

**PRESS RELEASE:
PROVERSE LITERARY PRIZE FOR UNPUBLISHED WRITING**

**THE PROVERSE PRIZE ADMINISTRATORS HAVE PLEASURE IN
ANNOUNCING THE NAMES OF THE FIVE WRITERS WHO HAVE BEEN
SHORT LISTED (AND ARE THE FINALISTS)
FOR THE INAUGURAL PROVERSE PRIZE (2009)**

ANNOUNCEMENT: The names of the short-listed writers were announced by Dr Verner Bickley, MBE, Co-founder with his wife Gillian Bickley of The Proverse Prize, at a well-attended and convivial event which was held in Hong Kong, Wednesday, 25 November.

The five short-listed writers are: Dorothy AINSWORTH (Novel), Rupert CHAN (Novel), Lelawattee MANOO-RAHMING (Poetry Collection), Laura SOLOMON (Novel) and Rebecca Jane TOMASIS (Novel).

Short-listed writers Rupert Chan and Rebecca Tomasis and Long-listed writers, Akinsola Olufemi JEJE, Ronny MINTJENS and Vaughan RAPATAHANA were all present.

Short-listed writers Dorothy Ainsworth, Lelawattee Manoo-Rahming and Laura Solomon, and Long-listed writers Anitah AUJAYEB and Frank Chan LOH live in Australia, the Bahamas, New Zealand, Mauritius and Australia respectively and were not present.

All short-listed and long-listed writers received warm congratulations for their achievements.

More details about all Long-listed and Short-listed writers are on the website:
<http://www.proversepublishing.com>

The Short-list results were announced at the double book-launch of two books published as part of the regular publishing programme of Proverse Publishing Proverse Hong Kong -- Errol Patrick Hugh's "A Personal Journey through Sketching: The Sketcher's Art" and Gillian Bickley's "China Suite and other Poems" -- held in The Blue Room of the Helena May, a heritage building on Garden Road, just up from The Peak Tram Station.

BACKGROUND: This is the first time that The Proverse Literary Prize for Unpublished Writing has been competed for. Its objective is to encourage writers and promote a range of excellence and usefulness in writing. The Competition is open to all, irrespective of nationality, residence, citizenship, gender or publishing status. The only stipulation is that entrants should be a minimum of eighteen years old. Entries should be submitted in English. Translations into English are welcome.

FOUNDERS: By founding this Prize, Dr Gillian Bickley and Dr Verner Bickley MBE, both published authors and now publishers, celebrate their life-long love of words in all their forms.

HONORARY ADVISORS: Marion BETHEL (Bahamas), David CRYSTAL (UK), Björn JERNUDD (Sweden), Larry SMITH (USA), Edwin THUMBOO (Singapore), Olga WALLÓ (Czech Republic).

JUDGES: anonymous.

HONORARY ACCOUNTANT:
Patrick HO

THE FUTURE: The Proverse Prize Administrators will announce the winner/joint-winners in April 2010.

AWARD CEREMONY: There will be an award ceremony in 2010.

GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD AND DEMOGRAPHICS OF ENTRIES, GENRES SUBMITTED, AND STANDARD OF ENTRIES: This year entries were received from Australia, The Bahamas, Mauritius, New Zealand, Hong Kong, the UK, the USA. Writers' backgrounds were even more various, adding at least France, India, Kenya, Malaya, Nigeria and Turkey. Most entries were originally written in English; there were also translations from French, and from Hindi. Most were novels and poetry collections, but there were also short stories. Some of the novels could perhaps equally have been submitted as memoirs or similar. Settings were both rural and urban. Subjects were personal, social, religious, and international. The standard was generally very high. Some entrants are first-time competition entrants; some have been successful in previous writing competitions. Some entrants are well published writers in their own country and some beyond their own country; some are beginning to be published. For some entrants, this was their first completed book-length work.

THE PROVERSE PRIZE (2010) The entry form, guidance to entrants and terms and conditions for The Proverse Prize (2010) are already on the Proverse website (<http://www.proversepublishing.com>) and will be updated from time to time. Please visit the website for full information.

PRESS ENQUIRIES TO: The Proverse Prize Administrators at proverse@netvigator.com. (Please state, "Proverse Prize", in the subject line.) Photos of the finalists and semi-finalists can be supplied. E-NEWSLETTER REGISTRATION: If you would like to be kept informed of the next stages of this competition, please email, requesting to join the E-Newsletter mailing list. If you would like to speak to the Administrators by telephone, please ring Hong Kong (859) 2259-3456.