celebrated at a special dinner featuring the shortlisted poets and publishers, at the British Library on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020. A virtual event will be accessible in the case of the actual event being infeasible.

**Closing date for submissions: 4.00pm Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020.**

**The closing date is strict and no entries received after this date will be considered.**

*“These inspired awards recognise that the pamphlet has a fundamental importance in literary culture far exceeding anything suggested by the dictionary – “a brief publication, generally having a paper cover”. For many of the best poets now writing it was not only their first means of distribution but the first ratification of their gift.”*

**Seamus Heaney**

# The Judges

## Poetry and Publishers' Awards

**Kei Miller** was born in Jamaica in 1978 and has written several books across a range of genres. His 2014 collection, *The Cartographer Tries to Map a Way to Zion*, won the Forward Prize for Best Collection while his 2017 novel, *Augustown*, won the Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, the Prix Les Afriques, and the Prix Carbet de la Caraïbe et du Tout-Monde. He is also an essayist.

**Natasha Bershadsky** is a lecturer on the Classics at Harvard University and a Fellow in Poetry and in Ancient Greek History at the Center for Hellenic Studies, where she co-edits *Magnetic Links*, a poetry project at *Classical Inquiries* dedicated to ties between modern poetry and ancient Greek traditions. Her research explores ritual and mythological elements of early Greek wars, political and religious dimensions of Hesiod's works, and ancient dreams.

**William Wootten** is a poet, critic and literary journalist. His books include the critical study *The Alvarez Generation* (Liverpool University Press, 2015 and 2020), the poetry collection *You Have a Visitor* (Worple, 2016) and the annotated volume *Reading Walter de la Mare*, which will be published by Faber in June 2021. His poetry reviews and articles about poetry have appeared in a number of national newspapers and magazines, most frequently the *Times Literary Supplement*. He lectures in English at the University of Bristol.

**Rachel Foss** is Head of Contemporary Archives and Manuscripts at the British Library. She has curated numerous exhibitions at the British Library including *'In A Bloomsbury Square': T.S. Eliot the Publisher, Writing Britain: Wastelands to Wonderlands* and *Gay UK: Love, Law and Liberty*. She has published various articles on literary archives and collecting. She was a judge for the Michael Marks Awards in 2018 and 2019.

## Illustration Award

**Sir Nicholas Penny** was Director of the National Gallery, London from 2008 to 2015. Other positions have included lecturer in art history at the University of Manchester, Keeper of the Department of Western Art at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, Clore Curator of Renaissance Painting at the National Gallery London, and Senior Curator of Sculpture and Decorative Arts at the National Gallery of Art, Washington. He is the author of many books and articles on both painting and sculpture, including *Raphael* (with Roger Jones), *Taste and the Antique* (with Francis Haskell) and *The Materials of Sculpture*.

## Poetry in a Celtic Language Award

**Angus Peter Campbell** is an award-winning poet, novelist, journalist, broadcaster and actor. Born and brought up in South Uist he spent his teenage years in the Oban area where he was taught by Iain Crichton Smith at the local High School. In 2001 he was awarded the Bardic Crown for Gaelic poetry. In 2002 he was given a Creative Scotland Award for Literature and in 2008 was nominated for a BAFTA Best-Actor Award for the lead role in the Gaelic film, *Seachd*. His Gaelic novel 'An Oidhche Mus do Sheòl Sinn' was voted by the public into the Top Ten of the 100 Best-Ever Books from Scotland in the Orange/List Awards. His poetry

collection 'Aibisidh' won the Scottish Poetry Book of the Year Award in 2011 and his novel 'Memory and Straw' won the Saltire Fiction Book of the Year Award for 2017.

**Dafydd Pritchard** is Access to Collections Manager at the National Library of Wales. He is a poet, who won the Crown at the National Eisteddfod of Wales in 1996 and has published two volumes of poetry. He has been on the panel of judges for the Crown competition on two occasions and is a frequent reviewer. He served for five years as Chair of Barddas, the national poetry society and publisher.

## Submission Rules

**In submitting pamphlets for consideration for the Michael Marks Awards for Poetry Pamphlets, entrants agree to be bound by these rules. Please read them carefully before submitting.** It is the responsibility of the poet/publisher to read these rules and ensure that submissions are eligible. Ineligible submissions will not be considered. **No correspondence will be entered into regarding ineligible submissions and they will not be returned.** If in doubt, check eligibility with the Awards Administrator prior to submission.

Rules that are specific to only one Award can be found below in sections 5, 6, 7 and 8, but for all Awards the following entrant rules apply:

### 1. Eligibility

- a) The definition of pamphlet includes pamphlets, chapbooks, art books and non-traditional book formats. The Awards aim to stimulate printed publications, so ebooks are not eligible. Publications with spines are acceptable provided other conditions of eligibility are met. Pamphlets may have paper or soft card covers but hard covers do not fall within this definition. Please contact the Awards Administrator if you are unsure of eligibility.
- b) **Publications must have no more than 36 pages, excluding covers but including blank pages, title page, notes, illustrations, etc.** Publications with more pages than this will not be eligible. There is no lower page limit. For the purposes of page count, coloured endpapers will be considered part of the cover.
- c) Single poems, single author collections, joint author publications, translations and anthologies are all eligible provided the other conditions of eligibility are met.
- d) Self-published work can be submitted.
- e) An ISBN is not required.
- f) Regularly published magazines or journals are not eligible. Please contact the Awards Administrator if you are unsure of eligibility.
- g) Poems must not have been published before in pamphlet or book form. They may have been published in magazines.

- h) Posthumous work is eligible only if published within a year of the poet's death and during the eligibility period.
- i) Only pamphlets published in the United Kingdom between August 1st 2019 and September 30<sup>th</sup> 2020 are eligible. **No pamphlet can be submitted to the Michael Marks Awards in more than one year.**
- j) The Michael Marks Awards are not open to employees of the Wordsworth Trust, the British Library, the National Library of Scotland, the National Library of Wales, or the Times Literary Supplement.

## 2. Procedure

- a) Titles must be submitted in **final printed published form**, and an entry form should be included for each Award you wish to enter.

For the **Poetry Award**, **six copies of each pamphlet submitted, together with a completed Poetry Award entry form**, must be received at the submission address by 4.00pm on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September. Multiple titles can be entered on one submission form.

For the **Publishers' Award** there is no need to include additional copies of the Pamphlet, **but six copies of a completed Publishers' Award entry form** must be submitted **in addition to the Poetry Award entry form**.

For the **Poetry in a Celtic Language Award**, **five copies of each pamphlet submitted, together with a completed Celtic Language Award entry form**, must be received at the submission address by 4.00pm on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September. Multiple titles can be entered on one submission form. Pamphlets entered into the Celtic Language Award cannot be entered into the Poetry Award. Please contact the Awards Administrator if you are unsure of eligibility. This Award is offered in association with the National Library of Scotland and the National Library of Wales.

To enter for the **Illustration Award**, **an additional copy of the pamphlet must be submitted**, making seven copies in total. **Two copies of an Illustration Award Entry Form** must be completed as well as the other form(s).

- b) The closing date is final and entries received after this will not be considered or returned. It is the responsibility of the entrant to ensure arrival of entry by the closing date.
- c) Entry forms are available at [www.michaelmarksawards.org/enternow](http://www.michaelmarksawards.org/enternow)
- d) All submissions will be acknowledged by email. Please allow up to two weeks for acknowledgement though this will usually be sooner. If confirmation of arrival is not received within this period please contact the Awards Administrator by email: [admin@michaelmarksawards.org](mailto:admin@michaelmarksawards.org)
- e) Entry to the Michael Marks Awards is free.
- f) No entries will be returned. Of the six/seven copies of each title submitted, one copy will be sent to each of the judges, one will be offered to the Printed Literature Collections of the British Library and one copy will be held for administrative purposes. The permanent inclusion in the British Library collections is at the discretion of the British Library.

### **3. The Judging Process**

- a) The shortlist and winners in the Poetry and Publishers' categories shall be chosen by the panel of four judges.
- b) The shortlist will be announced in November/December 2020 on the Awards website. No correspondence will be entered into prior to the official announcement.
- c) The winner of each award will be announced at a special dinner at the British Library on the evening of 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020. A virtual event will be accessible in the case of the actual event being infeasible.
- d) All shortlisted poets/publishers and the winners of the Illustration Award and the Poetry in a Celtic Language Award will be invited to read/speak at this event.
- e) The judges' decision shall be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

### **4. Publicity**

Entrants grant the organisers of the Michael Marks Awards for Poetry Pamphlets permission to use poems from the submitted pamphlets for publicity purposes, in printed, electronic and audio form. Material for this will be decided by the judges, but this will not exceed one poem or equivalent extract from a longer work. Copyright remains with the authors. Publishers and poets should be willing to participate in publicising the Awards. In the event of shortlisting, entrants give permission for the use on the Michael Marks website and partner websites of images taken during the event.

### **5. Further Rules for the Poetry Award**

- a) Where the winning work is by more than one author the award will be shared proportionally between the authors or, in the case of posthumous entry, the author's estate.
- b) Where the winning work is a new translation the award will be shared according to the contractual arrangements between the original author and translator.
- c) The CHS residency will be offered for specific dates. The award is not transferable and no alternative will be offered. In the event of the winner being unable to accept the offered dates, the residency may be offered to another shortlisted poet at the discretion of the judges.

### **6. Further Rules for the Publishers' Award**

- a) Entrants to the Publishers' Award should submit all eligible pamphlets published between August 1st 2019 and the closing date of September 30<sup>th</sup> 2020. Each pamphlet submitted should meet conditions of eligibility for individual pamphlets and should also be entered for the Poetry Award.
- b) There is no minimum number of pamphlets that the Publisher needs to have published during the eligible period.
- c) For the Publishers' Award publishers are asked to make a submission to the judges, on the Publisher's Award entry form, under the following headings:

1. Pamphlet publishing – a brief description of the pamphlet publishing programme for the eligible period, accompanied by a statement of the pamphlet publisher’s publishing philosophy, aims, strategy and future plans (no more than 500 words).
2. Design and printing - a brief statement of the design and print criteria employed by the pamphlet publisher, which will be looked at by the judges in conjunction with the submitted pamphlets published during the eligible period (no more than 300 words).
3. Promotion - a brief statement of the pamphlet publisher’s sales and promotional strategy and activities during the eligible period, and the results achieved (no more than 300 words).

Each publisher should submit **five completed copies of the Publisher’s Entry Form**.

#### **7. Further rules for the Poetry in a Celtic Language Award**

- a) All entries should be original work in Welsh, Scottish Gaelic, Irish, Cornish or Manx Gaelic. Translations into these languages are not eligible for this Award.
- b) There will be no shortlist announced for this Award. The overall winner will be contacted prior to the Awards event, and invited to attend, but the name of the winner will be embargoed until the Awards event.
- c) The CHS residency will be offered for specific dates. The award is not transferable and no alternative will be offered. In the event of the winner not being unable to accept the offered dates, the residency may be offered to another shortlisted poet at the discretion of the judges.
- d) The judges reserve the right to not offer an Award in the case of insufficient entries.

#### **8. Further rules for the Illustration Award**

- a) Entries for the Illustration Award must include an additional copy of the pamphlet, which will be forwarded to the Judge for the Illustration Award. Any entry must also be submitted for the Poetry Award and meet the overall conditions for entry to the Awards.
- b) All illustrations must be original and the work of the named illustrator. They should have been created for the specific purpose of illustrating the poetry pamphlet.
- c) All entries should be accompanied by a brief statement about the medium chosen for the illustration, on the appropriate entry form. Each entry should be accompanied by **two copies of the entry form**.
- d) There will be no shortlist announced for this Award. The overall winner will be contacted prior to the Awards event, and invited to attend, but the name of the winner will be embargoed until the Awards event.
- e) The winner will be selected by the judge of the Illustration Award. The decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

#### **9. Enquiries and Submissions**

Please direct any enquiries by email to [admin@michaelmarksawards.org](mailto:admin@michaelmarksawards.org)

All submissions should be sent to:

**The Michael Marks Awards, 17 Orchard View, Aughton, Ormskirk, Lancashire L39 5AD**

Download submission forms at [www.michaelmarksawards.org/enternow](http://www.michaelmarksawards.org/enternow)

### The Organisations behind the Awards

**The Michael Marks Charitable Trust** was established in 1966 by the late Lord Marks, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron of Broughton. Since its foundation it has committed over £20m to assist non-profit organisations and charities dedicated to the preservation and promotion of culture and the environment.

The Awards are generously supported by the Michael Marks Charitable Trust.

### The Award Partners

**The British Library** is the national library of the United Kingdom and one of the world's greatest research libraries. It has extensive collections of poetry in many languages and from all periods up to the present time. It holds the greatest collection of modern British poetry in the world and actively seeks to add contemporary poetry pamphlets to its collection. <https://www.bl.uk/>

**The Wordsworth Trust** is based at Dove Cottage in Grasmere, where William Wordsworth lived during his 'Golden Decade' (1799–1808) when he wrote most of what is now regarded as his most important work. It has been described as 'the finest literary museum in the world'. To mark the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the poet's birth in 2020, the Wordsworth Trust has embarked on a £6 million development project called 'Reimagining Wordsworth', which will enable more people, from a more diverse range of backgrounds, to discover Wordsworth's poetry. For more information, visit [www.wordsworth.org.uk](http://www.wordsworth.org.uk)

**The TLS** offers comprehensive coverage of the latest and most important publications, in every subject, in several languages, alongside current theatre, opera, exhibitions and film. Its authority is acknowledged world-wide. <https://www.the-tls.co.uk/>

**Harvard University's Center for Hellenic Studies**, located in Washington DC, was founded "exclusively for the establishment of an educational center in the field of Hellenic Studies designed to rediscover the humanism of the Hellenic Greeks.". **The Center in Greece** is a unique international center. Its main mission is to support and promote the study of Hellenic civilization, while functioning as a base of operations for students, researchers and scholars from the U.S., Greece, and elsewhere. <https://chs.harvard.edu/>

### Associates of the Awards

**The National Library of Scotland** preserves the recorded memory of the Scottish nation, with collections that span the centuries, from earliest times to the digital age. All of Scotland's languages are collected as comprehensively as possible, and there are particularly extensive collections of poetry. Its status as one of the UK's legal deposit libraries has ensured that it is both Scotland's largest library and one of the major research libraries in Europe. <https://www.nls.uk/>

**The National Library of Wales** is the foremost repository for Welsh archives, manuscripts and other unique collections, and is one of the UK's legal deposit Libraries. Poetry has historically had a central place in Welsh culture, as in the other Celtic nations, and the Library's collections reflect that, both in early manuscripts and contemporary volumes from Wales and from many other countries throughout the world. <https://www.library.wales/>