



The HWA Sharpe Books Unpublished Novel Award

To encourage and support new authors in the writing of Historical Fiction

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Please read all terms and conditions carefully before submitting your entry.

Submission of an entry is taken as acceptance of all the terms and conditions of entry.

Incomplete entries and novels not submitted in accordance with these terms and conditions will not be eligible for consideration.

1. ELIGIBILITY

Proof of any of the following conditions of eligibility may be requested from entrants at any time and will be checked at the short list stage.

- i) This award is for a complete novel of between 40,000 and 100,000 words by an author aged 18 years or over on 1 January 2019
- ii) Entries must be submitted in English but the author does not need to be resident in the United Kingdom. Translations of novels originally published in languages other than English are not eligible.
- iii) Entries will not be eligible where the author is a member of the judging panel, anyone involved in the administration of this award or a close family relative of any such person.
- iv) The submitted novel must not have been previously published by a third party, but we will allow entries which have been self-published by the author after 1st January 2018.
- v) A story submitted posthumously will not be eligible if the author dies prior to 1 January 2019.

2. ENTRY

- i) Entries may only be submitted online via the specific entry page on the HWA website <https://historicalwriters.org/>. Entries submitted in any other form will not be accepted.
- ii) Entries may be submitted from 9am on 10th March 2019 to 4pm on 30th September 2019.
- iii) Entries submitted after that time will not be accepted. All entries will receive an automated acknowledgement of receipt.
- iv) Entries must be submitted by the author or their agent.
- v) Although the entries will be assessed anonymously, they must be submitted in the author's own name.
- vi) The submission of an author's work by an agent will be taken as agreement by the author that they are willing for the submitted work to be considered and to comply with these terms and conditions.
- vii) Authors may only enter individually, not as part of a team.
- viii) The novel submitted must be (and by submission is warranted by the authors and accepted by the HWA and Sharpe Books to be) original, fictional and entirely the author's own work. It must not infringe the copyright or any other rights of any third party and not be libellous, unlawful or defamatory of any living person or corporate body.
- ix) Once submitted an entry may not be substituted for any reason.
- x) Authors are permitted to submit more than one novel, as long as the entry fee of £20 is paid for each entry
- xi) Authors are free to submit the novel they have entered into the HWA / Sharpe Books competition to agents and publishers while the competition is running and are free to withdraw their MS from the competition at any point up to 1 January 2020. However no entry fees will be refunded.

3. THE NOVEL

- i) The novel must not exceed 100,000 words.
- ii) Each novel must be accompanied by a synopsis of between 500 and 1000 words and a biography of the author of up to 200 words which should include any previous publications.
- iii) The novel can be of any genre (e.g. adventure, crime, literary, romantic). However picture books, or heavily illustrated works are not eligible. Authors should also note that Sharpe Books does not publish YA fiction at this time, so authors would probably be better served submitting their work elsewhere.
- iv) The majority of the story must be set more than 35 years in the past and:
 - a. Display a secure understanding of the period in which they are set,

- b. Have three dimensional characters and
 - c. Be a complete novel rather than part of a longer work, though it may be the first volume in a proposed multi volume work or series.
- v) The format of the story must adhere to the following rules:
- * Typed in Times New Roman 12 pt black font
 - * Double-spaced
 - * **The name of the author must not appear anywhere within the novel**
 - * The title of the novel is to be included within the header on every page.
- vi) Entries must be made electronically in Microsoft Word Documents (.doc, .docx) only.

4. JUDGING

- i) Entries will be judged anonymously; and the name of the author will not be linked to the story/made available to either the initial readers (if used) or the judges.
- ii) The judges of the HWA and Sharpe Books will be looking for what they think is the best entry on the basis of quality and originality of prose, characterisation, period setting and storyline. They will also consider the commercial reach of the novels submitted.
- iii) All entries may initially be read and judged by a team of readers who will score the entries to produce a smaller number of stories for the final judging panel to read. This is not an official longlist and authors of these stories will not be advised that their stories have been selected. A judging panel will decide upon the eventual winners.
- iv) The HWA reserves the right to increase or reduce the number of entries selected for the judges to read and for the shortlist at its sole discretion.
- v) The judging panel will be appointed by the Chair of the HWA and Richard Foreman of Sharpe Books. Its decisions will be made in an impartial and fair way and will be final. No discussion/correspondence about the result will be considered nor will any feedback be given.

5. SHORT LIST AND WINNER

- i) The winning authors will be announced by the HWA and Sharpe Books on their websites and social media in February 2020. All winning authors will be contacted personally by email or telephone using the details provided at the time of entry.
- ii) The winner will receive prize money of £500 and the offer of a contract to publish the winning novel with Sharpe Books. Two Highly Commended authors will also receive a prize of £100. *All* entrants will be offered a free

consultation with publisher and author Richard Foreman, to discuss acquiring an agent, routes into mainstream publishing and options available for self-publishing.

6. COPYRIGHT AND TERMS OF USE

- a) Entrants retain the copyright in their entries
- b) All entrants will be deemed to have granted the rights for publication and distribution of an extract of their submitted novel (up to 5000 words) to the HWA in Historia Mag (historiamag.com) if they receive one of the three main prizes.

7. ADMINISTRATION

- i) All announcements in relation to the HWA Sharpe Books Unpublished Novel Competition will be published on <https://historicalwriters.org/> or via Historia <http://historiamag.com/>
- ii) Entrants must provide their name, email address, telephone number and postal address on the initial entry.
- iii) The competition will be administered by the HWA. The HWA will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering the award, and will not publish them or provide them without permission to anyone not involved in the administration of the award.
- iv) Entrants must supply full details as required above, and comply with all rules to be eligible for the Award. Ineligible, obscene or fraudulent entries will be automatically disqualified.
- v) The HWA reserves the right to refuse any entry for any reason at its absolute discretion, and reserves the right to vary the Rules and Conditions of Entry, and alter the published programme, as may be deemed necessary. Any amendments will be published on <https://historicalwriters.org/>
- vi) The HWA reserves the right to cancel, modify or supersede this competition (including altering prizes) at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, or if circumstances arise outside of its control.
- vii) By entering, all eligible entrants will be deemed to have accepted these rules and to agree to be bound by each and all of these terms and conditions. The HWA reserves the right to exclude entrants and withhold prizes for violating any of these terms and conditions.
- viii) The submission of an author's work by an agent will be taken as agreement by the author that he/she is willing for the submitted work to be considered and that they consent to and approve of all terms and conditions contained herein and as agreement by the publisher or agent guarantee and procure the author's compliance with these terms and conditions. If such publisher or agent fails to do the foregoing, the HWA may at its sole discretion disqualify the Entry and/

or reclaim any Award and/or associated prize money and revise the shortlist and (if applicable) winning entries. Any author who submits an entry warrants that they have obtained all necessary publisher and/or agent consents required to submit an entry in accordance with these terms and conditions.

- ix) All entrants will indemnify the HWA against loss or damage (including any legal costs or expenses and any compensation costs and disbursements paid by the HWA team on the advice of legal counsel to compromise or settle any claim) occasioned by the HWA in consequence of any breach of the warranties contained in these terms and conditions or arising out of any claim alleging that the submitted entry constitutes an infringement of copyright or contains libellous, obscene or defamatory matter.
- x) There is no alternative to the prize stated and the prize is not transferable and no part or parts of the prize may be substituted for other benefits, items or additions.
- xi) The HWA will not be liable for any failure of receipt of entries. The HWA has no responsibility for any entries which are lost, delayed, illegible, damaged, incomplete, corrupted or otherwise invalid. If the HWA is unable to contact a shortlisted author despite making reasonable attempts to do so, the judges will be entitled to short list another entry. Other than the death or personal injury arising from the acts or omissions of the HWA it will not be liable for any loss or damage arising out of the winner's enjoyment of the prize.
- xii) The promoter of this award is the Historical Writers' Association.
- xiii) These terms and conditions are governed by the laws of England and Wales and entrants submit all matters arising in relation to these terms and conditions or the HWA to the jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales. Nothing contained in this clause shall limit the rights of the HWA, its affiliates or subsidiaries, successors or assignees, to bring a claim against any part in any other jurisdiction.