

Terms and Conditions

THE CALVIN AND ROSE G HOFFMAN PRIZE FOR A DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARLY ESSAY ON CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE

The prize was established by a bequest of the late Calvin Hoffman, author of The Man Who Was Shakespeare (1955), as a memorial to himself and his wife. It is administered by the King's School, Canterbury which has appointed Professor Alison Shell, University College London, as Adjudicator.

The stipulations of the Trust Deed concerning the prize are:

5. (1) (a) The PRIZE shall be competitive and open to all scholars and informed laymen the world over and shall be awarded by The King's School to the person who submits to The King's School prior to the first day of September in the year in question an essay (hereinafter called "the essay") which in the opinion of The King's School most convincingly, authoritatively and informatively examines and discusses in depth the life and works of Christopher Marlowe and the authorship of the plays and poems now commonly attributed to William Shakespeare with particular regard to the possibility that Christopher Marlowe wrote some or all of those plays and poems or made some inspirational creative or compositional contributions towards the authorship of them.

The Deed further stipulates

(5) If in any year before the happening of the event mentioned in paragraph (6) of this clause no essay submitted by a candidate for the PRIZE shall in the opinion of The King's School be sufficiently convincing, authoritative and informative to justify the award of the PRIZE then The King's School may in its unfettered discretion decline to award the PRIZE for that year (but never for more than a period of one year at any time) in which event the income of the Trust Fund arising in that year and which would have been applicable to the PRIZE (namely not less than Forty per cent) shall be accumulated and added to the Capital of the Trust Fund.

(6) If in any year the person adjudged to have won the PRIZE has in the opinion of The King's School furnished irrefutable and incontrovertible proof and evidence required to satisfy the world of Shakespearian scholarship that all the plays and poems now commonly attributed to William Shakespeare were in fact written by Christopher Marlowe then the amount of the PRIZE for that year shall be increased by assigning to the winner absolutely one half of the capital or corpus of the entire Trust fund and thenceforth the remaining one half of the capital of the Fund and the income thereof shall be held by The King's School in perpetuity upon the trusts set out and declared in clause 8 below.

The Trustees consider that the essay should not be shorter than about 5,000 words and no longer than 20,000 words; the essay should also show an accurate word count on the title page. If the word count does not appear on the title page this will be in breach of the Terms and Conditions and the essay will be returned unexamined. The candidate must correct the omission and resubmit before the deadline date. If the date is missed the candidate can submit the following year as no valid submission will have previously been made. Appendices do not need to be included in the word count but are subject to a limit of 1,000 words overall. Essays (written in English) should be typed in double spacing, and should be documented in accepted scholarly fashion; all quotations from other writers should be acknowledged. Each essay should be accompanied by a signed statement of originality. An application form should be completed; the form can be requested from The King's School. Essays will be judged on their scholarly contribution to the study of Christopher Marlowe and his relationship to William Shakespeare, whether or not they support the view that Marlowe was partially or wholly responsible for the works attributed to Shakespeare. Published works cannot be considered nor can creative writing.

An essay that has failed to win a prize in any previous year may not be submitted again unless substantially revised; if submitted again, the adjudicator must agree to the revised form.

In matters concerning the interpretation of the provisions and stipulations of the Trust Deed, the decisions of the The King's School shall be final.

Submissions should be posted in duplicate to The Hoffman Administrator, The King's School, 25 The Precincts, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2ES, and should arrive by 1st September. Essays received after the closing date will not be submitted. Supplementary material should only be submitted after the closing date in exceptional circumstances, to be explained by the entrant and considered at the adjudicator's discretion. Essays and supplementary material submitted by email will not be accepted. If you wish your submission to be returned after judging, please enclose sufficient monies for postage. No responsibility can be accepted for the loss of any material submitted.

The winner of the prize will be announced in December.

December 2017