



# BESSIE HEAD HERITAGE TRUST

Registered as a trust in the Deeds Office of Botswana under no. MA 277/2007

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## PRESS RELEASE

The BESSIE HEAD HERITAGE TRUST, together with Pentagon Publishers, is pleased to announce the 2011 BESSIE HEAD LITERATURE AWARDS for Novel, Short Story, and Poetry. Contestants must post their submissions by 21 March 2011; judges will announce the winners in mid-June; and the TRUST will present its Awards in July 2011.

This is the fifth consecutive competition, the first having been launched at the end of 2006. To date, 36 citizens and residents of Botswana have won a total of P18,000 in prizes, and 6 volumes of winners' writings have been published. In 2010 a record number of entries were received, 44, from all parts of the country.

The TRUST is delighted to report that in 2011, for the first time, cash prizes will be awarded to all first, second, and third-place winners, as per the following schedule:

	<b>Novel</b>	<b>Short Story</b>	<b>Poetry</b>
First prize	P 2500	P 1500	P 1200
First runner-up	1200	900	800
Second runner-up	800	600	500

We note that our financial sponsor, Pentagon Publishers, has doubled the prize money for this year's competitions, from P5,000 to P10,000. The TRUST wishes to thank our colleagues for their generosity and steady support for these Awards.

Further, the TRUST would like to point out that the category "Poetry" has returned to this year's competitions. The TRUST offers a prize for Poetry in odd-numbered years and a prize for Children's Story in even-numbered years, while prizes for Novel and Short Story are offered in every year.

The guidelines for this year's contest, including all rules for submitting entries, are found on the Call for Submissions that is appended to this announcement. The guidelines may also be found on the website of the BESSIE HEAD HERITAGE TRUST at [www.bessiehead.org/awards/entry-rules-2011.htm](http://www.bessiehead.org/awards/entry-rules-2011.htm), while answers to frequently asked questions are available at [www.bessiehead.org/awards/FAQ-Lit-Awards.htm](http://www.bessiehead.org/awards/FAQ-Lit-Awards.htm). The rules and results of all previous competitions 2007-2010 are also found there.

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The BESSIE HEAD LITERATURE AWARDS are sponsored by Pentagon Publishers and administered by the Bessie Head Heritage Trust. The Trust was established in June 2007 to promote the life and work of Bessie Head both here and abroad. We believe this competition is important for two reasons: (a) to help preserve Bessie Head's legacy in Botswana, since she is our country's most famous writer who has gained broad recognition overseas; and (b) to encourage the development of local literature in various genres in English. Bessie Head herself was generous with her time when students asked her for assistance and advice, and we believe that this generosity is best reflected in a vigorous effort to promote literature and reading in Botswana.

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We ask media houses please to publicise this information widely. For further information, please contact Mr. Tiro Sebina, a trustee of the BESSIE HEAD HERITAGE TRUST (home 3908994, cell 71602279), or Mr. Tom Holzinger, acting chair of the TRUST (home 4638103, cell 71667300).



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS  
2011 BESSIE HEAD LITERATURE AWARDS  
(SPONSORED BY PENTAGON PUBLISHERS)  
POETRY, SHORT STORY, AND NOVEL  
P10,000 IN PRIZES!



THE BESSIE HEAD HERITAGE TRUST AND PENTAGON PUBLISHERS ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE PRIZES IN LITERATURE FOR 2011: THREE PRIZES TO BE AWARDED EACH FOR NOVEL, SHORT STORY, AND POETRY. RESIDENTS AND CITIZENS OF BOTSWANA ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT MANUSCRIPTS ON ANY THEME IN ONE OF THE ABOVE CATEGORIES. CATEGORIES AND PERMITTED LENGTHS ARE:

<b>NOVEL</b>	40,000 WORDS AND UP
<b>SHORT STORY</b>	10,000 WORDS /10 PAGES
<b>POETRY</b>	A SET OF ONE TO THREE POEMS

YOUR SUBMISSION **MUST** ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

1. YOUR WORK MUST BE ORIGINAL, UNPUBLISHED AND NOT SUBMITTED TO ANY PUBLISHER.
2. YOUR MANUSCRIPT MUST BE IN ENGLISH AND BE THOROUGHLY REVISED AND PROOFREAD.
3. YOUR MANUSCRIPT MUST BE TYPED OR PRINTED. HANDWRITTEN ENTRIES ARE **NOT** ACCEPTED.
4. YOU MUST SUBMIT **FOUR** COPIES OF YOUR WORK **BY POST**. PHOTOCOPIES ARE FINE.
5. DO **NOT** SEND MORE THAN ONE MANUSCRIPT (NOVEL, SHORT STORY, OR POETRY). YOU MAY SUBMIT EXACTLY ONE ENTRY PER YEAR OF THE CONTEST.
6. DO **NOT** SUBMIT A SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT; SCHOOL PROJECTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED.
7. YOUR SUBMISSION MUST INCLUDE A **COVER PAGE** WITH THIS INFORMATION: (A) YOUR REAL NAME (NO PEN NAMES ARE ACCEPTED), (B) YOUR POSTAL OR EMAIL ADDRESS, (C) ONE OR TWO PHONE NUMBERS FOR CONTACTING YOU, (D) A TITLE FOR YOUR WORK, AND (E) A CLEAR STATEMENT OF THE CATEGORY OF THE WORK ("NOVEL", "SHORT STORY", OR "POETRY").  
THE **FIRST PAGE** OF THE MANUSCRIPT ITSELF – NOT THE COVER PAGE – MUST ALSO CLEARLY STATE THE CATEGORY AND TITLE OF THE MANUSCRIPT.
8. EXCEPT FOR THE COVER PAGE, YOUR ENTRY **MUST NOT** HAVE YOUR NAME ON IT. JUDGES WILL JUDGE ALL MANUSCRIPTS BLINDLY; I.E. THEY MUST NOT BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE AUTHORS.
9. YOUR ENTRY MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY ONE PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR OMANG **OR** YOUR PASSPORT AND RESIDENCE CERTIFICATE (THESE PHOTOCOPIES NEED NOT BE CERTIFIED).
10. YOU MUST ENTER YOUR WORK YOURSELF. A PUBLISHER OR FRIEND MAY NOT SUBMIT IT FOR YOU.
11. **DEADLINE:** ALL ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY **21 MARCH 2011** AND RECEIVED NO LATER THAN **31 MARCH 2011**.

ANY SUBMISSION THAT DOES NOT FOLLOW THE ABOVE CRITERIA WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

YOU ARE ADVISED THAT YOU MAY BE ASKED TO AUTHENTICATE YOUR WORK, AND YOU **SHOULD NOT DESTROY** ANY DRAFTS, INCLUDING THE FIRST ONE, SINCE YOU MAY BE ASKED TO PRODUCE THEM.

CONTESTANTS MAY ONLY WIN ONCE IN ANY CATEGORY IN ANY FOUR-YEAR PERIOD (IF YOU WIN A PRIZE, YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER IN THE SAME CATEGORY AGAIN FOR THREE YEARS).

	NOVEL	SHORT STORY	POETRY
FIRST PRIZE	<b>P 2500</b>	<b>P 1500</b>	<b>P 1200</b>
FIRST RUNNER-UP	<b>1200</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>800</b>
SECOND RUNNER-UP	<b>800</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>500</b>

POST – *NOT EMAIL* – YOUR COVER PAGE, IDENTIFICATION, AND **FOUR** COPIES OF THE MANUSCRIPT TO:

**BESSIE HEAD LITERATURE AWARDS**  
**P.O. Box 70401**  
**GABORONE**

IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT YOUR ENTRY HAS BEEN RECEIVED, PLEASE ENCLOSE A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE.

WINNERS AND DETAILS OF THE PRIZE-GIVING CEREMONY TO BE ANNOUNCED IN MID-JUNE 2011 ON THE WEBSITE **WWW.BESSIEHEAD.ORG**.

QUERIES TO **bessiehead@gmail.com** OR VISIT **www.bessiehead.org/awards/FAQ-Lit-Awards.htm**

WINNERS ARE BARRED FOR THREE YEARS FROM AGAIN SUBMITTING MANUSCRIPTS IN THE SAME CATEGORY, THOUGH THEY MAY ENTER OTHER CATEGORIES. BESSIE HEAD HERITAGE TRUST MEMBERS, PENTAGON PUBLISHER EMPLOYEES, CONTEST JUDGES, AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES ARE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING. PENTAGON PUBLISHERS RESERVES THE RIGHT TO PUBLISH PRIZE-WINNING MANUSCRIPTS AND TO EVALUATE THE OTHER MANUSCRIPTS FOR PUBLICATION. IT ACKNOWLEDGES THE RIGHTS OF COPYRIGHT IN THE MANUSCRIPT AND THE LAWFULNESS OF THE COPYRIGHT HOLDER'S RIGHTS AND TITLE TO THESE RIGHTS.