Debut novelist Tatjani Soli and theatre critic Hilary Spurling have joined the list of acclaimed authors who have won the James Tait Black Prizes, Britain’s oldest literary awards. American author Tatjani Soli is the recipient of the fiction prize for her first novel *The Lotus Eaters*. Hilary Spurling, former literary editor of *The Spectator* claims the biography prize for her book *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China*. They join the ranks of acclaimed previous winners such as Ian McEwan, Cormac McCarthy and A.S Byatt.

The winners of the prizes – awarded annually by the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures at the University of Edinburgh – were announced this evening at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. The prizes are for the best work of fiction and the best biography published during the previous calendar year. They are the only major British book awards judged by scholars and students of literature.

Tatjani Soli said: “The lineage of the James Tait Black Prizes speaks for itself, and I am humbled and so proud to be part of it. This award is an undreamed of honour that I will always treasure.”

Hilary Spurling said: “I'm proud and pleased to be in the company of so many of my favourite writers, who've already won this first and most elegant of book prizes.”

Nick Barley, Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival said “We are delighted to welcome back this prestigious prize to Charlotte Square Gardens. Tatjani Soli is a worthy winner, and we were privileged to enjoy her reading at the event this evening. Hilary Spurling enthralled our audience with *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China* at the Book Festival last year, and we are thrilled that she has been awarded the Biography prize.”

Dr James Loxley, Head of English of Literature at the University of Edinburgh said: “We’re delighted to be honouring such outstanding works. The readers and judges have once again shown the acumen of the knowledgeable booklover and literary critic, which has been the hallmark of these prizes for more than ninety years.”
The James Tait Black Prizes were founded in 1919 by Janet Coats, the widow of publisher James Tait Black, to commemorate her husband’s love of good books. Each year more than 300 books are read by professors of literature and postgraduate readers prior to conferment of the prizes.

The four novels competing for the £10,000 fiction prize were: *The Thousand Autumns of Jacon De Zoet* by David Mitchell; *La Rochelle* by Michael Nath; *The Invisible Bridge* by Julie Orringer; *The Lotus Eaters* by Tatjani Soli.

The shortlisted works for the biography section were: *Fordlandia: the Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City* by Greg Grandin; *A Life in Pictures* by Alasdair Gray; *EM Forster: a new life* by Wendy Moffat; *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China* by Hilary Spurling.

Past winners of the awards include figures of global literary distinction, such as DH Lawrence, Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh, Muriel Spark, Angela Carter and Martin Amis.

Last year, Man Booker prize winner AS Byatt was recipient of the fiction prize for her much-praised novel *The Children's Book*. John Carey, a familiar face and voice on arts review shows, was the recipient of the biography prize for his book *William Golding: The Man Who Wrote Lord of the Flies*. William Golding was himself a James Tait Black prizewinner in 1979.

For further information on the James Tait Black Memorial Prizes please go to: [www.ed.ac.uk/james-tait-black/](http://www.ed.ac.uk/james-tait-black/)

-ends-

For further information please contact:

Frances Sutton, Press Manager, Edinburgh International Book Festival
0131 718 5654 or frances@edbookfest.co.uk

Joanne Morrison, Press and PR Office, University of Edinburgh
Tel 0131 6514266 or 07717707623 email Joanne.Morrison@ed.ac.uk
Friday 19 August 2011

New Writer Wins Oldest Book Prize
At Edinburgh International Book Festival

Debut novelist Tatjani Soli and theatre critic Hilary Spurling have joined the list of acclaimed authors who have won the James Tait Black Prizes, Britain’s oldest literary awards. American author Tatjani Soli is the recipient of the fiction prize for her first novel *The Lotus Eaters*. Hilary Spurling, former literary editor of *The Spectator* claims the biography prize for her book *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China*. They join the ranks of acclaimed previous winners such as Ian McEwan, Cormac McCarthy and A.S Byatt.

The winners of the prizes – awarded annually by the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures at the University of Edinburgh – were announced this evening at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. The prizes are for the best work of fiction and the best biography published during the previous calendar year. They are the only major British book awards judged by scholars and students of literature.

Tatjani Soli said: “The lineage of the James Tait Black Prizes speaks for itself, and I am humbled and so proud to be part of it. This award is an undreamed of honour that I will always treasure.”

Hilary Spurling said: “I’m proud and pleased to be in the company of so many of my favourite writers, who’ve already won this first and most elegant of book prizes.”

Nick Barley, Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival said “We are delighted to welcome back this prestigious prize to Charlotte Square Gardens. Tatjani Soli is a worthy winner, and we were privileged to enjoy her reading at the event this evening. Hilary Spurling enthralled our audience with *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China* at the Book Festival last year, and we are thrilled that she has been awarded the Biography prize.”

Dr James Loxley, Head of English of Literature at the University of Edinburgh said: “We’re delighted to be honouring such outstanding works. The readers and judges have once again shown the acumen of the knowledgeable booklover and literary critic, which has been the hallmark of these prizes for more than ninety years.”
The James Tait Black Prizes were founded in 1919 by Janet Coats, the widow of publisher James Tait Black, to commemorate her husband’s love of good books. Each year more than 300 books are read by professors of literature and postgraduate readers prior to conferment of the prizes.

The four novels competing for the £10,000 fiction prize were: *The Thousand Autumns of Jacon De Zoet* by David Mitchell; *La Rochelle* by Michael Nath; *The Invisible Bridge* by Julie Orringer; *The Lotus Eaters* by Tatjani Soli.

The shortlisted works for the biography section were: *Fordlandia: the Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City* by Greg Grandin; *A Life in Pictures* by Alasdair Gray; *EM Forster : a new life* by Wendy Moffat; *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China* by Hilary Spurling.

Past winners of the awards include figures of global literary distinction, such as DH Lawrence, Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh, Muriel Spark, Angela Carter and Martin Amis.

Last year, Man Booker prize winner AS Byatt was recipient of the fiction prize for her much-praised novel *The Children's Book*. John Carey, a familiar face and voice on arts review shows, was the recipient of the biography prize for his book *William Golding: The Man Who Wrote Lord of the Flies*. William Golding was himself a James Tait Black prizewinner in 1979.

For further information on the James Tait Black Memorial Prizes please go to: [www.ed.ac.uk/james-tait-black/](http://www.ed.ac.uk/james-tait-black/)

-ends-

For further information please contact:

Frances Sutton, Press Manager, Edinburgh International Book Festival  
0131 718 5654 or frances@edbookfest.co.uk

Joanne Morrison, Press and PR Office, University of Edinburgh  
Tel 0131 6514266 or 07717707623 email Joanne.Morrison@ed.ac.uk
Friday 19 August 2011

New Writer Wins Oldest Book Prize
At Edinburgh International Book Festival

Debut novelist Tatjani Soli and theatre critic Hilary Spurling have joined the list of acclaimed authors who have won the James Tait Black Prizes, Britain’s oldest literary awards. American author Tatjani Soli is the recipient of the fiction prize for her first novel The Lotus Eaters. Hilary Spurling, former literary editor of The Spectator claims the biography prize for her book Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China. They join the ranks of acclaimed previous winners such as Ian McEwan, Cormac McCarthy and A.S Byatt.

The winners of the prizes – awarded annually by the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures at the University of Edinburgh – were announced this evening at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. The prizes are for the best work of fiction and the best biography published during the previous calendar year. They are the only major British book awards judged by scholars and students of literature.

Tatjani Soli said: “The lineage of the James Tait Black Prizes speaks for itself, and I am humbled and so proud to be part of it. This award is an undreamed of honour that I will always treasure.”

Hilary Spurling said: “I’m proud and pleased to be in the company of so many of my favourite writers, who’ve already won this first and most elegant of book prizes.”

Nick Barley, Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival said “We are delighted to welcome back this prestigious prize to Charlotte Square Gardens. Tatjani Soli is a worthy winner, and we were privileged to enjoy her reading at the event this evening. Hilary Spurling enthralled our audience with Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China at the Book Festival last year, and we are thrilled that she has been awarded the Biography prize.”

Dr James Loxley, Head of English of Literature at the University of Edinburgh said: “We’re delighted to be honouring such outstanding works. The readers and judges have once again shown the acumen of the knowledgeable booklover and literary critic, which has been the hallmark of these prizes for more than ninety years.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT FRANCES SUTTON, PRESS MANAGER:
frances@edbookfest.co.uk / Tel: 0131 718 5654 / Mob: 07841 579481

The Edinburgh International Book Festival Ltd is a Scottish charity (SC010120) and a limited company (registered in Scotland no 79939) and has its registered office at 5A Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, EH2 4DR.
The James Tait Black Prizes were founded in 1919 by Janet Coats, the widow of publisher James Tait Black, to commemorate her husband’s love of good books. Each year more than 300 books are read by professors of literature and postgraduate readers prior to conferment of the prizes.

The four novels competing for the £10,000 fiction prize were: *The Thousand Autumns of Jacon De Zoet* by David Mitchell; *La Rochelle* by Michael Nath; *The Invisible Bridge* by Julie Orringer; *The Lotus Eaters* by Tatjani Soli.

The shortlisted works for the biography section were: *Fordlandia: the Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City* by Greg Grandin; *A Life in Pictures* by Alasdair Gray; *EM Forster: a new life* by Wendy Moffat; *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China* by Hilary Spurling.

Past winners of the awards include figures of global literary distinction, such as DH Lawrence, Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh, Muriel Spark, Angela Carter and Martin Amis.

Last year, Man Booker prize winner AS Byatt was recipient of the fiction prize for her much-praised novel *The Children's Book*. John Carey, a familiar face and voice on arts review shows, was the recipient of the biography prize for his book *William Golding: The Man Who Wrote Lord of the Flies*. William Golding was himself a James Tait Black prizewinner in 1979.

For further information on the James Tait Black Memorial Prizes please go to: [www.ed.ac.uk/james-tait-black/](http://www.ed.ac.uk/james-tait-black/)

-ends-

For further information please contact:

Frances Sutton, Press Manager, Edinburgh International Book Festival
0131 718 5654 or frances@edbookfest.co.uk

Joanne Morrison, Press and PR Office, University of Edinburgh
Tel 0131 6514266 or 07717707623 email Joanne.Morrison@ed.ac.uk
Friday 19 August 2011

New Writer Wins Oldest Book Prize
At Edinburgh International Book Festival

Debut novelist Tatjani Soli and theatre critic Hilary Spurling have joined the list of acclaimed authors who have won the James Tait Black Prizes, Britain’s oldest literary awards. American author Tatjani Soli is the recipient of the fiction prize for her first novel *The Lotus Eaters*. Hilary Spurling, former literary editor of *The Spectator* claims the biography prize for her book *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China*. They join the ranks of acclaimed previous winners such as Ian McEwan, Cormac McCarthy and A.S Byatt.

The winners of the prizes – awarded annually by the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures at the University of Edinburgh – were announced this evening at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. The prizes are for the best work of fiction and the best biography published during the previous calendar year. They are the only major British book awards judged by scholars and students of literature.

Tatjani Soli said: “The lineage of the James Tait Black Prizes speaks for itself, and I am humbled and so proud to be part of it. This award is an undreamed of honour that I will always treasure.”

Hilary Spurling said: “I’m proud and pleased to be in the company of so many of my favourite writers, who’ve already won this first and most elegant of book prizes.”

Nick Barley, Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival said “We are delighted to welcome back this prestigious prize to Charlotte Square Gardens. Tatjani Soli is a worthy winner, and we were privileged to enjoy her reading at the event this evening. Hilary Spurling enthralled our audience with *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China* at the Book Festival last year, and we are thrilled that she has been awarded the Biography prize.”

Dr James Loxley, Head of English of Literature at the University of Edinburgh said: “We’re delighted to be honouring such outstanding works. The readers and judges have once again shown the acumen of the knowledgeable booklover and literary critic, which has been the hallmark of these prizes for more than ninety years.”
The James Tait Black Prizes were founded in 1919 by Janet Coats, the widow of publisher James Tait Black, to commemorate her husband’s love of good books. Each year more than 300 books are read by professors of literature and postgraduate readers prior to conferment of the prizes.

The four novels competing for the £10,000 fiction prize were: *The Thousand Autumns of Jacon De Zoet* by David Mitchell; *La Rochelle* by Michael Nath; *The Invisible Bridge* by Julie Orringer; *The Lotus Eaters* by Tatjani Soli.

The shortlisted works for the biography section were: *Fordlandia: the Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City* by Greg Grandin; *A Life in Pictures* by Alasdair Gray; *EM Forster: a new life* by Wendy Moffat; *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China* by Hilary Spurling.

Past winners of the awards include figures of global literary distinction, such as DH Lawrence, Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh, Muriel Spark, Angela Carter and Martin Amis.

Last year, Man Booker prize winner AS Byatt was recipient of the fiction prize for her much-praised novel *The Children's Book*. John Carey, a familiar face and voice on arts review shows, was the recipient of the biography prize for his book *William Golding: The Man Who Wrote Lord of the Flies*. William Golding was himself a James Tait Black prizewinner in 1979.

For further information on the James Tait Black Memorial Prizes please go to: [www.ed.ac.uk/james-tait-black/](http://www.ed.ac.uk/james-tait-black/)

For further information please contact:

Frances Sutton, Press Manager, Edinburgh International Book Festival
0131 718 5654 or [frances@edbookfest.co.uk](mailto:frances@edbookfest.co.uk)

Joanne Morrison, Press and PR Office, University of Edinburgh
Tel 0131 6514266 or 07717707623 email [Joanne.Morrison@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Joanne.Morrison@ed.ac.uk)
Debut novelist Tatjani Soli and theatre critic Hilary Spurling have joined the list of acclaimed authors who have won the James Tait Black Prizes, Britain’s oldest literary awards. American author Tatjani Soli is the recipient of the fiction prize for her first novel The Lotus Eaters. Hilary Spurling, former literary editor of The Spectator claims the biography prize for her book Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China. They join the ranks of acclaimed previous winners such as Ian McEwan, Cormac McCarthy and A.S Byatt.

The winners of the prizes – awarded annually by the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures at the University of Edinburgh – were announced this evening at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. The prizes are for the best work of fiction and the best biography published during the previous calendar year. They are the only major British book awards judged by scholars and students of literature.

Tatjani Soli said: “The lineage of the James Tait Black Prizes speaks for itself, and I am humbled and so proud to be part of it. This award is an undreamed of honour that I will always treasure.”

Hilary Spurling said: “I’m proud and pleased to be in the company of so many of my favourite writers, who’ve already won this first and most elegant of book prizes.”

Nick Barley, Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival said “We are delighted to welcome back this prestigious prize to Charlotte Square Gardens. Tatjani Soli is a worthy winner, and we were privileged to enjoy her reading at the event this evening. Hilary Spurling enthralled our audience with Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China at the Book Festival last year, and we are thrilled that she has been awarded the Biography prize.”

Dr James Loxley, Head of English of Literature at the University of Edinburgh said: “We’re delighted to be honouring such outstanding works. The readers and judges have once again shown the acumen of the knowledgeable booklover and literary critic, which has been the hallmark of these prizes for more than ninety years.”
The James Tait Black Prizes were founded in 1919 by Janet Coats, the widow of publisher James Tait Black, to commemorate her husband’s love of good books. Each year more than 300 books are read by professors of literature and postgraduate readers prior to conferment of the prizes.

The four novels competing for the £10,000 fiction prize were: *The Thousand Autumns of Jacon De Zoet* by David Mitchell; *La Rochelle* by Michael Nath; *The Invisible Bridge* by Julie Orringer; *The Lotus Eaters* by Tatjani Soli.

The shortlisted works for the biography section were: *Fordlandia: the Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City* by Greg Grandin; *A Life in Pictures* by Alasdair Gray; *EM Forster: a new life* by Wendy Moffat; *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China* by Hilary Spurling.

Past winners of the awards include figures of global literary distinction, such as DH Lawrence, Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh, Muriel Spark, Angela Carter and Martin Amis.

Last year, Man Booker prize winner AS Byatt was recipient of the fiction prize for her much-praised novel *The Children's Book*. John Carey, a familiar face and voice on arts review shows, was the recipient of the biography prize for his book *William Golding: The Man Who Wrote Lord of the Flies*. William Golding was himself a James Tait Black prizewinner in 1979.

For further information on the James Tait Black Memorial Prizes please go to: [www.ed.ac.uk/james-tait-black/](http://www.ed.ac.uk/james-tait-black/)

-ends-

For further information please contact:

Frances Sutton, Press Manager, Edinburgh International Book Festival
0131 718 5654 or frances@edbookfest.co.uk

Joanne Morrison, Press and PR Office, University of Edinburgh
Tel 0131 6514266 or 07717707623 email Joanne.Morrison@ed.ac.uk
Friday 19 August 2011

New Writer Wins Oldest Book Prize
At Edinburgh International Book Festival

Debut novelist Tatjani Soli and theatre critic Hilary Spurling have joined the list of acclaimed authors who have won the James Tait Black Prizes, Britain’s oldest literary awards. American author Tatjani Soli is the recipient of the fiction prize for her first novel *The Lotus Eaters.* Hilary Spurling, former literary editor of The Spectator claims the biography prize for her book *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China.* They join the ranks of acclaimed previous winners such as Ian McEwan, Cormac McCarthy and A.S Byatt.

The winners of the prizes – awarded annually by the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures at the University of Edinburgh – were announced this evening at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. The prizes are for the best work of fiction and the best biography published during the previous calendar year. They are the only major British book awards judged by scholars and students of literature.

Tatjani Soli said: “The lineage of the James Tait Black Prizes speaks for itself, and I am humbled and so proud to be part of it. This award is an undreamed of honour that I will always treasure.”

Hilary Spurling said: “I'm proud and pleased to be in the company of so many of my favourite writers, who've already won this first and most elegant of book prizes.”

Nick Barley, Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival said “We are delighted to welcome back this prestigious prize to Charlotte Square Gardens. Tatjani Soli is a worthy winner, and we were privileged to enjoy her reading at the event this evening. Hilary Spurling enthralled our audience with *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China* at the Book Festival last year, and we are thrilled that she has been awarded the Biography prize.”

Dr James Loxley, Head of English of Literature at the University of Edinburgh said: “We’re delighted to be honouring such outstanding works. The readers and judges have once again shown the acumen of the knowledgeable booklover and literary critic, which has been the hallmark of these prizes for more than ninety years.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT FRANCES SUTTON, PRESS MANAGER:
frances@edbookfest.co.uk / Tel: 0131 718 5654 / Mob: 07841 579481
The James Tait Black Prizes were founded in 1919 by Janet Coats, the widow of publisher James Tait Black, to commemorate her husband’s love of good books. Each year more than 300 books are read by professors of literature and postgraduate readers prior to conferment of the prizes.

The four novels competing for the £10,000 fiction prize were: The Thousand Autumns of Jaco De Zoet by David Mitchell; La Rochelle by Michael Nath; The Invisible Bridge by Julie Orringer; The Lotus Eaters by Tatjani Soli.

The shortlisted works for the biography section were: Fordlandia: the Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City by Greg Grandin; A Life in Pictures by Alasdair Gray; EM Forster: a new life by Wendy Moffat; Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China by Hilary Spurling.

Past winners of the awards include figures of global literary distinction, such as DH Lawrence, Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh, Muriel Spark, Angela Carter and Martin Amis.

Last year, Man Booker prize winner AS Byatt was recipient of the fiction prize for her much-praised novel The Children’s Book. John Carey, a familiar face and voice on arts review shows, was the recipient of the biography prize for his book William Golding: The Man Who Wrote Lord of the Flies. William Golding was himself a James Tait Black prizewinner in 1979.

For further information on the James Tait Black Memorial Prizes please go to: www.ed.ac.uk/james-tait-black/

-ends-

For further information please contact:

Frances Sutton, Press Manager, Edinburgh International Book Festival
0131 718 5654 or frances@edbookfest.co.uk

Joanne Morrison, Press and PR Office, University of Edinburgh
Tel 0131 6514266 or 07717707623 email Joanne.Morrison@ed.ac.uk
Friday 19 August 2011

New Writer Wins Oldest Book Prize
At Edinburgh International Book Festival

Debut novelist Tatjani Soli and theatre critic Hilary Spurling have joined the list of acclaimed authors who have won the James Tait Black Prizes, Britain’s oldest literary awards. American author Tatjani Soli is the recipient of the fiction prize for her first novel The Lotus Eaters. Hilary Spurling, former literary editor of The Spectator claims the biography prize for her book Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China. They join the ranks of acclaimed previous winners such as Ian McEwan, Cormac McCarthy and A.S Byatt.

The winners of the prizes – awarded annually by the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures at the University of Edinburgh – were announced this evening at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. The prizes are for the best work of fiction and the best biography published during the previous calendar year. They are the only major British book awards judged by scholars and students of literature.

Tatjani Soli said: “The lineage of the James Tait Black Prizes speaks for itself, and I am humbled and so proud to be part of it. This award is an undreamed of honour that I will always treasure.”

Hilary Spurling said: “I’m proud and pleased to be in the company of so many of my favourite writers, who’ve already won this first and most elegant of book prizes.”

Nick Barley, Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival said “We are delighted to welcome back this prestigious prize to Charlotte Square Gardens. Tatjani Soli is a worthy winner, and we were privileged to enjoy her reading at the event this evening. Hilary Spurling enthralled our audience with Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China at the Book Festival last year, and we are thrilled that she has been awarded the Biography prize.”

Dr James Loxley, Head of English of Literature at the University of Edinburgh said: “We’re delighted to be honouring such outstanding works. The readers and judges have once again shown the acumen of the knowledgeable booklover and literary critic, which has been the hallmark of these prizes for more than ninety years.”
The James Tait Black Prizes were founded in 1919 by Janet Coats, the widow of publisher James Tait Black, to commemorate her husband’s love of good books. Each year more than 300 books are read by professors of literature and postgraduate readers prior to conferment of the prizes.

The four novels competing for the £10,000 fiction prize were: *The Thousand Autumns of Jacon De Zoet* by David Mitchell; *La Rochelle* by Michael Nath; *The Invisible Bridge* by Julie Orringer; *The Lotus Eaters* by Tatjani Soli.

The shortlisted works for the biography section were: *Fordlandia: the Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City* by Greg Grandin; *A Life in Pictures* by Alasdair Gray; *EM Forster : a new life* by Wendy Moffat; *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China* by Hilary Spurling.

Past winners of the awards include figures of global literary distinction, such as DH Lawrence, Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh, Muriel Spark, Angela Carter and Martin Amis.

Last year, Man Booker prize winner AS Byatt was recipient of the fiction prize for her much-praised novel *The Children's Book*. John Carey, a familiar face and voice on arts review shows, was the recipient of the biography prize for his book *William Golding: The Man Who Wrote Lord of the Flies*. William Golding was himself a James Tait Black prizewinner in 1979.

For further information on the James Tait Black Memorial Prizes please go to: www.ed.ac.uk/james-tait-black/

For further information please contact:

Frances Sutton, Press Manager, Edinburgh International Book Festival
0131 718 5654 or frances@edbookfest.co.uk

Joanne Morrison, Press and PR Office, University of Edinburgh
Tel 0131 6514266 or 07717707623 email Joanne.Morrison@ed.ac.uk

For more information contact Frances Sutton, Press Manager:
frances@edbookfest.co.uk / Tel: 0131 718 5654 / Mob: 07841 579481

The Edinburgh International Book Festival Ltd is a Scottish charity (SC010120) and a limited company (registered in Scotland no 79939) and has its registered office at 5A Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, EH2 4DR.
Debut novelist Tatjani Soli and theatre critic Hilary Spurling have joined the list of acclaimed authors who have won the James Tait Black Prizes, Britain’s oldest literary awards. American author Tatjani Soli is the recipient of the fiction prize for her first novel The Lotus Eaters. Hilary Spurling, former literary editor of The Spectator claims the biography prize for her book Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China. They join the ranks of acclaimed previous winners such as Ian McEwan, Cormac McCarthy and A.S Byatt.

The winners of the prizes – awarded annually by the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures at the University of Edinburgh – were announced this evening at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. The prizes are for the best work of fiction and the best biography published during the previous calendar year. They are the only major British book awards judged by scholars and students of literature.

Tatjani Soli said: “The lineage of the James Tait Black Prizes speaks for itself, and I am humbled and so proud to be part of it. This award is an undreamed of honour that I will always treasure.”

Hilary Spurling said: “I'm proud and pleased to be in the company of so many of my favourite writers, who've already won this first and most elegant of book prizes.”

Nick Barley, Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival said “We are delighted to welcome back this prestigious prize to Charlotte Square Gardens. Tatjani Soli is a worthy winner, and we were privileged to enjoy her reading at the event this evening. Hilary Spurling enthralled our audience with Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China at the Book Festival last year, and we are thrilled that she has been awarded the Biography prize.”

Dr James Loxley, Head of English of Literature at the University of Edinburgh said: “We’re delighted to be honouring such outstanding works. The readers and judges have once again shown the acumen of the knowledgeable booklover and literary critic, which has been the hallmark of these prizes for more than ninety years.”
THE WORLD, IN WORDS
CHARLOTTE SQUARE GARDENS
EDINBURGH
www.edbookfest.co.uk
13 – 29 AUGUST 2011

NEWS RELEASE

The James Tait Black Prizes were founded in 1919 by Janet Coats, the widow of publisher James Tait Black, to commemorate her husband’s love of good books. Each year more than 300 books are read by professors of literature and postgraduate readers prior to conferment of the prizes.

The four novels competing for the £10,000 fiction prize were: The Thousand Autumns of Jaco De Zoet by David Mitchell; La Rochelle by Michael Nath; The Invisible Bridge by Julie Orringer; The Lotus Eaters by Tatjani Soli.

The shortlisted works for the biography section were: Fordlandia: the Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City by Greg Grandin; A Life in Pictures by Alasdair Gray; EM Forster: a new life by Wendy Moffat; Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China by Hilary Spurling.

Past winners of the awards include figures of global literary distinction, such as DH Lawrence, Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh, Muriel Spark, Angela Carter and Martin Amis.

Last year, Man Booker prize winner AS Byatt was recipient of the fiction prize for her much-praised novel The Children’s Book. John Carey, a familiar face and voice on arts review shows, was the recipient of the biography prize for his book William Golding: The Man Who Wrote Lord of the Flies. William Golding was himself a James Tait Black prizewinner in 1979.

For further information on the James Tait Black Memorial Prizes please go to: www.ed.ac.uk/james-tait-black/

-ends-

For further information please contact:

Frances Sutton, Press Manager, Edinburgh International Book Festival
0131 718 5654 or frances@edbookfest.co.uk

Joanne Morrison, Press and PR Office, University of Edinburgh
Tel 0131 6514266 or 07717707623 email Joanne.Morrison@ed.ac.uk

For more information contact Frances Sutton, Press Manager:
frances@edbookfest.co.uk / Tel: 0131 718 5654 / Mob: 07841 579481

The Edinburgh International Book Festival Ltd is a Scottish charity (SC010120) and a limited company (registered in Scotland no 79939) and has its registered office at 5A Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, EH2 4DR.
Friday 19 August 2011

New Writer Wins Oldest Book Prize
At Edinburgh International Book Festival

Debut novelist Tatjani Soli and theatre critic Hilary Spurling have joined the list of acclaimed authors who have won the James Tait Black Prizes, Britain’s oldest literary awards. American author Tatjani Soli is the recipient of the fiction prize for her first novel *The Lotus Eaters*. Hilary Spurling, former literary editor of *The Spectator* claims the biography prize for her book *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China*. They join the ranks of acclaimed previous winners such as Ian McEwan, Cormac McCarthy and A.S Byatt.

The winners of the prizes – awarded annually by the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures at the University of Edinburgh – were announced this evening at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. The prizes are for the best work of fiction and the best biography published during the previous calendar year. They are the only major British book awards judged by scholars and students of literature.

Tatjani Soli said: “The lineage of the James Tait Black Prizes speaks for itself, and I am humbled and so proud to be part of it. This award is an undreamed of honour that I will always treasure.”

Hilary Spurling said: “I’m proud and pleased to be in the company of so many of my favourite writers, who’ve already won this first and most elegant of book prizes.”

Nick Barley, Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival said “We are delighted to welcome back this prestigious prize to Charlotte Square Gardens. Tatjani Soli is a worthy winner, and we were privileged to enjoy her reading at the event this evening. Hilary Spurling enthralled our audience with *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China* at the Book Festival last year, and we are thrilled that she has been awarded the Biography prize.”

Dr James Loxley, Head of English of Literature at the University of Edinburgh said: “We’re delighted to be honouring such outstanding works. The readers and judges have once again shown the acumen of the knowledgeable booklover and literary critic, which has been the hallmark of these prizes for more than ninety years.”

For more information contact Frances Sutton, Press Manager:
frances@edbookfest.co.uk / Tel: 0131 718 5654 / Mob: 07841 579481
The James Tait Black Prizes were founded in 1919 by Janet Coats, the widow of publisher James Tait Black, to commemorate her husband’s love of good books. Each year more than 300 books are read by professors of literature and postgraduate readers prior to conferment of the prizes.

The four novels competing for the £10,000 fiction prize were: *The Thousand Autumns of Jaco De Zoet* by David Mitchell; *La Rochelle* by Michael Nath; *The Invisible Bridge* by Julie Orringer; *The Lotus Eaters* by Tatjani Soli.

The shortlisted works for the biography section were: *Fordlandia: the Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City* by Greg Grandin; *A Life in Pictures* by Alasdair Gray; *EM Forster : a new life* by Wendy Moffat; *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China* by Hilary Spurling.

Past winners of the awards include figures of global literary distinction, such as DH Lawrence, Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh, Muriel Spark, Angela Carter and Martin Amis.

Last year, Man Booker prize winner AS Byatt was recipient of the fiction prize for her much-praised novel *The Children's Book*. John Carey, a familiar face and voice on arts review shows, was the recipient of the biography prize for his book *William Golding: The Man Who Wrote Lord of the Flies*. William Golding was himself a James Tait Black prizewinner in 1979.

For further information on the James Tait Black Memorial Prizes please go to: [www.ed.ac.uk/james-tait-black/](http://www.ed.ac.uk/james-tait-black/)

-ends-

For further information please contact:

Frances Sutton, Press Manager, Edinburgh International Book Festival
0131 718 5654 or frances@edbookfest.co.uk

Joanne Morrison, Press and PR Office, University of Edinburgh
Tel 0131 6514266 or 07717707623 email Joanne.Morrison@ed.ac.uk
New Writer Wins Oldest Book Prize
At Edinburgh International Book Festival

Debut novelist Tatjani Soli and theatre critic Hilary Spurling have joined the list of acclaimed authors who have won the James Tait Black Prizes, Britain’s oldest literary awards. American author Tatjani Soli is the recipient of the fiction prize for her first novel The Lotus Eaters. Hilary Spurling, former literary editor of The Spectator claims the biography prize for her book Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China. They join the ranks of acclaimed previous winners such as Ian McEwan, Cormac McCarthy and A.S Byatt.

The winners of the prizes – awarded annually by the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures at the University of Edinburgh – were announced this evening at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. The prizes are for the best work of fiction and the best biography published during the previous calendar year. They are the only major British book awards judged by scholars and students of literature.

Tatjani Soli said: “The lineage of the James Tait Black Prizes speaks for itself, and I am humbled and so proud to be part of it. This award is an undreamed of honour that I will always treasure.”

Hilary Spurling said: “I’m proud and pleased to be in the company of so many of my favourite writers, who’ve already won this first and most elegant of book prizes.”

Nick Barley, Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival said “We are delighted to welcome back this prestigious prize to Charlotte Square Gardens. Tatjani Soli is a worthy winner, and we were privileged to enjoy her reading at the event this evening. Hilary Spurling enthralled our audience with Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China at the Book Festival last year, and we are thrilled that she has been awarded the Biography prize.”

Dr James Loxley, Head of English of Literature at the University of Edinburgh said: “We’re delighted to be honouring such outstanding works. The readers and judges have once again shown the acumen of the knowledgeable booklover and literary critic, which has been the hallmark of these prizes for more than ninety years.”
The James Tait Black Prizes were founded in 1919 by Janet Coats, the widow of publisher James Tait Black, to commemorate her husband’s love of good books. Each year more than 300 books are read by professors of literature and postgraduate readers prior to conferment of the prizes.

The four novels competing for the £10,000 fiction prize were: *The Thousand Autumns of Jacon De Zoet* by David Mitchell; *La Rochelle* by Michael Nath; *The Invisible Bridge* by Julie Orringer; *The Lotus Eaters* by Tatjani Soli.

The shortlisted works for the biography section were: *Fordlandia: the Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City* by Greg Grandin; *A Life in Pictures* by Alasdair Gray; *EM Forster: a new life* by Wendy Moffat; *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China* by Hilary Spurling.

Past winners of the awards include figures of global literary distinction, such as DH Lawrence, Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh, Muriel Spark, Angela Carter and Martin Amis.

Last year, Man Booker prize winner AS Byatt was recipient of the fiction prize for her much-praised novel *The Children's Book*. John Carey, a familiar face and voice on arts review shows, was the recipient of the biography prize for his book *William Golding: The Man Who Wrote Lord of the Flies*. William Golding was himself a James Tait Black prizewinner in 1979.

For further information on the James Tait Black Memorial Prizes please go to: [www.ed.ac.uk/james-tait-black/](http://www.ed.ac.uk/james-tait-black/)

-ends-

For further information please contact:

Frances Sutton, Press Manager, Edinburgh International Book Festival
0131 718 5654 or frances@edbookfest.co.uk

Joanne Morrison, Press and PR Office, University of Edinburgh
Tel 0131 6514266 or 07717707623 email Joanne.Morrison@ed.ac.uk
Debut novelist Tatjani Soli and theatre critic Hilary Spurling have joined the list of acclaimed authors who have won the James Tait Black Prizes, Britain’s oldest literary awards. American author Tatjani Soli is the recipient of the fiction prize for her first novel *The Lotus Eaters*. Hilary Spurling, former literary editor of The *Spectator* claims the biography prize for her book *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China*. They join the ranks of acclaimed previous winners such as Ian McEwan, Cormac McCarthy and A.S Byatt.

The winners of the prizes – awarded annually by the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures at the University of Edinburgh – were announced this evening at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. The prizes are for the best work of fiction and the best biography published during the previous calendar year. They are the only major British book awards judged by scholars and students of literature.

Tatjani Soli said: “The lineage of the James Tait Black Prizes speaks for itself, and I am humbled and so proud to be part of it. This award is an undreamed of honour that I will always treasure.”

Hilary Spurling said: “I’m proud and pleased to be in the company of so many of my favourite writers, who’ve already won this first and most elegant of book prizes.”

Nick Barley, Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival said “We are delighted to welcome back this prestigious prize to Charlotte Square Gardens. Tatjani Soli is a worthy winner, and we were privileged to enjoy her reading at the event this evening. Hilary Spurling enthralled our audience with *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China* at the Book Festival last year, and we are thrilled that she has been awarded the Biography prize.”

Dr James Loxley, Head of English of Literature at the University of Edinburgh said: “We’re delighted to be honouring such outstanding works. The readers and judges have once again shown the acumen of the knowledgeable booklover and literary critic, which has been the hallmark of these prizes for more than ninety years.”
The James Tait Black Prizes were founded in 1919 by Janet Coats, the widow of publisher James Tait Black, to commemorate her husband’s love of good books. Each year more than 300 books are read by professors of literature and postgraduate readers prior to conferment of the prizes.

The four novels competing for the £10,000 fiction prize were: *The Thousand Autumns of Jaco De Zoot* by David Mitchell; *La Rochelle* by Michael Nath; *The Invisible Bridge* by Julie Orringer; *The Lotus Eaters* by Tatjani Soli.

The shortlisted works for the biography section were: *Fordlandia: the Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City* by Greg Grandin; *A Life in Pictures* by Alasdair Gray; *EM Forster : a new life* by Wendy Moffat; *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China* by Hilary Spurling.

Past winners of the awards include figures of global literary distinction, such as DH Lawrence, Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh, Muriel Spark, Angela Carter and Martin Amis.

Last year, Man Booker prize winner AS Byatt was recipient of the fiction prize for her much-praised novel *The Children’s Book*. John Carey, a familiar face and voice on arts review shows, was the recipient of the biography prize for his book *William Golding: The Man Who Wrote Lord of the Flies*. William Golding was himself a James Tait Black prizewinner in 1979.

For further information on the James Tait Black Memorial Prizes please go to: [www.ed.ac.uk/james-tait-black/](http://www.ed.ac.uk/james-tait-black/)

-end-

For further information please contact:

Frances Sutton, Press Manager, Edinburgh International Book Festival
0131 718 5654 or [frances@edbookfest.co.uk](mailto:frances@edbookfest.co.uk)

Joanne Morrison, Press and PR Office, University of Edinburgh
Tel 0131 6514266 or 07717707623 email [Joanne.Morrison@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Joanne.Morrison@ed.ac.uk)
Friday 19 August 2011

New Writer Wins Oldest Book Prize
At Edinburgh International Book Festival

Debut novelist Tatjani Soli and theatre critic Hilary Spurling have joined the list of acclaimed authors who have won the James Tait Black Prizes, Britain’s oldest literary awards. American author Tatjani Soli is the recipient of the fiction prize for her first novel *The Lotus Eaters*. Hilary Spurling, former literary editor of *The Spectator* claims the biography prize for her book *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China*. They join the ranks of acclaimed previous winners such as Ian McEwan, Cormac McCarthy and A.S Byatt.

The winners of the prizes – awarded annually by the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures at the University of Edinburgh – were announced this evening at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. The prizes are for the best work of fiction and the best biography published during the previous calendar year. They are the only major British book awards judged by scholars and students of literature.

Tatjani Soli said: “The lineage of the James Tait Black Prizes speaks for itself, and I am humbled and so proud to be part of it. This award is an undreamed of honour that I will always treasure.”

Hilary Spurling said: “I’m proud and pleased to be in the company of so many of my favourite writers, who’ve already won this first and most elegant of book prizes.”

Nick Barley, Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival said “We are delighted to welcome back this prestigious prize to Charlotte Square Gardens. Tatjani Soli is a worthy winner, and we were privileged to enjoy her reading at the event this evening. Hilary Spurling enthralled our audience with *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China* at the Book Festival last year, and we are thrilled that she has been awarded the Biography prize.”

Dr James Loxley, Head of English of Literature at the University of Edinburgh said: “We’re delighted to be honouring such outstanding works. The readers and judges have once again shown the acumen of the knowledgeable booklover and literary critic, which has been the hallmark of these prizes for more than ninety years.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT FRANCES SUTTON, PRESS MANAGER:
frances@edbookfest.co.uk / Tel: 0131 718 5654 / Mob: 07841 579481

The Edinburgh International Book Festival Ltd is a Scottish charity (SC010120) and a limited company (registered in Scotland no 79939) and has its registered office at 5A Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, EH2 4DR.
The James Tait Black Prizes were founded in 1919 by Janet Coats, the widow of publisher James Tait Black, to commemorate her husband’s love of good books. Each year more than 300 books are read by professors of literature and postgraduate readers prior to conferment of the prizes.

The four novels competing for the £10,000 fiction prize were: The Thousand Autumns of Jaco De Zoet by David Mitchell; La Rochelle by Michael Nath; The Invisible Bridge by Julie Orringer; The Lotus Eaters by Tatjani Soli.

The shortlisted works for the biography section were: Fordlandia: the Rise and Fall of Henry Ford’s Forgotten Jungle City by Greg Grandin; A Life in Pictures by Alasdair Gray; EM Forster: a new life by Wendy Moffat; Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China by Hilary Spurling.

Past winners of the awards include figures of global literary distinction, such as DH Lawrence, Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh, Muriel Spark, Angela Carter and Martin Amis.

Last year, Man Booker prize winner AS Byatt was recipient of the fiction prize for her much-praised novel The Children’s Book. John Carey, a familiar face and voice on arts review shows, was the recipient of the biography prize for his book William Golding: The Man Who Wrote Lord of the Flies. William Golding was himself a James Tait Black prizewinner in 1979.

For further information on the James Tait Black Memorial Prizes please go to: www.ed.ac.uk/james-tait-black/

-end-

For further information please contact:

Frances Sutton, Press Manager, Edinburgh International Book Festival
0131 718 5654 or frances@edbookfest.co.uk

Joanne Morrison, Press and PR Office, University of Edinburgh
Tel 0131 6514266 or 07717707623 email Joanne.Morrison@ed.ac.uk
Friday 19 August 2011

New Writer Wins Oldest Book Prize
At Edinburgh International Book Festival

Debut novelist Tatjani Soli and theatre critic Hilary Spurling have joined the list of acclaimed authors who have won the James Tait Black Prizes, Britain’s oldest literary awards. American author Tatjani Soli is the recipient of the fiction prize for her first novel The Lotus Eaters. Hilary Spurling, former literary editor of The Spectator claims the biography prize for her book Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China. They join the ranks of acclaimed previous winners such as Ian McEwan, Cormac McCarthy and A.S Byatt.

The winners of the prizes – awarded annually by the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures at the University of Edinburgh – were announced this evening at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. The prizes are for the best work of fiction and the best biography published during the previous calendar year. They are the only major British book awards judged by scholars and students of literature.

Tatjani Soli said: “The lineage of the James Tait Black Prizes speaks for itself, and I am humbled and so proud to be part of it. This award is an undreamed of honour that I will always treasure.”

Hilary Spurling said: “I’m proud and pleased to be in the company of so many of my favourite writers, who’ve already won this first and most elegant of book prizes.”

Nick Barley, Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival said “We are delighted to welcome back this prestigious prize to Charlotte Square Gardens. Tatjani Soli is a worthy winner, and we were privileged to enjoy her reading at the event this evening. Hilary Spurling enthralled our audience with Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China at the Book Festival last year, and we are thrilled that she has been awarded the Biography prize.”

Dr James Loxley, Head of English of Literature at the University of Edinburgh said: “We’re delighted to be honouring such outstanding works. The readers and judges have once again shown the acumen of the knowledgeable booklover and literary critic, which has been the hallmark of these prizes for more than ninety years.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT FRANCES SUTTON, PRESS MANAGER:
frances@edbookfest.co.uk / Tel: 0131 718 5654 / Mob: 07841 579481

The Edinburgh International Book Festival Ltd is a Scottish charity (SC010120) and a limited company (registered in Scotland no 79939) and has its registered office at 5A Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, EH2 4DR.
The James Tait Black Prizes were founded in 1919 by Janet Coats, the widow of publisher James Tait Black, to commemorate her husband’s love of good books. Each year more than 300 books are read by professors of literature and postgraduate readers prior to conferment of the prizes.

The four novels competing for the £10,000 fiction prize were: The Thousand Autumns of Jacon De Zoet by David Mitchell; La Rochelle by Michael Nath; The Invisible Bridge by Julie Orringer; The Lotus Eaters by Tatjani Soli.

The shortlisted works for the biography section were: Fordlandia: the Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City by Greg Grandin; A Life in Pictures by Alasdair Gray; EM Forster: a new life by Wendy Moffat; Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China by Hilary Spurling.

Past winners of the awards include figures of global literary distinction, such as DH Lawrence, Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh, Muriel Spark, Angela Carter and Martin Amis.

Last year, Man Booker prize winner AS Byatt was recipient of the fiction prize for her much-praised novel The Children's Book. John Carey, a familiar face and voice on arts review shows, was the recipient of the biography prize for his book William Golding: The Man Who Wrote Lord of the Flies. William Golding was himself a James Tait Black prizewinner in 1979.

For further information on the James Tait Black Memorial Prizes please go to: www.ed.ac.uk/james-tait-black/

-end-

For further information please contact:

Frances Sutton, Press Manager, Edinburgh International Book Festival 0131 718 5654 or frances@edbookfest.co.uk

Joanne Morrison, Press and PR Office, University of Edinburgh Tel 0131 6514266 or 07717707623 email Joanne.Morrison@ed.ac.uk
Friday 19 August 2011

New Writer Wins Oldest Book Prize
At Edinburgh International Book Festival

Debut novelist Tatjani Soli and theatre critic Hilary Spurling have joined the list of acclaimed authors who have won the James Tait Black Prizes, Britain’s oldest literary awards. American author Tatjani Soli is the recipient of the fiction prize for her first novel *The Lotus Eaters*. Hilary Spurling, former literary editor of The Spectator claims the biography prize for her book *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China*. They join the ranks of acclaimed previous winners such as Ian McEwan, Cormac McCarthy and A.S Byatt.

The winners of the prizes – awarded annually by the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures at the University of Edinburgh – were announced this evening at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. The prizes are for the best work of fiction and the best biography published during the previous calendar year. They are the only major British book awards judged by scholars and students of literature.

Tatjani Soli said: “The lineage of the James Tait Black Prizes speaks for itself, and I am humbled and so proud to be part of it. This award is an undreamed of honour that I will always treasure.”

Hilary Spurling said: “I’m proud and pleased to be in the company of so many of my favourite writers, who’ve already won this first and most elegant of book prizes.”

Nick Barley, Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival said “We are delighted to welcome back this prestigious prize to Charlotte Square Gardens. Tatjani Soli is a worthy winner, and we were privileged to enjoy her reading at the event this evening. Hilary Spurling enthralled our audience with *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China* at the Book Festival last year, and we are thrilled that she has been awarded the Biography prize.”

Dr James Loxley, Head of English of Literature at the University of Edinburgh said: “We’re delighted to be honouring such outstanding works. The readers and judges have once again shown the acumen of the knowledgeable booklover and literary critic, which has been the hallmark of these prizes for more than ninety years.”
The James Tait Black Prizes were founded in 1919 by Janet Coats, the widow of publisher James Tait Black, to commemorate her husband’s love of good books. Each year more than 300 books are read by professors of literature and postgraduate readers prior to conferment of the prizes.

The four novels competing for the £10,000 fiction prize were: *The Thousand Autumns of Jacon De Zoet* by David Mitchell; *La Rochelle* by Michael Nath; *The Invisible Bridge* by Julie Orringer; *The Lotus Eaters* by Tatjani Soli.

The shortlisted works for the biography section were: *Fordlandia: the Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City* by Greg Grandin; *A Life in Pictures* by Alasdair Gray; *EM Forster : a new life* by Wendy Moffat; *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China* by Hilary Spurling.

Past winners of the awards include figures of global literary distinction, such as DH Lawrence, Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh, Muriel Spark, Angela Carter and Martin Amis.

Last year, Man Booker prize winner AS Byatt was recipient of the fiction prize for her much-praised novel *The Children's Book*. John Carey, a familiar face and voice on arts review shows, was the recipient of the biography prize for his book *William Golding: The Man Who Wrote Lord of the Flies*. William Golding was himself a James Tait Black prizewinner in 1979.

For further information on the James Tait Black Memorial Prizes please go to: [www.ed.ac.uk/james-tait-black/](http://www.ed.ac.uk/james-tait-black/)

-ends-

For further information please contact:

Frances Sutton, Press Manager, Edinburgh International Book Festival
0131 718 5654 or [frances@edbookfest.co.uk](mailto:frances@edbookfest.co.uk)

Joanne Morrison, Press and PR Office, University of Edinburgh
Tel 0131 6514266 or 07717707623 email [Joanne.Morrison@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Joanne.Morrison@ed.ac.uk)
Debut novelist Tatjani Soli and theatre critic Hilary Spurling have joined the list of acclaimed authors who have won the James Tait Black Prizes, Britain’s oldest literary awards. American author Tatjani Soli is the recipient of the fiction prize for her first novel *The Lotus Eaters*. Hilary Spurling, former literary editor of The Spectator claims the biography prize for her book *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China*. They join the ranks of acclaimed previous winners such as Ian McEwan, Cormac McCarthy and A.S Byatt.

The winners of the prizes – awarded annually by the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures at the University of Edinburgh – were announced this evening at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. The prizes are for the best work of fiction and the best biography published during the previous calendar year. They are the only major British book awards judged by scholars and students of literature.

Tatjani Soli said: “The lineage of the James Tait Black Prizes speaks for itself, and I am humbled and so proud to be part of it. This award is an undreamed of honour that I will always treasure.”

Hilary Spurling said: “I’m proud and pleased to be in the company of so many of my favourite writers, who’ve already won this first and most elegant of book prizes.”

Nick Barley, Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival said “We are delighted to welcome back this prestigious prize to Charlotte Square Gardens. Tatjani Soli is a worthy winner, and we were privileged to enjoy her reading at the event this evening. Hilary Spurling enthralled our audience with *Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China* at the Book Festival last year, and we are thrilled that she has been awarded the Biography prize.”

Dr James Loxley, Head of English of Literature at the University of Edinburgh said: “We’re delighted to be honouring such outstanding works. The readers and judges have once again shown the acumen of the knowledgeable booklover and literary critic, which has been the hallmark of these prizes for more than ninety years.”
The James Tait Black Prizes were founded in 1919 by Janet Coats, the widow of publisher James Tait Black, to commemorate her husband’s love of good books. Each year more than 300 books are read by professors of literature and postgraduate readers prior to conferment of the prizes.

The four novels competing for the £10,000 fiction prize were: The Thousand Autumns of Jacon De Zoet by David Mitchell; La Rochelle by Michael Nath; The Invisible Bridge by Julie Orringer; The Lotus Eaters by Tatjani Soli.

The shortlisted works for the biography section were: Fordlandia: the Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City by Greg Grandin; A Life in Pictures by Alasdair Gray; EM Forster: a new life by Wendy Moffat; Burying the Bones: Pearl Buck in China by Hilary Spurling.

Past winners of the awards include figures of global literary distinction, such as DH Lawrence, Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh, Muriel Spark, Angela Carter and Martin Amis.

Last year, Man Booker prize winner AS Byatt was recipient of the fiction prize for her much-praised novel The Children's Book. John Carey, a familiar face and voice on arts review shows, was the recipient of the biography prize for his book William Golding: The Man Who Wrote Lord of the Flies. William Golding was himself a James Tait Black prizewinner in 1979.

For further information on the James Tait Black Memorial Prizes please go to: www.ed.ac.uk/james-tait-black/

-ends-

For further information please contact:

Frances Sutton, Press Manager, Edinburgh International Book Festival
0131 718 5654 or frances@edbookfest.co.uk

Joanne Morrison, Press and PR Office, University of Edinburgh
Tel 0131 6514266 or 07717707623 email Joanne.Morrison@ed.ac.uk