

The Sophie Coe Prize in Food History - 2009

The Prize, in memory of Sophie Coe, the distinguished food historian who died in 1994, is awarded in cooperation with the Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery for an essay or article on some aspect of food history, embodying new research or providing new insights. The award will be made by a small Panel of Judges. Work published in the twelve months preceding the deadline for submission is eligible as is work recently written but not yet published.

1. Conditions of Entry

a) **FORM.** An entry must be submitted in the English language, even if originally written in some other language.

Entries must be submitted either:

in typescript or computer printout; or in photocopy from a printed source such as a book or journal or newspaper (but in the latter case it may be necessary to remount the text, free of ads or other complications, on A4 or American 'letter' stationery).

In either case a small number of manuscript amendments is acceptable, but in this connection, and in general, candidates are reminded that the Panel of Judges will inevitably be influenced by how easy an entry is to read.

Each entry must be accompanied by four complete paper copies and an electronic copy whenever possible, formatted for Microsoft Word 1997 – 2003.

Each of the five copies submitted, and the electronic copy, must have a cover sheet giving the author's name and address, the title of the essay, a 100-200 word summary of its content, particulars of publication (if already achieved or confidently foreseen), approximate word count, and original language if a translation. Telephone number and/or email address would be useful – particularly if you win a prize.

b) **CONTENT.** Food history, food and cookery are large subject areas and the Panel of Judges do not wish to rule out or focus particular attention on any of them. All aspects qualify, although, obviously, some lend themselves more than others to the production of serious, informative and original essays.

c) **NATURE OF MATERIAL.** The Prize is specifically for essays, articles or papers as opposed to books (for which a number of other prizes exist). However, exceptionally, something taken from a book can be considered. Examples would be: an essay contributed to a book of essays by various authors; an appendix on a particular food topic in a book on a wider subject; or something like a chapter on 'The Food of Bulgarian Peasants in the 15th Century' in a book about medieval Bulgaria generally. Any such item would in any case have to be free-standing and self-contained like an essay.

Technical papers will be considered provided that they embody a fully comprehensible account of the implications for food history.

If in doubt about this, or indeed any other, condition, get in touch with me and I will consult the judges before you take the trouble to submit an entry.

d) **LENGTH.** Entries will normally be in the range of 1,500 to 10,000 words.

e) **ILLUSTRATIONS.** These are entirely at the discretion of the author.

f) **AUTHORSHIP.** An entry will normally be the work of a single author, who must be able to assert his or her moral right to be considered its author. An entry from two or more co-authors will be considered on the same basis.

Someone other than the author may submit an author's work as an entry, provided that the author has given his prior consent. Such a submission will be subject to the same rules as one from the author.

No more than two entries by one author will be considered in any one year, whether submitted directly or indirectly.

An entry by an author who has won The Sophie Coe Prize will not be eligible for The Prize, as opposed to subsidiary awards, until the third year after winning The Prize. Entries for subsidiary awards may however be made – and may be successful – during the interim period.

g) **DEADLINE.** In 2009 entries must be received at the address given below by Tuesday 23rd June. Entries must not be sent by fax. The e-mail copy is requested in addition to the paper copies.

2. Value and Announcement of Award

The prize in 2009 will be £1,500, which will not be divided.

The Prize will be announced at the Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery (11th – 13th September 2009). The winning candidate will be notified in advance to make it reasonably possible for him or her to attend. The Prize will be paid either by bank draft into any currency, or in the form of a cheque in UK sterling, US Dollars or Euros.

3. Publication of Winning Entry

If appropriate and if not being published elsewhere, the winning entry may be published either in *Petits Propos Culinaires* or in the series of *Oxford Symposium Documents*. Such publication will carry no fee and will not prejudice the author's copyright.

4. Other Points

If, in any year, the Judges conclude that there is no entry of sufficient merit, they may abstain from making an award.

The decision of the Panel of Judges will be final and they will not engage in correspondence about the merits of particular entries.

Anyone who would like to know how Sophie Coe herself addressed questions of food history should refer to:

Sophie D. Coe, *America's First Cuisines*, University of Texas Press, Austin, 1994 (ISBN 0 292 71155 7).

Sophie D. Coe & Michael D. Coe, *The True History of Chocolate*, Thames and Hudson, London, 1996 (ISBN 0-500-01693-3).

Her essays in *Oxford Symposium Documents*, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992 and in *Petits Propos Culinaires (PPC)*, issues 19, 20, 21, 29, 31, 37 (available from Prospect Books, Allaleigh House, Blackawton, Devon TQ9 7DL, England).

Laura Mason, Secretary, Sophie Coe Memorial Fund.
Registered Charity Number 1048753

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Address for entries and enquiries:

Laura Mason, 4 St John Street, York YO31 7QT, England

Telephone (0)1904 628 138

Email: lhason@ntlworld.com