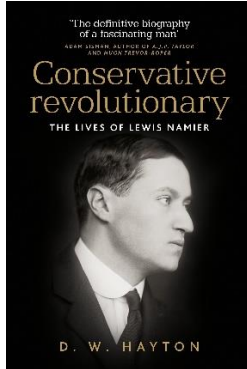




Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography Winner Announcement

The Society of Authors is delighted to announce the winner of the 2020 Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography.



D.W. Hayton

*Conservative revolutionary:
The Lives of Lewis Namier*

Manchester University Press

Commenting on this year's winner, the Chair of Judges, Roy Foster said:

“The short-list for the 2020 Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography was particularly strong and highly contested, but David Hayton’s biography of Lewis Namier won through triumphantly. It is a remarkable achievement, providing at once the definitive account of the life of a great historian, a searching analysis of the Central European background which produced him, and a magisterial treatment of Namier’s major interventions into eighteenth-century English parliamentary history, nationalism in nineteenth and twentieth century Europe, Zionism, and much else. The intellectual worlds dominated by this complex figure come vividly alive in David Hayton’s treatment, as does Namier’s challenging, difficult but engaging personality and his complicated private life. This prize prioritizes accessibility and ease of style, along with historical substance; *Conservative Revolutionary* is firmly in this tradition, manipulating a huge range of archival sources with a sure hand and a welcome leavening of wit. It is also a subtle commentary on the idea of Englishness and English history embraced (and partially invented) by a passionate outsider, and the intellectual inheritance he left. The simplistic idea of Namier as someone who denied the historical role of ‘ideas’ will not survive this sparkling biography, which is full of them.”

Established in 2003 in affectionate memory of Elizabeth Longford, the acclaimed biographer, and sponsored by Flora Fraser and Peter Soros, the prize is awarded annually for a historical biography published in the preceding year.

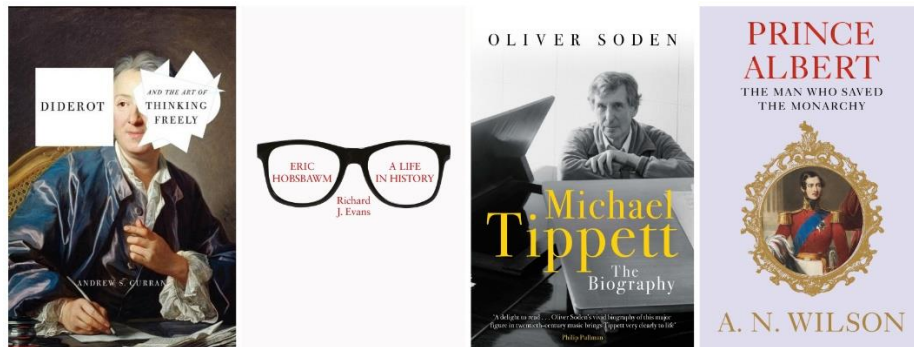
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President Sir Philip Pullman
Chair Joanne Harris
Chief Executive Nicola Solomon



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The four titles also shortlisted were:



The judges this year are Richard Davenport-Hines, Roy Foster (Chair), Antonia Fraser, Flora Fraser, and Rana Mitter.

Contact

For more information please contact Paula Johnson at PJohnson@societyofauthors.org.

Notes for Editors

ABOUT THE PRIZE

The Elizabeth Longford Prize for Historical Biography was established in 2003 in affectionate memory of Elizabeth Longford, the acclaimed biographer, and is sponsored by Flora Fraser and Peter Soros. This £5,000 prize is awarded annually for a historical biography published in the preceding year.

ABOUT ELIZABETH LONGFORD

Elizabeth Longford (1906-2002) was born Elizabeth Harman. She married Frank Pakenham, later Earl of Longford, in 1931. She was a celebrated biographer and historian and continued to write well into her nineties. Her many publications include *Victoria*, which appeared in 1964, a two-volume biography of Wellington, *Churchill*, *The Queen Mother: A biography*, *Elizabeth R*, and *Royal Throne: The Future of the Monarchy*, which was published in 1993.



ABOUT THE SOCIETY OF AUTHORS

The Society of Authors is the UK trade union for more than 11,000 writers, illustrators and literary translators, at all stages of their careers. We've been advising individuals and speaking out for the profession since 1884. For more information, visit www.societyofauthors.org.

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